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KNESSET APPROVES EIGHT WIDELY DIFFERING MOTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Eight agenda motions on South Africa were approved by the Knesset Wednesday and passed on to committee for consideration. All condemned apartheid, which is also the government's official position. But they differed widely between left and right over Israel's relations with South Africa.

Speaking for the leftist Mapam party, Victor Shem-Tov complained that the government's reaction to the worsening racial strife in South Africa was too equivocal. The government on Sunday strongly condemned the state of emergency declared by the Pretoria government to prevent the Black community from observing the 10th anniversary of the Soweto riots.

The government also joined the world-wide protest by closing the Israel Embassy in Pretoria for 24 hours Monday. But Shem-Tov argued that "the reaction was too weak ... as if following the reactions of others." He maintained that "Israel must express the strongest 'J'Accuse' against the racist government of South Africa."

Communications Between All Parts Encouraged

Other left-leaning MKs insisted that only moral values should inform Israel's position toward South Africa. But Likud MK Michael Eitan accused the left of introducing issues that had nothing to do with the situation in South Africa.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ronni Milo of Likud, who responded to the motions for the government, said relations between Israel and South Africa are based on the assumption that the citizens of South Africa must settle their problems among themselves.

"On the basis of that assumption, we encourage communications between all parts of the population in South Africa, while at the same time we strongly demand the immediate and total abolition of all racist laws," Milo said.

MURDER TRIAL OF AMERICAN TOURIST IS ADJOURNED AFTER TWO WEEKS OF CONTRADICTION TESTIMONY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- The trial of two Israeli women accused of murdering an American woman tourist for her money a year ago, adjourned Wednesday after two weeks of contradictory testimony by the defendants and by pathologists called to the witness stand by the prosecution and defense. It will resume next fall when the Tel Aviv District Court returns from summer recess.

The defendants, Hava Ya'ari and Aviva Granot, are accused of misappropriating \$50,000 in cash given to Ya'ari by Mala Melavsky for investment and then killing her when she called them to account. Melavsky's battered body was discovered on a north Tel Aviv beach.

Police believed initially that she was the victim of a hit-and-run driver. But further investigation spurred by Melavsky's family in the U.S., found a connection with Ya'ari who had been an investment counsellor. According to the prosecution, the two

women forged documents and deposited the money in their joint bank account. Ya'ari and Granot, once good friends, have apparently had a falling out. Ya'ari testified that she quarrelled with Melavsky while driving and that the latter fell out of the car and struck her head on a rock. According to Granot, Ya'ari threw Melavsky from the car and ran over her.

Pathologists on both sides of the case were unable to agree on whether the cause of death was a blow to the head or being run over by a car.

JWB OFFICIAL SAYS JEWISH CHAPLAINCY COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE DESPITE WITHDRAWAL OF ORTHODOX MEMBER

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) -- Officials of the Jewish Chaplaincy of the JWB, responding to the announcement Tuesday by the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America that it was withdrawing from the Chaplaincy Commission, said Wednesday that the Commission was continuing to function. At issue was endorsement of a woman rabbi.

The RCA announcement was made Tuesday at the RCA's 50th anniversary convention in Baltimore by Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Orthodox rabbinical agency.

The Chaplaincy Commission, representing the Orthodox, Reform and Conservative rabbinate, is responsible for endorsement of rabbis to serve as military chaplains.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the association of Reform rabbis, endorsed Rabbi Julie Schwartz, 26, of Cincinnati, who will be the first woman to act as an active duty Jewish chaplain to Jews in the armed forces.

Assurances Received On Services

Solomon Greenfield, JWB associate director, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had been informed Wednesday that Rabbi David Lapp, director of the Chaplaincy Commission and of services to rabbinic chaplains, and Jews in the military forces and Veterans Hospitals, had been in close contact with the leadership of three rabbinic groups and had received assurances that Chaplaincy Commission's services would continue as heretofore.

Rabbi Harry Greene, of Short Hills, N.J., Chaplaincy Commission chairman, in a report on Monday to the JWB executive committee in New York, asserted that the three rabbinic groups -- the third is the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis -- would find a way of working together under JWB auspices as they had in the past to provide much needed services to its beneficiaries.

CCAR Action Attacked

Bernstein declared that "by bypassing the commission and endorsing a female for the chaplaincy in a letter to the Chief of Chaplains in the United States Defense Department, the CCAR for the first time acted without notifying the entire commission which, in the past, has endorsed chaplaincy applicants for the entire Jewish community."

Bernstein said that the RCA made it "very clear" 18 months ago that "a unilateral breach of procedures would mean the breakup of the commission." He said that negotiations were underway, "to retain connec-

tions with the JWB. He said Orthodox Jews "will not recognize a woman rabbi." Rabbi Joseph Glaser, CCAR executive vice president, told the JTA that he hoped some way "would be found to return the situation to the status" at which it had been operating for 39 years.

A rabbinical source told the JTA that the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, a subsidiary of the Defense Department, recognizes each of the three rabbinical groups as endorsing agents. Any one of the three may endorse a rabbinical candidate for the military chaplaincy.

Nominations Approved By Consensus

The source added that the custom has been that one rabbinical group will present a candidate for the military chaplaincy to representatives of the three rabbinical groups and that, absent dissent by any rabbinical representatives, the nomination is approved by consensus.

Solomon said that in recent years, the Chaplaincy Commission member of the group to which the chaplaincy applicant belonged was usually a member of the same group.

Glaser said also that it was his understanding that the CCAR member of the Chaplaincy Commission could endorse a Reform rabbi for the chaplaincy which had been the procedure followed with Rabbi Julie Schwartz.

**NEW BANK OF ISRAEL GOVERNOR
CAUTIONS ISRAEL THAT IT IS NOT
YET OUT OF ECONOMIC WOODS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Prof. Michael Bruno, a leading economist formally installed Wednesday as Governor of the Bank of Israel, cautioned at the swearing-in ceremonies that the country is not out of the economic woods despite the initial successes of the austerity economic program of which he was one of the principal authors.

"There is still much to do to stabilize the economy and one should create conditions for a resumption of economic growth," Bruno said after receiving the blessings of President Chaim Herzog who appointed him and of Premier Shimon Peres who supported his candidacy against that of a fellow Laborite, Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amorai.

The Bank of Israel is Israel's central bank and has a role equivalent in some ways to that of the Federal Reserve Bank in the U.S. Bruno succeeds Moshe Mandelbaum who resigned.

Peres Cites Economic Achievements

Peres used the occasion of Bruno's installation to stress the achievements of the government's economic program, the most significant of which, to date, has been a dramatic reduction of the inflation rate. "The Americans have told us (that) what happened in the Israeli economy in the past year will go down in textbooks of economic history," Peres said.

He was referring to a meeting he had Tuesday with members of an American economic delegation headed by Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Alan Willis. He quoted a member of the group, economist Herbert Stein, as saying that praise is due not only for those who gave the right advice on the economy but also to those who had the courage to take the necessary difficult decisions.

However, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim who attended the meeting, recalled that the Americans

had warned against the recent rise of private consumption in Israel and of imports. They said that to preserve the successes of the economic program, the government must guard the parameters of the budget and wages, Nissim pointed out. Bruno's views seem to coincide with those of the Americans.

Urges Implementing Commission's Recommendations

Bruno also spoke out during the ceremonies on the need to promptly implement the recommendations of the special commission of inquiry into the 1983 banks' shares collapse, headed by Supreme Court Justice Chaim Beisky.

The commission's report, released on April 20, was scathing in its criticism of the heads of the country's five largest commercial banks. It recommended that they be made to resign within 60 days and should never again be appointed to positions of trust at Israeli banking institutions at home or abroad.

To date, all but one of the top bank executives have complied. The holdout is Rafael Recanati who refuses to step down as chairman of the family-owned Israel Discount Bank. Aharon Meir resigned as chairman of the Bank Hamizrachi but continues to head the bank's overseas subsidiaries. Ernest Japhet, who resigned as chairman of the Bank Leumi, has been appointed to another key position at the bank.

Govt. Bailed Out Five Banks

The government feels it has the right to demand compliance with the Beisky commission's recommendations because it bailed out the five banks after investors panicked and dumped their grossly inflated shares, threatening the banks' liquidity. The Knesset's State Control Committee will introduce a bill next week to make compliance a matter of law.

Bruno said Wednesday that "One should remember that in an organized society, those who are found responsible for an act or a failure to act, must bear responsibility. It is true that carrying out the personal recommendations of an inquiry commission is difficult, but this is the basis for maintaining a social system."

Willis, meanwhile, warned Wednesday that U.S. economic aid to Israel might not continue on the same level as heretofore. He told Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that there is still a danger that Israel's economic policy could collapse because the present low price of oil and the lower exchange rate of the Dollar could change at any time.

**MAKING OF DOCUMENTARY 'SHOAH' WAS
AIDED BY GRANT FROM ISRAEL GOVERNMENT**

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- The film "Shoah" was aided in the making by a substantial Israeli government grant, decided upon personally by then-Premier Menachem Begin. This was disclosed in Jerusalem this week where the historic nine-hour film by Claude Lanzmann was recently shown before an invited audience and is now to be generally released.

Knesset member Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who was Begin's first Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office, said the then-Premier made available to Lanzmann the sum of \$850,000 to help with the film's financing. This was because Begin had seen in "Shoah" a national Jewish interest, Ben-Elissar said, and because he had been impressed by the producer's presentations of his plans for making the film when he met him in 1977.

Thereafter, Begin took an interest in the film's progress and Ben-Elissar sought to raise further funding from other non-governmental sources. According

to the newspaper Davar, there is "surprise among certain circles" that the State of Israel's support for the film is not noted among the many other screened acknowledgements at the start of the film. (By David Landau)

JORDAN BOYCOTTS ARAB NEWSPAPERS IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Jordan boycotts most of the Arab newspapers in the administered territories and does not even allow quoting them in the Jordanian press, the East Jerusalem daily Al-Fajr reported.

According to the newspaper, the ban has been in effect by a directive of Mohammad Al-Hatib, Jordan's Minister of Information. The move has been seen here as a reaction to the negative approach taken by the local papers to the departure of Jordan from its cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Most local Arab newspapers support the PLO, and even such pro-Jordanian papers such as Al-Kuds have turned toward stronger support of the PLO. The editors of Al-Kuds and Al-Biader A-Siasi confirmed that the Jordanians banned their newspapers' entrance to the kingdom.

Jacque Hazmo, the editor of Al-Biader, a political weekly, said the significance of the move is that from now on the Jordanians will derive their information on events in the administered territories mostly from Israeli sources.

REAGAN NOTIFIES CONGRESS ON AWACS
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 18 (JTA) -- President Reagan notified Congress Wednesday that conditions have been met for the delivery of five AWACS surveillance planes to Saudi Arabia.

Transfer of the planes, the first of which is now scheduled for delivery on June 30, appears unlikely to face any active opposition from Congress, which would have to enact specific legislation in order to block it.

In the aftermath of an impressive but ultimately unsuccessful attempt last month to prevent the sale of a proposed missile package to Saudi Arabia, there appears to be little inclination to campaign against the delivery of \$3.2 billion worth of aircraft and equipment already paid for by the Saudi government.

"The specter of Gramm-Rudman looms largely on the whole process and as a result members of Congress are reluctant to do anything," a source close to Capitol Hill observed, referring to the budget-cutting legislation passed at the end of last year.

Saudis Provide 'Substantial Assistance'

White House spokesman Larry Speakes announced that a letter certifying that conditions for delivery of the planes had been met would be forwarded to Congress Wednesday, in compliance with legislation enacted following a bitter campaign in Congress that nearly resulted in blocking the AWACS sale in 1981.

The conditions include provisions for preventing the sophisticated AWACS technology from falling into hostile hands or being used against Israel. They also involve assurances that delivery of the aircraft "enhances the atmosphere and prospects for peace" and that the Saudis have provided "substantial assistance" to achieving peace in the region.

In his letter to Congress, Reagan maintained that the Saudis have provided that assistance and that the planes would contribute to regional stability.

"I also believe that significant progress toward peaceful resolution of disputes in the region has been accomplished with the substantial assistance of Saudi Arabia," the letter reads.

Reagan Refers To Fahd Plan

Specifically, the President referred to the Fahd Plan of 1981 and the subsequent Fez communique of 1982, both of which are said to implicitly recognize Israel's existence, but fail to mention the Jewish State by name.

In addition, he maintained that the Saudis have supported Egypt's return to the Organization of Islamic Countries and Jordan's efforts toward peace negotiations with Israel. He also cited Saudi efforts to mediate peace in Lebanon and in the Iran-Iraq war.

The President's arguments in defense of the Saudi record were more or less the same as those advanced in the Administration's lobbying for the recently passed missile sale to the Saudi kingdom.

At the White House briefing Wednesday, spokesman Larry Speakes also stressed what he said was the role of AWACS in helping "vital American interests in a strategically important area." He cited specifically the free flow of oil, restraint of the spread of extremism, the prevention of "Soviet intrusion" and "the strengthening of the security of moderate Arab friends."

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee was expected to decide Wednesday whether it would mount a campaign for legislation to block delivery of the aircraft. But in light of the mood in Congress, observers here were fairly confident AIPAC would avoid a battle that would almost inevitably meet with failure.

ORTHODOX BURY OBJECTS DESECRATED IN ANTI-RELIGIOUS ATTACK ON YESHIVA

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- Thousands of black-garbed observant Jews, mostly members of the Hassidic Gur Sect, attended a memorial service Tuesday for the prayer books and other holy objects desecrated by unknown persons, presumably anti-religious secular Jews, at a Gur yeshiva in the Ramat Hehayal quarter of Tel Aviv last week.

The crowd, estimated at about 10,000, then marched from the yeshiva to the Kiryat Shaul cemetery where the remains of the torn objects, packed in clay jars, were buried in accordance with traditional rites.

Police presume that the attack on the Gur yeshiva and the arson at another synagogue in the Tel Aviv area, as well as anti-religious slogans painted on walls, were carried out by secular Jews in response to the defacing of posters and the burning of bus shelters by observant Jews protesting at what they term obscene pictures of scantily-clad women advertising beachwear.

* * *

PARIS (JTA) -- Six presidents of universities in the French region of Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur recently signed an agreement to create an inter-university institute for Jewish studies and culture, according to the French newspaper Le Monde. The accord brings to fruition six years of work by a team of academics and researchers affiliated with the three universities of Aix-Marseille.

* * *

GENEVA (JTA) -- A European Medical Congress, organized by the medical faculty of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the department of Jewish Education in the Diaspora of the World Zionist Organization, was held recently in the northern Swiss city of Basel.

MASS SOVIET JEWISH REMARRIAGE CEREMONY SLATED FOR JUNE 22 WILL INCLUDE 20 COUPLES, 20 CHUPPAHS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) -- Hirsch Tzvi and Shaina Freydensohn were supposed to have been married in a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony in their native Riga, Latvia, in August 1941. Instead, they had to settle for a quick civil ceremony in Irkutsk, Siberia, where they had fled as invading Germans occupied their homeland.

Arkady Banar, of Kishinev, Moldavia, and his bride, Emilia, of Odessa, in Russia, also postponed their Jewish wedding because of the war and were likewise married in Siberia, in Orsk, in 1944, in a non-religious ceremony.

On Sunday, June 22, in Teaneck, New Jersey, 20 Soviet Jewish couples will be remarried in a traditional Jewish ceremony, the largest mass remarriage of Soviet Jewish couples ever to be held in America. On that day, under 20 chuppahs, 20 grooms will turn to their brides simultaneously and recite "Harei at mikudeshet li" -- "Behold, thou art consecrated to me" -- before 600 invited guests.

Background For Unusual Ceremony

The idea for the unusual ceremony was initiated by a New Jersey organization, Bris Avrohom, a Lubavitch affiliate that has been instrumental the last seven years in providing an extensive range of services for Soviet Jewish immigrant families, from the location of housing to adult education classes in English and Jewish studies. Bris Avrohom is headquartered in Jersey City, with activity centers also in the Bergen County, N.J., cities of Teaneck, Passaic and Elizabeth.

Two people were chiefly responsible for this joyous event: Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky, executive director of Bris Avrohom, a Lubavitcher rabbi who is himself a native of Moscow, and Mrs. Shirley Gralla, chairperson of Friends of Bris Avrohom, the sponsoring and organizing group that put the wheels in motion for the wedding. Astonishingly, the two of them had the same idea, they said, at the same time and were trying for some weeks to contact each other.

Both Kanelsky and Gralla pegged the wedding festivities to the upcoming Liberty Weekend celebrating the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. "We hope our good news will be a small appetizer for that most happy occasion, because of the great affection our people share for the symbol of liberty," they concurred. They are therefore calling the event a "Celebration of Religious Freedom."

'A Celebration Of Religious Freedom'

The sponsoring committee for the wedding includes high government figures in New Jersey, several of whom are expected to attend the ceremony. Among them are U.S. Senators Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg, both New Jersey Democrats, and Gov. Tom Kean, a Republican, who have agreed to be honorary chairmen. Also active in organizing the wedding is Teaneck Mayor Bernard Brooks.

But, stressed spokesperson Susan Black, "This is not a political event at all. It is truly a celebration of religious freedom. The fact that we'll have dignitaries there shows support for the wonderful freedoms that we have in America. Hopefully," said Black, "this will become an annual event."

The couples range in age from 19 to 80, some of whom have been in the country several years, some recent arrivals, including a young transcontinental couple of which the bride has been living in Los Angeles and the groom in Brooklyn. They, and three other couples, will be wed for the first time in the religious ceremony. The majority, 16 couples, will be remarried before their children and grandchildren.

"These people were denied having this religious wedding, the religious freedom in Russia," said Kanelsky. "Even if they wanted to have such a chuppah, they could not."

The Freydensohns and Banars, present at a press conference, said "We're not doing this for ourselves. We're doing this for our children." Kanelsky added that they were learning English, for example, to both help their children and to be independent of them.

The wedding will be held at the Loew's Glenpointe Hotel in Teaneck, a gesture of support from Loew's for the event.

The selection of the date, June 22, is significant, particularly to Mr. Freydensohn. "I remember June 22 very well." That was the date the war began in Russia, he recalled. Thus a negative, sad date in the Russian's collective memory will be transformed on that day into a positive and joyous occasion.

YADIN LIBRARY ACQUIRED BY HUC-JIR

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) -- The Hebrew Union College -- Jewish Institute of Religion has acquired about 7,000 books and several thousand journals and documents from the personal library of the late Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin.

Yadin's library will be housed in the College's Jerusalem branch in Israel. Yadin himself wrote several classic books on archaeology, including "The Message of the Scrolls, Hazor" (Yadin directed excavations at Hazor in the 1950s), "The Finds from the Cave of Bar Kochba," and "Masada-Herod's Fortress and the Zealot's Last Stand."

Yadin's father, Prof. Eleazar Sukenik, was also a renowned archaeologist who interpreted the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The library contains specialized books on archaeology and history of the ancient Near East, the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the archaeology and history of the Second Temple period. Many of the books collected by Yadin and his father are now considered rare.

President of the College-Institute, Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, said Yadin's library would prove invaluable to the College's Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology in Jerusalem.

The College has plans for a major new building to hold Yadin's library which will be constructed in Jerusalem in the near future.

THREE SOVIET JEWS REQUEST VISAS

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) -- Three Soviet Jewish refuseniks, all suffering from various forms of cancer, held a news conference last week in Moscow demanding their right to leave the Soviet Union for medical treatment in the West, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The three refuseniks are Benjamin Charney who has melanoma, or skin cancer; Inna Meiman, who has sarcoma, or tumor of the bones; and Tanya Bogomolny, who suffers from breast cancer.

The refuseniks said in a letter distributed at the news conference and addressed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that they are "cancer patients, living in the Soviet Union who have all been told that there is no hope and that further treatment will be useless."

FRENCH CHIEF RABBI CALLS FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN JUDAISM, ISLAM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- Rene Sirat, the Chief Rabbi of France, believes Judaism has more of a common language with Islam than with Christianity. He called here Thursday for a dialogue between Judaism and Islam, stressing that the issue was religious, not political.

Political problems should be left to those who deal with them, but the religious leaders of Judaism and Islam should tackle the theological issues and discuss them thoroughly, the Algerian-born Chief Rabbi told a conference here attended by leaders of the French Jewish community and Israelis of French origin.

"We have no major theological problem with the world of Islam. It is Christianity which claims it is versus Israel," Sirat said. Esau hates Jacob, according to the Midrash whereas Islam regards the Jews as "Ahl Al-Kitab," the People of the Book. Islam has never claimed to be the true Israel, the French rabbi observed.

He urged Israel to face the East rather than serve as a bridgehead between East and West. He quoted Isaiah: "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance." He added, "If we really know how to be the kingdom of Cohanim (priests) and a sacred people, then peace will prevail."

Sirat asked those attending the conference, "How many of you have ever read the Koran?" He said he asked because "If we want a dialogue, we have to find out what the partner for the dialogue says about himself."

AIPAC DECIDES IT WILL NOT CONTEST REAGAN'S PLANS FOR AWACS TRANSFER

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA) -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has decided not to contest the President's plans to transfer five AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia.

In the absence of any inclination in Congress to pursue legislation blocking the delivery, the main pro-Israel lobby here settled for an appeal to the legislature to ensure that all conditions agreed on with the Saudis are met.

A statement issued by AIPAC following a meeting of its Executive Committee Wednesday afternoon, called on Congress to "exercise its oversight function" with regard to Saudi compliance with the conditions for delivery required by Congress and agreed to by the Saudi government.

Those conditions include the securing of AWACS technology, the assurances that the aircraft will not be used for purposes hostile to Israel, and Saudi cooperation in seeking Middle East peace.

Urges That Technology Remains Secure

"AIPAC urges Congress to seek firm assurances from the Administration that the AWACS technology remains secure and that these aircraft will only be used in the best interest of the United States, including not used in a manner hostile to Israel," the statement read.

The expected decision came shortly after the President sent a letter to Congress certifying that all conditions for transferring the planes to the Saudis had been met.

An initial move in Congress to block the transfer was dropped following the unsuccessful Congressional effort to prevent a proposed missile sale to the Saudis last month. Although AIPAC had decided not to actively oppose that sale, there was strong enough Congressional opposition to block it in a vote that was later overturned when the legislature failed to override the President's veto.

Blocking delivery of the AWACS planes would require specific legislation both preventing the transfer and appropriating over \$3 billion to cover the amount already deposited by the Saudis for production of the aircraft.

AUSTRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY ASSAILS 'IRRESPONSIBLE' LANGUAGE OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS DURING WALDHEIM'S ELECTION

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, June 19 (JTA) -- The Austrian Jewish community spoke out strongly this week against the anti-Semitism that permeated the election campaign of Kurt Waldheim.

The community's board of directors issued a statement at a press conference Wednesday deploring the "irresponsible" language of conservative politicians who supported Waldheim, candidate of the People's Party, who won a substantial victory over his Socialist opponent, Kurt Steyrer in the June 8 run-off elections for the Presidency of Austria.

The anti-Semitism was a backlash against the persistent efforts, primarily by the World Jewish Congress, to expose Waldheim's Nazi past. Dr. Ivan Hacker, president of the Austrian Jewish community, noted that the community had consciously refrained from making statements during the election campaign. "But now, after the election, we cannot stay silent any longer" because "further silence would be harmful to all of us."

Accused Of 'Lueger Type' Anti-Semitism

"We have to take note of the irresponsibility of those leading politicians" who "might not have acted out of an inner conviction, but cynically used the means of Lueger-type political anti-Semitism," Hacker said. He was referring to Karl Lueger, a popular Mayor of Vienna at the turn of the century who was one of the first European politicians to employ anti-Semitic propaganda to win office.

Hacker did not name anyone in the Waldheim campaign. But younger members of the community board singled out, among others, Michael Graff, Secretary-General of the People's Party. Graff promptly denied that he had made a single anti-Semitic statement during the election campaign and attacked "the Mafia-type methods of the slanderers of the World Jewish Congress."

He said it would have been conducive to reconciliation if "those speaking out now" -- meaning the Jewish community board -- "had dissociated themselves in time from the slanderous campaign of the WJC."

Graff, during the election campaign warned the WJC to desist from publicizing evidence against Waldheim lest "sentiments would rise here in Austria that none of us wants."

Hacker said, "As Jews, democrats and Austrians, we consider it our unavoidable duty to point to tendencies which carry with them immeasurable damage for our country, even if they are directed only against the Jews." He said the remarks by some party leaders were without precedent in the Austrian second republic.

Others Accused Of Anti-Semitic Remarks

Other board members attributed anti-Semitic remarks not only to Graff but to Alois Mock, chairman of the People's Party, Marga Hubenik, conservative Deputy Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Walter Schwimmer, a conservative member of Parliament and president of the Austria-Israel Friendship Society, and several others.

According to the younger community board members, all of them "directly, shamelessly and without restraint, used anti-Semitic language in order to win an election." Dr. Daniel Charin, of the Jewish Socialist Bund, stressed that anti-Semitism is not only a problem for Jews but "a matter of greed, hatred and intolerance, a sickness of the soul."

During the four months after Waldheim announced his candidacy, the WJC systematically compiled and made public evidence indicating that the former United Nations Secretary General was implicated in atrocities against Yugoslavian partisans and civilians and the deportation of Greek Jews when he served as an intelligence officer in the Wehrmacht in the Balkans during World War II.

Waldheim was forced to admit his military service, something he omitted from his autobiography and managed to conceal for 40 years. But he insisted he was in no way involved in war crimes.

Community Stands By WJC

While the Austrian Jewish community held various opinions about the WJC campaign and the manner in which it was conducted, some of them critical, it refuses to disassociate itself from the WJC. Paul Gross, a deputy president of the community, described the WJC Wednesday as "a sort of United Nations" of world Jewry.

He said it was clear that "in a pluralistic society, not all share the same opinion. There were and still are disagreements. It may happen that a single community does not go along with the view of the majority within the WJC." He added, however, "We never disassociated ourselves from that organization and we do not intend to do so in the future."

Community board members were skeptical of Waldheim's approaches to the Jewish community since his election. "If we Jews are not able to pick our enemies, we can at least choose our friends," Hacker said. Asked if the Jewish community can have an unproblematic relationship with Waldheim in the future, he replied, "I don't know."

Charin alluded to Waldheim's announcement that he would shortly visit the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp and its satellite camps north of Vienna, one of the most notorious concentration camps of World War II.

"Going to Mauthausen and bowing one's head is not enough to get instant absolution for what one did in the weeks and months before. It makes sense only if there is also an inner bow," he said. He added that "trust is something one has to earn through work and if one has lost it once, it takes a long time to get it back."

HOSPITAL NURSES STAGE WALKOUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA) -- Hospital nurses throughout the country left their wards for three hours Thursday, handing their patients over temporarily to the doctors, families and friends of the sick. The only departments to continue normal work were the emergency and reception centers in the hospitals, the intensive care units, and maternity and premature babies departments.

The demonstrative work stoppage, from noon to three p.m., was intended to press for the demands of the some 10,000 female and male nurses employed in hospitals, out of the total nursing population of some 22,000 for representation in a separate union -- or at least a special section within the Histadrut's General Nurses Union -- to represent them in their special demands.

The said their main objective was not for increased pay but for better working conditions in the hospitals. The nurses union opposed the work stoppage, pointing out that they had recently gained a 12 percent salary increase for nurses, and were in the process of negotiating the employment of more nursing personnel.

Demonstration At Home Of Premier

In addition to the hospital nurses, the General Union's members include nurses employed in sick fund and other clinics and public health nurses, all of whom work normal daytime hours, unlike the hospital nurses who have longer hours and work in shifts throughout the day and night.

Representatives of the hospital nurses have been camping out outside the home of Premier Shimon Peres in recent days to draw attention to their demands. Ministry of Health officials admit the hospital nurses have a good case, but say they can negotiate only with the Histadrut Nurses Association, within the framework of general government economic and employment policies.

The Health Ministry did not implement its threat to obtain back to work court orders for the striking nurses, as the latter had said they would not obey the court orders, preferring to go to prison for contempt of court. The hospital nurses have threatened to go out on a more extended work stoppage next week if their demands are not met.

ISRAELI GENERAL CONCLUDES THREE DAY VISIT TO FRANCE

PARIS, June 19 (JTA) -- Gen. Dan Shomron, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Force, concluded a three-day trip to France Thursday at the invitation of the French Army.

The Israeli officer visited various French military installations and conferred with French Army officers. Shomron led the Israeli raid on Entebbe in 1976 to rescue French and Israeli hostages aboard a hijacked Air France plane.

The Israeli officer met with the Chief of Staff of French ground forces, Lt. Gen. Maurice Schmitt, for what was described as a "general exchange of views" in which the fight against terror is believed to have played a central role. Shomron also visited the paratroop base used by the Rapid Intervention Force which has been used for missions in both Africa and Lebanon.

Dozens of senior French Army generals and admirals attended a reception given for Shomron at the Israeli Embassy. He is the highest ranking Israeli Army officer to visit France since June 1967 when Gen. Charles de Gaulle imposed an arms embargo against Israel on the eve of the Six-Day-War. (By Edwin Eytan)

PROBE URGED IN ARAFAT MEETING WITH ISRAELI MEMBERS OF THE PROGRESSIVE LIST FOR PEACE

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- Four Alignment Knesset members asked Attorney General Yosef Harish Tuesday to order a police investigation into the recent meeting between leaders of the Progressive List for Peace and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

The Knesset members urging the police probe, were Edna Solodar, Amnon Lin, Avraham Katz-Oz and Yitzhak Peretz. They made the request following the meeting between Arafat and Knesset MK Mohammed Miari of the Progressive List and Riah Abu-Assal, secretary General of the Party. The meeting had taken place last week, apparently in Tunis. It was attended by a number of Arafat's aides, Miari said.

The four Knesset members asked Harish to check whether Miari and his colleague had not violated the law. If they had, the Knesset members said the Attorney General should ask the Knesset to waive Miari's immunity in order to try him.

Miari, in a statement issued Tuesday, said that those attending the meeting with Arafat discussed the situation in the region and the prospects for peace. Miari said that Arafat had told him he was willing to "continue with the dialogue with representatives of the peace camp in Israel, Alignment representatives included ... Arafat had told me that the ray of light which could take us out of the freeze is the peace forces in Israel."

U.S.-SOVIET MIDEAST TALKS

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA) -- The U.S. and the Soviet Union will hold talks next week in Stockholm on the Middle East, the State Department announced Thursday.

According to spokesman Charles Redman, the talks are a continuation of similar discussions last February in Vienna and are within the framework of exchanges with the Soviets on a range of regional issues. He said they would take the form of "an exchange of views" rather than negotiations on strategy.

"We don't intend to negotiate any agreements, nor do we anticipate any joint U.S.-Soviet actions to emerge from this kind of discussion," Redman said. The U.S. delegation will be headed by Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy.

RABIN ASSURES SOLDIERS INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT WHICH KILLED THREE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has assured soldiers injured in a severe road crash earlier this week that work would be speeded up on building a by-pass road at the side of a dangerous stretch of road on which their truck lost its brakes and crashed. The accident on Monday left three Israel Defense Force soldiers dead, and 23 others injured.

The accident brought to 13 the number of people killed since 1974 on the same stretch of steep winding road from the settlement of Ma'aleh Ephraim outside Jerusalem to the Jordan rift junction north of Jericho.

The three soldiers killed in the crash were buried Tuesday. They were Raviv Set, 20, of Kibbutz Yagur; Neil Ben-Atar, 19, of Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi; and Yiftah Ophir, 20, of Moshav Kidron. Rabin said he ordered the new construction on this dangerous road, much used by military traffic, as soon as he took over as Defense Minister.

Initial reports of the accident said that the civilian passenger-carrying truck in which the soldiers were travelling, heavily loaded with their kitbags, had lost its brakes on the steep hill and went over the edge into a dry river bed at a sharp bend.

ISRAEL COMMITTED TO EXPANDING AID PROGRAMS IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA) -- An Israeli foreign ministry official here last week for the special UN session on the economic crisis in Africa told a meeting of Jewish, Black, Hispanic and Asian leaders that Israel remains committed to expanding aid programs in Third World countries.

Benjamin Avileah, director of MASHAV -- Israel's Division of International Cooperation -- said Israel wants to share its own experiences with development and shortage of resources with other developing countries. The address to the group was organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Avileah cited the many programs conducted in African nations last year and said Israel's technical assistance was primarily agricultural. Israel is the only country in the world where desertification has receded and the country wants to share those types of arid zone technologies with its African neighbors, Avileah said.

28,000 Trained In Israel

According to Avileah, in the 28 years of MASHAV's activity more than 28,000 trainees from 112 countries have come to Israel for courses in such areas as agriculture, community development, regional planning and public health.

Another 25,000 professionals were trained by Israeli experts in "on the spot" courses in their native lands, the Israeli officials told the JCRC meeting. In addition, 9,000 experts were sent to emerging nations to teach courses on specific subjects relevant to the timely developmental needs of individual countries.

Avileah pointed out that living conditions in many countries are not improving. "Africa today," he asserted, "eats ten percent less than it did 15 years ago."

In response to the crises confronting the Third World, the Israeli Foreign Ministry, through MASHAV, has offered these struggling nations an integrated development program which has been embraced even by governments which have yet to establish diplomatic ties with Israel.

In 1985 alone, Avileah noted that 770 foreign trainees studied in Israel; 650 men and women took "on the spot" courses in their own countries; 23 Israelis were stationed in Third World countries for long term programs -- mainly in agriculture and ophthalmology; and 100 short missions were completed in the fields of agriculture, community development and public health.

FAMOUS CINEMA DESTROYED IN BLAZE

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA) -- The Mograbi Cinema, one of the oldest in Tel Aviv and a famous landmark on the corner of Allenby Road and Ben Yehuda Street, was gutted by fire Tuesday night. Police and firefighters said that preliminary investigations appear to rule out arson. The blaze broke out in the upper balcony area, when the building was empty, shortly after the second show of the evening had ended.

CORRECTION

A report on the Chaplaincy Commission in the Daily News Bulletin dated June 19 incorrectly identified the Commission's chairman. He is Rabbi Barry Greene.

MEDICAL JOURNAL ARTICLE CAUSES STIR

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA) -- Several leaders of Jewish and Catholic organizations and scores of other readers have attacked an article on the physical causes of the death of Jesus published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), saying the authors perpetuate versions of the death of Jesus which are the source of much modern Christian anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism.

The critical letters condemn the authors for their historical rather than their medical analyses and claim that the article treats the gospels' accounts of the crucifixion as literal and historical fact. But actually, there is much controversy over and inconsistency in these accounts, the letters said.

The nine-page Journal article gives a synopsis of the events leading up to the crucifixion. One critic called this synopsis a "conflation" of four conflicting and "disparate texts."

Physical Torture Is Detailed

The main body of the article details Jesus' gruesome physical tortures as described in these accounts with particular attention to the flogging and crucifixion. The article was part of a series on torture but that was not indicated anywhere in the article.

The authors then offer different explanations of medical effects of these types of injuries and back up their findings with evidence from archaeological discoveries. The article also includes illustrations (done by a medical artist) of cross-sections of wrists and feet with metal spikes driven through and explanations of these injuries.

The authors claims to offer "a modern medical interpretation of the historical evidence" to show that Jesus was in fact dead when taken down from the cross.

Seeking Accurate Account

"Accordingly, it is our intent to present not a theological treatise but rather a medically and historically accurate account of the physical death of the one called Jesus Christ," the article said.

The critics challenge the historical accuracy of these accounts. But the authors give the following guarantee: "Using the legal-historical method of scientific investigation, scholars have established the reliability and accuracy of the ancient manuscripts."

The sources cited in the article are identified as ancient Christian and non-Christian writings and modern works as well as the Shroud of Turin.

But Rabbi James Rudin, American Jewish Committee director of interreligious affairs, and Eugene Fisher, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, who sent letters to JAMA, claimed the article completely ignores modern scholarship on the New Testament.

Editor Of Journal Responds

In a June 12 editorial response to reactions to the article, JAMA editor George Lundberg wrote that the Journal received "a deluge of letters" on this article. Lundberg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the majority of the letters were critical, but that many also praised "On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ."

The journal devoted equal space, nine pages, to publishing these letters in a later issue, Lundberg said. Although the editors knew the article would

raise controversial religious issues, Lundberg insisted that it had "nothing to do with religion." The article was presented as the first of a series on torture to give an example of state-sponsored torture practiced by different groups historically, Lundberg said.

"The article was an account of perhaps the most influential single event of torture in history with physiologically sound analysis showing the horrifying pain of a common ancient Roman punishment," Lundberg wrote in the editorial. Lundberg also said the authors and editors had no anti-Semitic intent.

Taking Issue With JAMA Articles

But these two organizations took issue particularly with the accounts of the Jewish trials and the interpretation presented in the JAMA article which holds that the Jews "persistently demanded crucifixion" for Jesus.

The letters say that disputed ideas are presented as fact in the article such as the account of a trial by the Sanhedrin, Jesus' conviction for blasphemy and the role of Pontius Pilate. These aspects "are highly questionable as historical events, but tell us much about their authors' theological perspectives," Fisher wrote in the letter.

Fisher contends that the gospels "whitewashed" the historical figure of Pontius Pilate and placed more blame for Jesus' death on the Jews. But the JAMA article presents an account of Pilate simply acceding to the Jews' demands to crucify Christ and presents the idea of collective Jewish guilt for the crucifixion.

The AJC letter said "Serious scholars have long ago laid these untruths to rest. By giving them the dignity of a 'scientific' presentation in JAMA, you have dealt a body blow to years of painstaking Jewish-Christian dialogue and reconciliation."

Accused Of Pop-Historiography

The letter goes on to say that this type of interpretation of the Passion story has been traditionally a source of anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism.

"Most major denominations and all responsible scholars strive to take care in the presentation of the gospel story in order to avoid fanning the flames of anti-Judaism anew," the AJC letter said. "One sure way of fanning those flames is to engage in a pop-historiography which is innocent of all critical method, demonstrated by (the) authors ..."

The authors of "On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ" which appeared in the March 26 issue, include Pastor Wesley Gabel of the Homestead United Methodist Church in Bethel, Minn.; and William Edwards, pathologist at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. The illustrator was Floyd Hosmer, from the Medical Graphics Department of the Mayo Clinic.

The AJC letter charges the authors with following the lead "not of academic scholars but of fundamentalist writers who eschew scientific methods of textual analysis."

Fisher said of the article, "While perhaps of interest medically, your readers should know that the picture it paints of the historical events surrounding Jesus' death is, from the historical point of view, far from certain. Indeed, the article appears to ignore the results of most modern biblical and historical scholarship."

Rabbi Rudin of the AJC told JTA that the article received more credibility than it deserved by appearing in the country's leading medical journal. "This is a misuse of JAMA's credibility in this area," Rudin said. "It is so out of character for a clinical, scientific journal."

**U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIAL URGES ISRAEL TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO THE LAVI**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Dov Zackheim wound up his visit to Israel Wednesday with a strong pitch for alternatives to the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane which the Pentagon believes is too costly to produce.

Zackheim, who arrived here Sunday with a number of proposed alternatives to the Lavi, held a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv following a meeting earlier with Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He also met during his visit with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The American official stressed that the alternatives -- to which Israel's defense establishment promised to give serious consideration-- were all aircraft "that have been flown" whereas the Lavi, except for the initial test flight of a prototype a week ago, remains an unknown quantity.

Details of the alternative aircraft offered by Zackheim were not released. Unofficial reports said the most realistic option would be based on the F-16, manufactured by General Dynamics. It would involve increased purchases of that plane by Israel and its modification by the introduction of avionic and electronics systems developed by Israel for the Lavi.

Lavi Cost Projections Challenged

Zackheim challenged Israel's cost projections for the Lavi, contending that the plane would probably cost even more than the \$55 million annually, currently anticipated according to Israeli calculations.

He gave assurances that the U.S. alternative proposals "would provide work for Israeli industry, including high technology work." U.S. aid to Israel originally earmarked for the Lavi would then be available for "other projects" he said but did not elaborate.

Zackheim stressed that Israel could not realistically expect an increase in American military aid above the present \$1.8 billion a year "in the current budget environment."

The Lavi prototype had its first test flight on December 31, which it reportedly passed with flying colors. Peres said after a meeting with Zackheim Tuesday that he still supports the Lavi project.

POSTPONE WHO IS A JEW AMENDMENT VOTE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The religious parties agreed Wednesday to postpone a Knesset vote on the controversial Who is a Jew amendment to the Law of Return after a headcount indicated they lacked the vote to pass it.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who said he supports the measure in principle, suggested that its sponsors wait a few weeks. The Labor Party served notice it would vote en bloc against the amendment which would invalidate conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis.

When a bill is defeated in the Knesset, six months must pass before it can be re-introduced. The Who is a Jew amendment has been consistently defeated over the years.

After O'Connor's Visit To Israel: VATICAN SAYS ITS PREREQUISITES FOR DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL REMAIN
By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The Vatican is taking pains to allay any notion that the visit to Israel by John Cardinal O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, indicates a modification of the "prerequisites" it has set for establishing diplomatic relations with the Jewish State.

O'Connor, who arrived here Tuesday from Israel, said he encountered not the "slightest evidence of displeasure" by the Holy See over his trip and the fact that he met with two Israeli leaders, President Chaim Herzog and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, at their homes in Jerusalem.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls issued a statement to the press Wednesday noting that Pope Paul VI met with Golda Meir in 1964 and Pope John Paul II met with Peres in 1985.

"The State of Israel or its sovereignty is not at issue," he added.

"As is known, the issue regards the status of the city of Jerusalem, the problem of the occupied territories and the Palestinian issue. I think the acts of courtesy of Cardinal O'Connor do not involve these problems which must be solved in appropriate circumstances."

1984 Apostolic Letter Recalled

Journalists were reminded that the contents of Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter on Jerusalem of April 20, 1984, are still valid.

The letter stated: "I am convinced the failure to find an adequate solution to the question of Jerusalem and the...postponement of the problem, only compromise the longed-for peaceful and just settlement of the crisis of the whole Middle East."

The letter called for the application of "special status" to "not only the monuments of the sacred places, but the whole historical Jerusalem and the existence of religious communities, their situation and future" which "cannot but affect everyone and interest everyone."

A month before that letter was issued, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was given a background briefing by a ranking official of the Roman Curia. The official said that one of the primary concerns of the Holy See was that each religious community receive guarantees for complete freedom to develop and grow physically and economically, including rights of ownership, investments and the possibility of urban expansion.

The official said the Vatican sought a "three-fold agreement between Jewish, Christian and Islamic authorities" in Jerusalem because Israel's guarantees alone were not sufficient. They had to be of an international character, he said.

The Vatican's second demand, creation of "a homeland for the Palestinian people," is contained in all of its documents relating to the Middle East. The Vatican perceives this to be inextricably tied to "the necessity of simultaneously guaranteeing the security of all peoples in the region."

The Pope told the international diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican on January 14, 1984 that these principles imply a comprehensive peace treaty for the area. They are the only conditions under which the Vatican would establish diplomatic relations with Israel, formalizing what already exists on an "unofficial" level.

The Vatican maintains an Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem to represent its interests and there is an almost daily flow of contacts on the cultural, religious and even political levels which the Vatican authorities freely admit and encourage.

CONTROVERSY OVER PENSION, SEVERANCE DEAL WITH FORMER BANK LEUMI OFFICIAL
By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Bank Leumi Governor Leon Dulzin declared Wednesday that the controversial pension and severance deal with the bank's former chairman and chief executive officer, Ernst Japhet, would "have to be put right" because "it is beyond the bounds of reason."

Dulzin, who cut short a visit to the U.S. to attend a special meeting of the Bank Leumi Board of Directors in Tel Aviv Wednesday night, spoke after angry Knesset members denounced the deal with Japhet as "the biggest bank robbery in Israel's history."

The former Bank Leumi chief, who was forced to resign last year in the wake of the 1983 bank shares scandal, was reportedly awarded between \$4 million and \$5 million in severance pay by the bank's directorate, plus a monthly pension of \$30,000.

'Excessive Sums' Cited

Much of the Knesset's criticism was directed at Dulzin who in his non-business capacity is chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, and at Eli Hurwitz, Japhet's successor, who ratified the payment of "excessive sums" to the man he replaced.

Knesset members cited the old adage, "the fish begins to stink from the head," in charging that members of the Bank Leumi board received preferential treatment which included the bank's purchase of shares in their own companies at inflated prices.

Dulzin reminded reporters that his role as Governor of the bank was ex-officio. "I am not a member of the Board of Directors as such," he said. "I do not sit in the bank. I do not receive a salary from the bank. I just attend (Board meetings) some times."

The Jewish Agency, which Dulzin heads, is the majority shareholder in Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank. It is one of the country's five biggest banks accused by an investigatory panel last year of precipitating the 1983 financial panic that wiped out the savings of thousands of Israelis. The banks were found to have artificially inflated the value of their shares to mislead the public. The chief executives of all of them were forced to resign.

Japhet, who stepped down last year, reportedly earned a salary of about \$1 million a year.

Dulzin said Wednesday that he had not been familiar with the details of Japhet's compensation or pension.

Israel Radio reported Wednesday that the Bank Leumi Board meeting will be a stormy one and several members are expected to resign or be fired.

MOSCOW REFUSENIK STAGES HUNGER STRIKE ON BEHALF OF REFUSENIK SON
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A 10-year Moscow refusenik is beginning a hunger strike of indefinite duration to try to persuade the appropriate authorities to grant an exit visa to his son. Alexander Ioffe, 48, who is a mathematician, announced he would begin his strike Thursday, according to Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

Ioffe's son Dimitry, 23, who is married and the parent of a baby girl, has been refused permission to emigrate to Israel because of "absence of reasons for family reunification." His family is still in the Soviet Union. They are also refuseniks.

Ioffe himself wants to emigrate to Israel but he is staging his hunger strike not on his own behalf but that of his son's because the Soviet authorities are using his presence in the country as a reason for denying Dimitry a visa.

"Yes, it is my dream to go to Israel, but, even more, it is the most important thing that my son be able to live his life as a Jew in his homeland with his family," Singer said Ioffe wrote in a letter on the eve of his hunger strike.

Dimitry and his wife, Tanya, and their one-year-old baby, Ilana, applied for an exit visa in 1985. In 1976, Dimitry, his father, his mother, Rosa, his sister, Anna, applied as a group to emigrate to Israel. They were turned down on the grounds that Alexander Ioffe had access to "state secrets" at his job at the Moscow Institute of Automobile and Road Building. That has been the basis for refusing exit visas since then.

Alexander, who had been an associate professor of applied mathematics from 1972 through 1976, was demoted to the position of a researcher as soon as he applied for a visa. In his letter, Alexander said he was being harassed on his job by the institute's administration and a formal procedure has been started "that may eventually result in my dismissal."

DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS AND DIPLOMATS HONOR WIESEL
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A glittering assembly of famous and distinguished artists and diplomats gathered Tuesday night to pay tribute to Elie Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize. During the two-and-a-half-hour program of readings, singing and short speeches by some of the celebrities, Wiesel's own message of never forgetting the Holocaust was repeatedly echoed.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, actresses Shelley Winters and Ellen Burstyn, actor Jason Robards, opera singers James McCracken and Roberta Peters, composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, and Israel's Consul General in New York, Ambassador Moshe Yegar, were among the 150 celebrity guests who came to the Tavern on the Green restaurant in Central Park to pay tribute to the Holocaust survivor, author, teacher

and philosopher, who became the unofficial spokesperson for the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

The reception and tribute was organized and sponsored by Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East. Actress Kitty Carlisle Hart was the chairperson of the event and actor Warner Le Roy was the host.

Wiesel, visibly touched by the occasion, told this reporter "I am really moved. It is always good to see artists and writers get together. It is even better to see them get together for the sake of peace."

George Will, the noted columnist and commentator, said, "Elie Wiesel is a man who speaks for all of us." Sister Carol Rittner, an executive of the Religious Sisters of Mercy in Washington, D.C., said, "For me, Elie Wiesel is a teacher. He taught me that a religion is a window through which we can see the plight of others."

Kissinger, who said he first met Wiesel while he was Secretary of State, recalled that he himself lost 13 members of his family during the Holocaust. Winters movingly told about an uncle of hers who lost all the members of his family in the Holocaust and how she witnessed his tormented soul many years thereafter until he died recently in Israel.

Bernstein presented Wiesel with the Distinguished Award of the Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East. The award was a painting by Milton Glazer.

Other guests at the tribute included sculptors Louise Nevelson and Chaim Gross, pianist Misha Dichter, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, and Telford Taylor, who was the special U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials.

ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED OVER EFFECTS OF U.S. TAX REFORMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Arab governments are concerned over the effects of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 on investments by foreign governments in U.S. enterprises, according to Boycott Report, a bulletin on developments and trends affecting the Arab boycott of Israel and Arab influence in the U.S., published here by the American Jewish Congress.

The oil-rich Persian Gulf state of Kuwait is a case in point. It may lose its tax-exempt status on so-called passive investments in the United States. Kuwait, a heavy investor, was exempt under Section 892 of the old Internal Revenue Code from federal taxes on stocks, bonds or other domestic securities it owned and interest from deposits in American banks.

The old code declared as taxable, income derived from commercial activities including that earned by a "controlled entity" of a foreign government. Commercial activities were defined as those "ordinarily conducted with a view toward the current or further production of income," the Boycott Report said.

Section 892, as amended in the new tax law, makes taxable income derived from the conduct of any commercial activity "whether within or outside the United States." If the foreign government owns at least 50 percent of the stock of the enterprise engaged in such commercial activity, the exemption on its "passive

investments" in the U.S. could be jeopardized. The Kuwaitis could thereby lose their exempt status on the passive investments of the Kuwait Petroleum Co. in Santa Fe International, an American oil exploration company it purchased several years ago for \$2.5 billion, the Boycott Report said.

SOUTH KOREAN FIRMS BOYCOTT ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A number of major South Korean companies refuse to sell their products to Israel, apparently because of pressure from the Arab states, according to Boycott Report, published by the American Jewish Congress.

The report named the following Korean companies: Kumho and Hancock, which manufactures tires; Kia Handa, Suzuki-Korea, Hyongsung and Yamaha, which manufacture motorcycles; and Hyundai and Daewoo, manufacturers of automobiles. Hyundai currently sells 150,000 cars a year in the U.S. and Canada, the report said.

In connection with those companies' refusal to do business with Israel, the Report cited a recent article by the Korean Ambassador to the U.S., Kyung-Won-Kim, in The Washington Post in which he said his country believes in and supports free trade.

WEINBERGER, LEWIS, ROSENNE TO ADDRESS UJA'S WASHINGTON CONNECTION II

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, former United States Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and Israel's Ambassador to the United States Meir Rosenne will be among the featured speakers at the United Jewish Appeal's Washington Connection II in Washington, D.C., under the leadership of UJA national vice chairman Jerome Dick.

Beginning Tuesday evening, January 27, and continuing to nightfall on Wednesday, January 28, participants will exchange views with Washington's key policy makers on leading domestic and international issues, meet Jewish members of Congress, greet the leaders of Washington's Jewish community and discuss issues affecting the strategic relationship between the United States and Israel, Dick said. In addition, there will be a gala dinner party at the Israel Embassy.

At other seminars, participants will receive a behind-the-scenes in-depth analysis of Middle East issues and a look at the post-election Washington political scene. At a Capitol Hill luncheon, Senate leaders will address the group on issues affecting the American Jewish community.

U.S. SCIENTIST IS WOLF PRIZE WINNER

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- An American plant pathologist, Dr. Theodor Diener, will be this year's recipient of the Wolf Foundation's \$100,000 prize for agriculture, the Education Ministry announced Tuesday. Diener will be cited "for his discovery and pioneering fundamental research on viroids, the smallest subviral pathogens, and his applied work on viroid detection in crops." Diener was born in Zurich in 1921 and educated in Switzerland. He has been a pathologist at the Plant Protection Institute of the U.S. Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md., since 1959.

FOCUS ON ISSUES
MARTIN LUTHER KING AND SOVIET JEWS
 By Albert Chernin

(Editor's note: Albert Chernin is the executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- As the observance on January 19 of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. draws closer, I recall arranging for him to address a national telephone hook-up of Soviet Jewry rallies we were organizing in communities nationwide in December 1966. I was doing so in my capacity as the coordinator of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, which was then being staffed by NJCRAC.

Despite his very heavy schedule, King enthusiastically accepted our invitation which gave him an opportunity to speak out publicly for the first time on the issue of Soviet Jewry.

Although his schedule kept him from coming to the major rally held at historic Cooper Union in New York where Abraham Lincoln spoke 100 years earlier about a nation half slave, half free, King spoke from Atlanta on the issue of Soviet Jewry in the spirit of Lincoln, and in the spirit of the struggle of the civil rights movement, which he led so nobly.

Sadly, his description of the plight of Soviet Jewry in 1966 is still relevant to the conditions of Soviet Jewry in 1987. He said then:

Statement By King

"While Jews in Russia may not be physically murdered as they were in Nazi Germany, they are facing every day a kind of spiritual and cultural genocide. Individual Jews may in the main be physically and economically secure in Russia, but the absence of opportunity to associate as Jews in the enjoyment of Jewish culture and religious experience becomes a severe limitation upon an individual.

"These deprivations are a part of a person's emotional and intellectual life. They determine whether he is fulfilled as a human being. Negroes can well understand and sympathize with this problem. When you are written out of history as a people, when you are given no choice but to accept the majority culture, you are denied an aspect of your own identity. Ultimately you suffer a corrosion of your self-understanding and your self-respect."

Oppressive Conditions Continue

Twenty years later the conditions of Soviet Jewry still remain oppressive. Emigration has been virtually ended, reaching the lowest numbers since the doors were slightly opened in early 1967. While Natan Shcharansky and prominent refuseniks such as Eliahu Essas have been permitted to leave, thousands more continue to be denied emigration visas year after year.

The names of more than 11,000 long-term refuseniks were given to the Soviet government by the United States shortly after President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met in Reykjavik last October; still they wait for permission to emigrate, many for more than 10 years in "quiet desperation." They do so in a climate of open and vicious hostility toward Israel, Zionism and Judaism, expressed in barely disguised anti-Semitism in the Soviet media.

Seeking to learn Hebrew, Jewish history, Jewish culture, and to practice the Jewish religion, they are subjected to various forms of intim-

idation ranging from surveillance and KGB interrogation to trials and prison. As some Prisoners of Conscience have been released, other Soviet Jewish activists have taken their place.

These harsh realities of life for Soviet Jewry cannot be camouflaged by a more skilled, Western oriented public relations style.

Significant Developments Noted

Nevertheless, in the 20 years since King spoke to the Soviet Jewry rallies, there have been significant developments in the struggle for Soviet Jews. Only a few weeks after King spoke, Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin declared in a Paris press conference that those who chose to do so could join their families abroad.

But even with this assertion of family reunion from Kosygin, which was aimed at Western audiences as are the declarations of Gorbachev, no one dreamed at that time that more than 270,000 Soviet Jews would soon live in freedom, most in Israel.

In contrast to 20 years ago, the issue of Soviet Jewry was a critical and, significantly, a formal agenda item in the bilateral negotiations that took place in Reykjavik.

Reversal Of Soviet Insistence

That Soviet Jewry was part of the official agenda represented a reversal of Soviet insistence, dating back decades, that the issue of Soviet Jewry was an internal matter. It represented an affirmation of King's assertions to those community rallies in 1966 when he said, "The denial of human rights anywhere is a threat to the affirmation of human rights everywhere."

That the Soviet Union accepted this issue on the agenda, and the Soviets feel compelled to make gestures that attempt to project the appearance of Soviet responsiveness to the issue of human rights, underscores King's awareness that voices of conscience can overcome the voices of oppression when asserted loudly, vigorously, and ceaselessly. We need to be aware of that charge upon us as we join with millions of other Americans in celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

POLL ON POTENTIAL YERIDA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Nine percent of Israelis were considering emigration in 1986, a 70 percent increase in less than three years, according to a review in Haaretz Tuesday of a series of polls taken by the Pori organization.

In 1983, 5.3 percent of those questioned by the pollsters said they were contemplating emigration. In 1984 the number grew to 6.1 percent and was 7.7 percent in August 1985. In December 1986, nine percent said they would "probably" or "certainly" emigrate, the report said.

It also found the number of Israelis who justify emigration to have increased significantly. In 1984 it was 14.6 percent. In March 1985 the number was 17.1 percent and by August of that year it was up to 20.3 percent.

In 1986, 57 percent of the respondents said they agreed or tended to agree with the statement that emigrants do not betray their homeland.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A Katyusha rocket exploded in northern Galilee Tuesday night causing neither casualties nor damage.

**'THREE-WAY SUMMIT' BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT AND JORDAN SEEN AS A POSSIBILITY**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A "three-way summit" meeting between Israel, Egypt and Jordan was described as "possible" by a top aide to Premier Yitzhak Shamir following Shamir's meeting Thursday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy who arrived from Jordan, Israel Radio reported.

The radio report quoted a remark by Yosef Ben-Aharon, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, in a television interview taped for broadcast Thursday evening.

According to the report, Ben-Aharon said "It is possible to expect a three-way summit between Premier Shamir, the President of Egypt (Hosni Mubarak) and King Hussein" (of Jordan). He said the meeting would be held "in Aqaba (Jordan) or El Arish" in Egypt.

Ben-Aharon was also quoted as saying that Shamir would meet shortly with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank to urge them to form a delegation for peace talks with Israel and Jordan.

Exploratory Mission By Murphy

Murphy, who is Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs and the State Department's leading expert on the Middle East, is on his first visit to the region since last September. His mission has been described as exploratory, to see how the stalled peace process could be advanced. But American diplomats have cautioned against expectations of a breakthrough at this time.

Murphy has meetings scheduled with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin before he leaves for an Arab capital Friday. His destination was not disclosed for security reasons, but expectations are that he will go to Cairo.

In Amman Wednesday, Murphy indicated that the U.S. does not favor a joint preparatory committee for an international conference on Middle East peace. Peres and Mubarak agreed to set up such a committee when they met in Alexandria last November.

CHARGES TRADED OVER THE HANDLING OF CONVERTS TO JUDAISM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The ultra-Orthodox Shas Party and the more mainstream National Religious Party traded charges Thursday over the handling of converts to Judaism.

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, leader of Shas, who resigned as Interior Minister this week rather than comply with a Supreme Court order to register American immigrant Shoshana Miller as a Jew, because she was converted by a Reform rabbi, charged that the NRP, when it held the Interior Ministry portfolio, "registered gentiles as Jews."

Peretz was responding to NRP charges that he had mishandled the Miller case. Shas has threatened to quit the unity coalition government unless the definition of a Jew in the Law of Return is amended according to Orthodox de-

mands. Shas has four seats in the Knesset, as does the NRP.

If Shas leaves the coalition it would be difficult for the other Orthodox factions to remain, particularly if a non-Orthodox person is appointed to replace Peretz and registers Miller as a Jew, as ordered by the court.

The religious parties planned to bring the controversial Who is a Jew amendment to the Knesset for a vote this week. They backed off when it became clear they lacked the votes to pass it.

PROCEEDINGS PENDING AGAINST SOME 1,200 SUSPECTED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN WEST GERMANY
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The federal prosecutor's office in Ludwigshaven reported Wednesday that proceedings are pending against some 1,200 suspected Nazi war criminals but few if any are expected to be brought to trial because of their advanced age and the reluctance of many witnesses to testify.

The suspects are mainly former guards at Nazi concentration camps who were involved in the mass killings of Jews and others. Most of them range in age from 75 to 80 and the average age of witnesses is 73.

According to the prosecutor's office, state attorneys encountered tremendous difficulties compiling evidence against individual suspects, a process that took years in many cases. In addition, many potential witnesses refuse to testify, or suffer severe health problems or are unable to remember events or identify suspects.

If any are brought to trial, the prosecution would have to rely mainly on written testimony from other countries, mostly in Eastern Europe, and it is questionable that convincing cases could be made in those circumstances.

Nevertheless, a spokesperson for the prosecutor's office said it will continue to function as long as proceedings are pending against any suspected war criminals in West Germany.

NCSJ REPORT REBUKES USSR FOR 'HOLLOW' HUMANITARIAN MOVES
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), in its year-end report, rebukes the Soviet Union for "a year of dramatic, but largely disappointing developments" in human rights and Jewish emigration.

In an 18-page wrap-up of Soviet moves and statements on human rights, released Thursday at a press conference in Washington, the NCSJ assails the new policy of what is being called "glasnost," or openness, in the USSR since Mikhail Gorbachev assumed leadership as merely a tactical shift, more cosmetic than real, and decries the new Soviet "humanitarian campaign" as "hollow."

The NCSJ reports that Jewish emigration dropped 20 percent from the already low 1985 figure, with only 914 Jews leaving the Soviet Union last year as compared to 1,140 in 1985.

The NCSJ also accuses the USSR of attempting to "close the book" on Jewish emigration by making statements such as that at the Bern follow-up conference on the Helsinki Accords in April, when they said that "they could not permit the sending of Jews to the 'war danger zone' of Israel."

Such statements have been followed, says the NCSJ, by the concrete new emigration regulations which went into effect January 1, which "fixed in law the narrowly defined family" of parents, children and siblings who may invite relatives to join them abroad, "condemning hundreds of thousands of Jews from ever applying for, much less receiving, permission to emigrate."

The NCSJ report says that "nearly 380,000" have begun the process of applying to emigrate. Of the 380,000, the NCSJ identifies over 11,000 as refuseniks. These cases, states the NCSJ, have been repeatedly raised with Soviet officials, notably by President Reagan at the Reykjavik summit last October.

The NCSJ report, titled "The Illusion of 'Glasnost': A Survey on the Status of Soviet Jewry in 1986," notes that in April, a top Moscow specialist on nationality questions delivered a lecture before a leading Soviet propaganda body in which he "acknowledged that 10 to 15 percent of Soviet Jews currently would seek to emigrate," a figure which tallies more with Western figures than with official Soviet statements on the number of Jews wishing to emigrate.

This acknowledgement, says the NCSJ, was rendered "hollow" by the actual numbers of Jews permitted to emigrate.

Good News And Cynical Twist Of Fate

The "good news" of the release of "several prominent former POC's and long-term refuseniks ... allowed to emigrate," was accompanied by "a cynical twist" of the release of Inessa Flerova and her family to go to Israel to give her bone marrow to her leukemia-stricken brother, Michael Shirman, when it appeared to be far too late for the procedure.

The NCSJ report also noted that David Goldfarb, released suddenly in October and brought to the U.S. aboard Armand Hammer's private jet, was subsequently found to have lung cancer, "tragic proof," it says, "that he had not received adequate medical attention in the Soviet Union."

The NCSJ report notes that nearly half the number of Prisoners of Conscience were sentenced to prison or labor camp since Gorbachev took the reins of the Soviet government. Just within the past eight months, the report says, "alarming news continued to reach the West of the physical abuse of several Jewish prisoners, especially Aleksei Magarik, Yuli Edelshtein, Iosif Begun and Vladimir Lifshitz."

The report also notes the tightening of the vice on religious observances, including the shortage of matzoh at Passover, raids on private homes at Purim, warnings of prominent teachers of Jewish culture and religion, and the denial of basic rights of religious observance as written into the Helsinki Accords.

Gorbachev's promise at the Geneva summit of November 1985, as well as in other public statements, to resolve "humanitarian cases in the spirit of cooperation," writes the NCSJ, remains "mere words."

At The First Zionist Assembly: A CLASH OF GENERATIONS By Margie Olster

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Several generations of Zionists gathered here last weekend at the posh Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, for the First Zionist Assembly. The scene was one of stark contrasts: Activists in blue jeans and backpacks, professionals and functionaries in blue suits with briefcases. They mingled with each other against a backdrop of pink-with-roses carpeting lining the wide hallways, an alluring bar and five restaurants. And in the midst of this mosaic stood an easel with a display of black and white photographs of Degania, 1910. A group of early pioneers posed on the steps of a rickety wooden shack on this first kibbutz, their clothing tattered and their faces toughened by difficult conditions. The old and new generations confronted each other.

About 470 members of Zionist youth movements, some of them still in high school, others college graduates, met for a weekend of speakers, brainstorming and getting acquainted.

They came from the four corners of North America and from diverse political backgrounds to unite under the banner of "Magshimim," those individuals committed to aliya and Zionist fulfillment.

They came from 12 garinim, or groups organized for aliya to kibbutz, and youth movements from Betar on the right to Hashomer Hatzair on the left. Four aliya activist groups comprised primarily of university students and graduates also participated.

Subsidized Flights And Accommodations

About 1,000 American delegates from 16 constituent organizations of the American Zionist Federation, which organized the assembly, participated in addition to the magshimim. Their convention began Sunday afternoon as the magshimim concluded their weekend.

According to some organizers, the AZF, World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency provided some \$200,000 to subsidize the flights, accommodations and food for hundreds of North American magshimim. Most of the organizers agreed that AZF brought the younger generation to demonstrate that aliya is still a vital force in the American Zionist movement.

Last Sunday, the only day that the magshimim conference intersected with the official four-day Zionist Assembly, the younger generation had some harsh words for the elders.

Harsh Words For The Jewish Agency

Joel Sweet, a member of Garin Gal Hadash and Habonim, criticized the Jewish Agency which funds the Zionist youth movements.

Following an appeal for aliya by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and of the Jewish Agency Executives, Sweet said, "I am really beginning to doubt the integrity of the men who run the Jewish Agency." Sweet told Dulzin that the youth movements still have no budgets for educational campaigns and group activities. "If you really think we're relevant, don't tell us, show us."

Sweet argued the convention was a waste of resources because almost all of the magshimim are already committed to aliya. "We are still

walking back to our groups with empty pockets," he said. Gonen Hacklay, treasurer of Habonim Dror of America, told Dulzin, "Zionist youth movements waste much of their time worrying about where funds will come from for their next activity...The money used to plan this seminar could have been better used to support the youth movements in Batim (collective Jewish housing on campus) and in summer camps."

No Longer A Monopoly

Simmy Zivel, director of the United Kibbutz Movement of North America, said the Zionist establishment called the conference because "The Zionist organizations in America no longer have a monopoly on issues related to Israel.

"Everyone in the Jewish community realizes that some relationship with Israel is the single most important component in most American Jews' identity. So people, non-Zionists, will naturally ask the Zionist organizations, How are we different?"

"The only way the Zionist movement can justify its ongoing existence is by dealing with the one issue that non-Zionists are not able to make an ideological stand on--namely Zionism."

Many of the magshimim expressed resentment at being brought in as a showpiece, a display for the professionals.

But Becky Rowe, an organizer of the magshimim conference and the director of the Progressive Zionist Caucus (PZC), explained the necessity of the conference.

"It is important to show that there's a youthful contingent, that there's vitality in the AZF," Rowe said. However, she added, "The hotel is a horrible statement. The shlichim (emissaries) said this is not for us, it's a 'busha' (embarrassment). The movements have no money and they (AZF) waste so much money. But the Jewish professionals want their conference in a five-star hotel."

Acknowledges Generation Gap

Dulzin, responding to his youthful critics, acknowledged the generation gap. "I don't claim to represent you," he said. "There is a gap in age, in time and in temperament. But nobody will decide aliya for you but yourself. We will assist you, we will give you all our help. But you have to work out programs of activities and we will give you our support."

Akiva Lewinsky, treasurer of WZO and the Jewish Agency, sought to explain why the Jewish Agency subsidized the magshimim, addressing the question of wasted money and resources.

"Why did I agree to it?" Lewinsky said. "The presence of the Zionist movement has not been felt. If a Zionist presence is not felt, the community will move away from Israel. This is the greatest danger to the Jewish people I see.

"I would have liked to save the money. But this was an opportunity for garinim to meet and for the movements to show that there is a unity of purpose. Here are 500 people for whom aliya is important."

Assurances About Redirecting U.S. Zionism

Lewinsky assured the magshimim that their funding would not suffer as a result of money spent on the conference. He explained that all Jewish organizations need more money for education. Rowe summed up the essence of the weekend following Lewinsky's remarks. "Akiva Lewin-

sky said aliya is a process that starts with decisions. I disagree. Aliya is a process that starts with questions and that is why we're here this weekend. I hope that not only can we come closer to achieving a tangible political goal but that we faced some intellectual and personal challenges related to our own future."

Ben Cohen, AZF president, said the aliya activists have long been at odds with and suspicious of the establishment which has neglected them. But, he said, there is a genuine attempt to redirect American Zionism back towards aliya.

"Our intentions are honorable," Cohen said. "We are trying to get the American Zionist movement to dedicate much more of its resources to education and the aliya process."

FLAP OVER BANK PENSION, SEVERANCE DEAL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The Board of Directors of Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, seemed to recoil in horror late Thursday night from the outsized pension and severance deal they had made with the bank's former chairman and chief executive officer, Ernst Japhet, when he resigned last spring.

Japhet was one of the top executives of Israel's five largest banks forced to resign after a committee of inquiry found that the banks had artificially inflated the value of their shares to mislead the investing public. The scandal came to light after bank shares collapsed in 1983, wiping out the savings of thousands of Israelis.

Under fierce denunciation from the Knesset Wednesday and with angry bank employees camped in the corridors outside the executive offices, the Board decided to suspend the \$30,000 a month pension awarded to Japhet. But they could take no action on the \$4.5 million in severance pay which Japhet has already received.

In a statement released just before midnight, the directors said the legality and reasonableness of the terms of Japhet's resignation were questionable. Japhet was unavailable for comment. Eli Hurwitz, the new Board chairman who replaced Japhet, said after the meeting, "I was not at peace with the agreement. My conscience was not quiet and my nights were not quiet after I heard of the sums Japhet was to receive."

Meanwhile, Leon Dulzin, Governor of Bank Leumi, lashed back at media and Knesset critics who accused him of allowing Japhet to receive excessive compensation. Dulzin, who is chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said he first learned of Japhet's \$4.5 million "golden handshake" when he read about it in the newspapers. He said he urged Board chairman Hurwitz to cancel the deal but was told it was too late because the severance had been paid.

But he ordered the board to rescind the \$30,000 a month pension, Dulzin said. He said he considered Japhet's terms "scandalous." He also stressed that his position as Governor was ex-officio, without compensation and stemmed from the fact that the Jewish Agency is the majority shareholder in Bank Leumi. Dulzin said he attended "some seven or eight board meetings a year ... that hardly means I was involved in the running of the bank." He said he saw no cause for him to resign.

POLL ON FUNDAMENTALIST AND EVANGELICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The results made public Thursday of a nationwide survey of evangelical and fundamentalist Christian attitudes towards Jews challenge some commonly held assumptions, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which commissioned the poll.

Conducted telephonically among a sampling of 1,000 religiously conservative Christians in September and October by the Houston-based Tarrance, Hill, Newport and Ryan research organization, the survey revealed that most of them do not "consciously use their deeply-held Christian faith and conviction as justification for anti-Semitic views of Jews."

The survey sampling was made up of 36 percent Baptists, 12 percent Methodists, 10 percent Lutherans, 7 percent members of the Church of Christ and the remainder included other Protestant evangelicals such as Pentecostal, Mormon and Assembly of God.

Some Of The Attitudes

Ninety percent disagreed with a statement that "Christians are justified in holding negative attitudes towards Jews since the Jews killed Christ," five percent agreed and five percent said they were "unsure."

Twenty-four percent felt that God views Jews "more favorably than other non-Christians" based on their belief that "Jews are God's chosen people" and the fact that Jesus was himself a Jew. Ten percent felt that God views Jew "less favorably than other non-Christians."

Eighty-six percent disagreed with the assertion that "God does not hear the prayer of a Jew," a statement that was originally made in 1981 by the then president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Rev. Bailey Smith. Only 12 percent agreed with this statement.

Sixty-eight percent said Jews are viewed by God "no differently than other non-Christians" because they have not accepted Jesus, 20 percent said they may be judged "more harshly" and 12 percent were "unsure."

Part Of An Ongoing Analysis

ADL national director Nathan Perlmutter said the survey is part of the agency's ongoing analyses of Christian attitudes toward Jews and that many of the findings of this particular poll are significant in view of the increased prominence in recent years of religiously conservative Christians in this country -- "a group about which Jews have expressed apprehension." He added:

"While there are areas of important disagreement between the Jewish community and evangelicals and fundamentalists, such as prayer in schools and the teaching of evolution, these reflect differing values. Their support of voluntary prayer in the school, for instance, is no more necessarily anti-Semitic than our opposition to prayer is anti-religious. In a culturally pluralistic society, it is possible to be at opposite ends of an issue without religious bigotry being operative." Perlmutter cited as "troubling" the survey's finding that although 57 percent of the sampling revealed no secular anti-Semitic attitudes as measured by their responses to seven statements in an "anti-Semitic index," 22 percent agreed with one of the anti-Semitic characteriza-

tions and another 21 percent with two or more. Only five percent of those surveyed accepted four or more of the statements as valid.

It was found that 49 percent of those between 18 and 34 years of age agreed with at least one of the anti-Semitic characterizations compared to 34 percent of those 55 and over.

The survey noted a statistically significant relationship between belief in a literal reading of the Bible and expression of one or more secular anti-Semitic views.

The seven statements reflected stereotypical attitudes towards Jews, including the following: "because Jews are not bound by Christian ethics, they do things to get ahead that Christians generally do not do," 27 percent agreed; "Jews are tight with money," 51 percent agreed; "Jews want to remain different from other people, and yet they are touchy if people notice these differences," 39 percent agreed; "Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the U.S.," 27 percent agreed.

Some 'Positive' Traits

But, sizeable percentages of those who accepted these characterizations felt they were "positive" traits. For example, of those who believe "Jews are tight with money," 60 percent thought that was a positive trait. On the statement about greater loyalty to Israel, 49 percent of those who agreed thought it was a positive trait and 30 percent of those who saw Jews as wanting to be "different," viewed the characteristic positively.

On their perceptions of how much power is wielded in America today by six selected groups -- big business, organized labor, Arabs, Catholics, Blacks and Jews -- 67 percent thought big business has too much power; 55 percent cited organized labor; 38 percent, Arabs; 23 percent, Catholics; 11 percent said Blacks have too much power; 31 percent felt Blacks do not have enough power; 7 percent said Jews have too much power and 11 percent said they have too little power.

"The findings on Blacks and Jews," Perlmutter said, "are particularly instructive. The old canard that Jews have too much power in this country is overwhelmingly rejected by the interviewees. Regarding Blacks, the fact that nearly a third of the sample, the largest percentage by far, felt that they do not have enough power suggests that the view that evangelicals and fundamentalists are disinterested in the Blacks' struggle for social justice may not be justified."

TERRORIST ACT IN KIRYAT MALACHI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A number of suspects were detained Thursday after a small explosive device detonated in Kiryat Malachi, about 60 kilometers southwest of Jerusalem. A car was damaged but there were no casualties. Police suspect a terrorist act.

Security forces, meanwhile, continued to take anti-terrorist measures in the West Bank and acted to prevent possible rioting by students in Nablus.

The homes of three suspected terrorists in the Shuafat refugee camp near Jerusalem were cordoned off Thursday. The occupants were accused of throwing grenades and Molotov cocktails at Jewish targets last year.

The West Bank civil administration closed A-Rawda College and A-Najah University, both in Nablus, until the end of the week on the basis of "information" that the students intended to riot.

ORTHODOX RABBI HINTS NON-ORTHODOX GROUPS MAY ULTIMATELY BE ACCORDED THE RIGHT TO PERFORM CONVERSIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A leading Orthodox rabbi hinted Sunday night that some recognition might ultimately have to be accorded to institutions of the non-Orthodox trends in Judaism, particularly on the issue of conversion.

Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, head of a yeshiva in the Etzion bloc of settlements south of Jerusalem, suggested that Orthodox conversion courts might have their decisions formally approved by a Conservative institution as a way to break the present impasse. Israel's Orthodox establishment has always insisted that only conversions performed by Orthodox rabbis are valid. Conservative and Reform Judaism are demanding recognition in Israel.

Lichtenstein, who is the son-in-law of the American Orthodox scholar, Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik, offered his proposal at a forum of the National Religious Party which is considering the problem posed by the case of Shoshana Miller, an American who immigrated to Israel but was denied citizenship because she was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi.

The Supreme Court, acting on Miller's appeal, ordered the Interior Ministry last month to issue her an identity card as a Jew, without qualification. Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, resigned rather than comply.

Shas Threatened To Quit The Government

Shas is now threatening to quit the unity coalition government. Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who took over the Interior portfolio temporarily, has postponed issuing an ID card to Miller as long as legally possible. The fact that she has gone back to the U.S. and is not certain when she will return to Israel to claim her card, gave Shamir time to seek a solution to the problem.

The Cabinet decided to convene a special ministerial panel to consider the matter of registering converts. It is chaired by Shamir and has given itself six months to consult with scholars and others here and abroad before it makes recommendations which, hopefully, will be unanimous.

Other members of the panel are Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Minister of Energy Moshe Shahal and Minister of Immigration Yaacov Tsur, all Laborites; Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir and Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhak Modai, both of Likud; and Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious party.

Peretz would be a member if he decides to return to the Cabinet. But Shas sources indicated Monday that the decision to set up the panel was not sufficient inducement.

Shas, which holds only four seats in the Knesset but is a political factor in the delicately balanced unity coalition, is demanding that labor and Likud support legislation that would permanently bar Reform converts from receiving status

as Jews. Such a law would by-pass the Supreme Court's decision.

PLO MILITARY STRENGTH IN LEBANON RESTORED TO ITS PRE-1982 LEVEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Almost five years after the Lebanon war, the military strength of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon has been restored to almost the same level as it was when the Israel Defense Force invaded that country in June 1982, a senior military officer told an audience in Tel Aviv Monday.

The officer, who holds the rank of Lt. Colonel but was not identified by name, said PLO terrorists were returning to their old bases in Sidon and Tyre and their presence can be felt by the increased incidence of attempted attacks on Israel.

The officer noted that Sidon and Tyre, on the Lebanese coast, provide the terrorists with bases for night attacks on Israel by sea. So far, the Israel Navy has successfully aborted such attacks, he said. But the sea cannot be totally sealed off.

He proposed that Israel initiate a strong international maritime intelligence force to interdict sea-borne terrorists and saboteurs. He said Israel could contribute considerable experience to such an undertaking.

DEPORTATION OF GAZA STRIP PALESTINIAN SPARKS DEMONSTRATIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A resident of Kahn Yunis in the Gaza Strip was deported to Jordan Monday on grounds that he worked for El Fatah and incited armed action against Israel.

The expulsion of Mohammad Yushuf Dahlan, 26, triggered angry demonstrations in the Gaza Strip town. Security forces used tear gas to disperse the crowds. A commercial strike was declared by local merchants. Classes were disrupted in Gaza schools and a rock was thrown at an Israeli vehicle, bruising the driver.

Dahlan was the 15th Palestinian in the administered territories to be deported since August 1985 when Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin renewed the policy of expulsion for alleged pro-terrorist activity.

The Israeli authorities charged that Dahlan, as head of Shabiba, the El Fatah youth movement, was behind political unrest in the territories for the past year and took his orders from terrorists in Lebanon. Disturbances began in the Gaza Strip when the deportation decision was announced three days ago.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The postponement of a quasi-academic panel discussion within the Foreign Ministry of Israel's policy towards South Africa highlighted the current concern and

TWO FORMER POCS WARN AGAINST GIVING USSR TRADE BENEFITS BEFORE THERE IS A MARKED INCREASE IN EMIGRATION
 By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Natan Shcharansky and Yuri Orlov, the two leading human rights activists who were recently allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union, warned Friday against granting the USSR trade benefits before there is a marked increase in emigration.

"First improvement of emigration, then improvement of trade," said Orlov, who was the founder of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group. "But not in reverse order."

Orlov and Shcharansky, who were released from Soviet labor camps in apparent gestures to the Reagan Administration, testified before a Commission of Inquiry sponsored by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ) on Capitol Hill to demonstrate the Soviet Union's violation of the Helsinki Accords.

They were questioned by Sens. William Armstrong (R. Colo.) and Charles Grassley (R. Iowa), former Sen. Richard Stone (D. Fla.) and Stuart Eizenstat, the UCSJ's legal counsel and a former special assistant to President Carter.

Both Orlov and Shcharansky said the West should not be taken in by gestures such as their release. Shcharansky said there is a "desire in the West to be deceived" by such gestures because of the fear of nuclear war.

New Law, More Restrictions

Both former Soviet prisoners said that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seems to placate the West with gestures such as the release of some Soviet prisoners and allowing emigration for the reunification of families, but he balances this with harsher restrictions at home.

Shcharansky noted that the new emigration law which went into effect January 1 starts by claiming a free emigration policy. But then, he noted, it makes emigration procedures more restrictive allowing emigration only for those who would be reunited with close relatives, defined as parents, children and brothers and sisters.

He said that as far as Soviet Jews are concerned, even if all 30,000 who fit the above category were allowed to leave, it would be only 10 percent of the 380,000 who have earlier received invitations from Israel and have been denied visas.

Shcharansky urged Congress not to continue with vague calls for increased emigration, which totalled only 914 in 1986, but to set fixed guidelines. He said if 20,000 Jews were allowed to emigrate, one concession could be made: if 50,000 left, another; and if all who asked to leave were allowed to go, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment could be lifted.

Eizenstat said that in 1979, after 50,000 Jews were allowed to emigrate, he brought Carter a proposal from then Rep. Charles Vanik (D. Ohio), the co-sponsor of the amendment that links trade benefits for the Soviet Union to increased emigration, to temporarily lift the restrictions. But nothing was done because Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) and most Jewish groups were opposed, he said.

He noted that the next year emigration dropped to 21,471 and has fallen yearly ever since. He wondered whether the Carter Administration had made a mistake. But Shcharansky said he believes the large emigration in 1979, at a time

when he was in prison, was an effort by the Soviet Union to clean house. He said that at the same time Moscow was restricting new invitations for those who wanted to leave.

Says Neshira Is Not Cause For Emigration Drop

Shcharansky rejected the charge that the large number of Soviet emigrants who go to the United States, instead of Israel, is the reason for the drop in emigration. He said that while as an Israeli citizen he would like to see more Jews, from the U.S. as well as the USSR, go to Israel, the large number of dropouts is only an excuse used by Moscow.

Meanwhile, Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and a former president of the UCSJ, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that she learned Friday that Lev Blitshtein, a 56-year-old Moscow refusenik who had been denied an emigration visa since 1975, was told he could leave. Blitshtein's long-time refusal was based on his supposed knowledge of "secrets" regarding meat storage.

Blitshtein was forced to divorce his wife, Buma, so that she and their children, Boris and Galina, could emigrate. They have lived in the United States since 1976. Singer noted that Blitshtein has over the years been especially helpful to the families of Jewish Prisoners of Conscience.

OVER 300 JEWISH SCIENTISTS IN THE USSR BEING DENIED EMIGRATION VISAS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Public Council for Soviet Jewry has charged that more than 300 Jewish scientists in the Soviet Union are being denied emigration permits. According to speakers at a press conference here, Jewish scientists suffer more than other refuseniks because they lose their jobs and are forced to take unskilled work.

The Council announced that an international meeting of scientists will be held in Vienna this week on their behalf. Vienna was chosen because it was the site of the recent Conference on Peace and Security in Europe.

Avraham Harman, president of the Council, said the campaign on behalf of the scientists was only part of a general campaign for all Jews seeking to leave the USSR. Israel will be represented at the Vienna meeting by several scientists who managed to emigrate. They include Prof. Iosif Irlin of the Weizmann Institute of Science who arrived in Israel two months ago after an eight-year quest for a visa.

11% DROP IN IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Immigration to Israel totaled 9,500 in 1986, an 11 percent drop from the previous year according to figures released last week by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The decline was mainly in olim from the Soviet Union and Africa.

Of the 914 Jews reported to have left the USSR last year, only 202 came to Israel. Although 565 Jews arrived from South Africa, more than double the number in 1985, immigration from Africa as a whole fell by 58 percent.

About 2,000 American Jews immigrated to Israel in 1986, only 100 more than in the previous year. About 1,000 immigrants arrived from France, 800 from Argentina, 600 from the United Kingdom and the rest from other European and Latin American countries.

sensitivity surrounding this issue here. The panel was to have been led by the Ministry's political Director-General, Dr. Yossi Beilin, who is the closest confidant of Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. It was to include veteran Ministry staffers, officials of other government departments, and outside experts.

But Peres is in Europe and the acting Foreign Minister, Ezer Weizman, ordered Beilin to call off the conclave.

The Director-General had no choice but to obey. But he pointedly insisted, in interviews, that the discussion would take place "next week, when the Minister (Peres) returns."

A Strong Lobby Within Government Circles

Weizman, a former Minister of Defense and long-time Air Force officer, is one of a strong lobby within government circles -- the lobby is largely defense-oriented and crosses political party lines -- which is reluctant to suddenly sever Israel's long-standing ties with South Africa in the wake of American and Western European decisions to adopt sanctions against the apartheid regime in Pretoria.

Newsweek magazine reports this week that Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited South Africa recently to warn the government there that a shrinkage in the relationship was inevitable.

Forces In Favor Of A Boycott

Beilin, for his part, has long led the forces -- mainly of the left and center -- which press for Israel to place itself solidly alongside the Western countries in their steadily increasing boycott of South Africa.

These forces put forward moral arguments, but also severely practical ones: they assert that the white supremacist regime is ultimately doomed, and it would therefore be as well for the Jewish State not to be seen, in Africa, as going down with the sinking ship.

The other group points to the cant and hypocrisy which sully the positions of many of the Western -- and indeed Black African--countries regarding South Africa.

They note that some of the most vociferous statesmen demanding sanctions represent states with much larger volumes of trade with South Africa (not to mention investments) than Israel. And they add that many states and firms that ostensibly adhere to boycott principles in fact circumvent them in myriad ways.

They add that for every South African weapons system that, according to foreign publications, have Israeli components or Israeli know-how, there are many much more crucial systems that are wholly supplied by the leading Western powers, especially France and Britain.

They assert, with much justice, that lumping together Israel and South Africa has been a deliberate Arab propaganda ploy which, unfortunately for Israel, has won much success over the years.

Extent Of Israel's Trade With South Africa

Israel's trade with South Africa includes the import of coal and raw materials, and some Israeli industrial exports. Israel gives no official information regarding military-related trade. And there are always firm and blanket denials to the repeated foreign media claims of a nuclear relationship between the two countries.

If the debate could remain in the realm of quasi-academic, Israel's concern would not be so deep. But the U.S. Congress has taken action that suddenly lifts this issue into the realm of immediate and painful decision-making.

The Congress has required of the Reagan Administration that it report by April on U.S. aid recipients that have military supply relationships with South Africa -- and the sanction could be a cut-off of military aid to such countries.

Israel, of course, with a \$1.8 billion per annum military aid package at risk, cannot afford to cross the Congress or embarrass the Administration in the eyes of Capitol Hill.

POC ZUNSHAIN TO BE RELEASED EARLY, GIVEN AN EXIT VISA

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Prisoner of Conscience Zachar Zunshain is scheduled to be released from a Siberian labor camp, six weeks before his three-year term for "anti-Soviet slander" is completed, and allowed to leave for Israel three days later, according to the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ).

Zunshain's wife, Tatyana, said last week that Soviet authorities told her she should submit an exit application for herself and her husband. The couple has been denied visas since 1980.

Zunshain's sentence to a labor camp followed his arrest March 6, 1984, for "circulation of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system." The charges were based on letters he himself wrote to Soviet authorities asking them to revoke his Soviet citizenship and allow him to leave for Israel with his wife.

According to the SSSJ, he was also arrested following a five-minute demonstration in front of the Boshoi Theater in Moscow asking for emigration visas.

Zunshain is a 35-year-old physicist from Riga who has been imprisoned in the Irkutsk labor camp in Siberia.

Other Releases Imminent

In a related development, the SSSJ reported that two refuseniks who are also involved in the unofficial peace movement in the Soviet Union are also said to be about to be released: Yuri Chekanovsky, 42, a five-year refusenik, married and the father of three children; and Yuri Rozen-sweig, 40, refused seven years, also father of three. In May 1986, both families demonstrated in Red Square in Moscow for exit visas.

Another member of the unofficial peace movement, Vladimir Brodsky, was released in September 1986 after serving only one year of a three-year sentence for "hooliganism" and allowed to leave for Israel with his wife, Dina.

LEGAL ABORTIONS IN ISRAEL INCREASING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Legal abortions increased by 15 percent in Israel since a law limiting the right to abortion was passed by the Knesset nine years ago.

According to figures released Monday, the Health Ministry approved 9,300 abortions in the first six months of 1986. Health authorities estimate that 10,000 abortions are performed illegally every year by private physicians.

The main grounds for approved abortions are pregnancies which endanger the lives of the mothers, physically deformed fetuses and pregnancies resulting from extra-marital relations by married women.

The latest figures on abortions were released after a 17-year-old girl from Safed died of complications during an illegal abortion. The incident prompted a delegation from Naamat, the Labor Zionist women's organization, to call on Education Minister Yitzhak Navon and the Knesset Education Committee Monday to urge sex education in school.

According to a Naamat survey, a third of Israeli parents refuse to educate their children about sex because they fear it would lead them to have sexual relations.

EXTREMIST PARTIES IN WEST GERMANY GOT ONE PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTES CAST IN SUNDAY'S GENERAL ELECTIONS
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- West Germany's oldest established neo-Nazi political group, the National Democratic Party (NPD), won 0.6 percent of the popular vote in Sunday's general elections, enough to qualify for State financial aid but far below the five percent needed for representation in parliament.

Nevertheless, the NPD, which garnered about 250,000 votes, performed better than in the last Bundestag elections in 1983 when it drew only 0.2 percent.

The combined vote for the NPD and all other extreme rightwing factions Sunday amounted to one percent of the total votes cast.

"The Patriots," the European branch of the Lyndon LaRouche group in the U.S., the "Courageous Citizens" and similar groupings on the radical right drew 0.4 percent between them.

Not A Political Force Of Consequence

Although the NPD achieved one percent in the elections to the Strasbourg-based Parliament of Europe two years ago -- mainly because of a poor turn-out -- neither it nor any other faction on the far right has emerged as a political force of any consequence in West Germany.

One reason is that they are ideologically divided and split the extremist vote between them. Another is that the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) headed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), made a strong bid for rightwing votes during the election campaign.

Franz-Josef Strauss, leader of the CSU, campaigned on the premise that it is time for Germans to "step out of Hitler's shadow" and develop "normal" national feelings. He also publicly supported the thesis of those historians who maintain that the Holocaust, as bad as it was, was no worse than other catastrophic events in recent history.

The CDU, and its junior coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party (FDP) won Sunday's elections with 53.4 percent of the popular vote which translates into 266 of the 496 seats in the Bundestag. But Kohl's party, which achieved 44.3 percent Sunday compared to 48.8 percent in the 1983 elections, registered its poorest performance since the Federal Republic was founded in 1949. The centrist FDP and the anti-NATO, environmentalist Green Party chalked up the largest

gains. The former increased its share of the vote to 9.1 percent, from seven percent in 1983. The Greens won 8.3 percent, up from 5.6 percent four years ago.

The Social Democratic Party (SPD) remains the largest opposition faction in parliament. It drew 37 percent of the popular vote, down from 38.2 percent in 1983, but better than predicted by the pre-election opinion polls.

Jewish Vote Is Marginal

It is not possible to determine how Jews cast their votes. There are 30,000 Jews in West Germany, more than 20,000 eligible to vote. Observers here assume they supported the CDU or the FDP. But the Jewish vote is too marginal to play any role in national politics.

The Jewish community is scattered, most living in West Berlin and Frankfurt. But West Berliners do not participate in the national elections because of the special status of the city which is governed by the three Allied powers.

BANK LEUMI HAS A NEW BOARD
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The new Board of Directors of Bank Leumi was formally ratified Sunday by the members of the outgoing Board whose resignations became effective immediately. But controversy continued to simmer over the new chairman, Meir Heth, a former president of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

One member of the new Board, Oded Winkler, quit even before it took over in protest against the choice of Heth. Winkler, director general of the Federation of Kibbutz Industries, announced his resignation saying he was dissatisfied with the selection of Heth who was reproved by the Beisky Commission last year in its report on the 1983 bank shares scandal and the stock market panic which ensued.

Heth, who replaced outgoing Board chairman Eli Hurvitz, replied to his critics at a press conference, noting that the Beisky Commission had not barred him from any future executive position with an Israeli bank. The heads of Israel's five largest banks were barred.

Heth was selected from a field of five candidates by the Board of the Jewish Colonial Trust, owner of the Bank Leumi by virtue of its founders shares and as majority stockholder. He maintained that mere mention of his name in the Beisky report did not disqualify him.

The report found that he was aware of the manipulation of bank shares by the country's leading banks but did nothing about it when he headed the Tel Aviv Exchange.

According to Heth, he had in fact warned against the practice and no longer headed the exchange when the scandal broke. He noted that he would receive compensation as chairman of the Bank Leumi Board but unlike his predecessors, it would be "within normal, acceptable Israeli standards."

The outgoing directors announced their resignations two weeks ago after a new scandal erupted over excessive compensation given Ernst Japhet, former chairman and chief executive officer of the bank, when he stepped down last spring in compliance with the recommendations of the Beisky Commission.

Japhet reportedly was given \$4.5 million in severance pay and a \$30,000 per month pension.

**ISRAEL AND HUNGARY TO EXCHANGE
RESIDENT TRADE REPRESENTATIVES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Israel and Hungary will soon exchange resident trade representatives, Israel Radio reported Sunday citing authoritative sources here.

The report followed a statement over the weekend by Jozseg Gyorke, head of the Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Department in Budapest, that Hungary is interested in ties with Israel, though it was "not timely" to speak of full diplomatic relations.

Israel Radio also disclosed a meeting two months ago between Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon and Hungary's Minister for Foreign Trade, Peter Verecz. Trade between Hungary and Israel is estimated at about \$20 million a year.

Hungary broke diplomatic relations with Israel, as did all Communist bloc states except Rumania, after the 1967 Six-Day War. Recently there have been signs of a thaw. Israel and Poland established interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv, respectively, late last year. But full diplomatic ties seem elusive at present.

Israeli observers have noted a marked easing of travel access to Hungary by holders of Israeli passports in recent years. Many Israelis of Hungarian origin have visited their former homeland as individuals or in organized groups.

There are an estimated 80,000-90,000 Jews in Hungary today, the largest Soviet bloc Jewish community outside the USSR. Although they enjoy relative religious freedom and have a lively cultural life, the Hungarian Jewish community is eroding due to a high level of intermarriage and assimilation.

**HISTADRUT TO PARTICIPATE IN
EFFORT TO AID FAMILIES OF PEOPLE
WHO DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The Israeli branch of an international body set up to aid the families of the 30,000 people who disappeared during the rule of the military junta in Argentina during the 1970's will be headed by Histadrut, Israel's labor federation.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar, who made the announcement over the weekend, urged other Israeli organizations to join. Addressing leaders of the Organization of Argentine Mothers of Missing People, Kessar said Jews must be as sensitive as other people all over the world to the fate of the missing in Argentina.

An estimated 3,000 of the missing were Jewish, many of them teenagers.

**O'CONNOR SAYS HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL
PAVED WAY FOR CHANGES IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND ISRAEL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- John Cardinal O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, said over the weekend that his recent visit to Israel would bring about changes in relations

between Israel and the Vatican. But he cautioned that they would be slow in coming.

In a Voice of Israel Radio interview from New York, O'Connor said the Vatican was moving in the right direction with respect to Israel but noted that changes in Vatican policy were historically very slow.

O'Connor's five-day visit here earlier this month was fraught with controversy and embarrassment because the Vatican, which has no diplomatic relations with Israel, does not recognize the status of Jerusalem as its capital. As a result, O'Connor was forced to cancel meetings he had scheduled with Israeli leaders at their Jerusalem offices.

He did, however, meet with President Chaim Herzog and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at their respective residences.

**LAWYER OF AN ISRAELI SENTENCED TO
DEATH IN EGYPT APPEALS TO MUBARAK**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- An Israeli lawyer is appealing to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to grant clemency to an Israeli, Yosef Tahan, who was sentenced to death in Cairo last year for allegedly smuggling drugs into Egypt.

Tahan's attorney, Zvi Lidsky, said he would hand the appeal over to the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv Sunday and go to Cairo himself if necessary to try to see Mubarak. He said his appeal is based on humanitarian grounds. Tahan, a resident of Ashdod, is the father of four children. A letter from them will accompany the appeal.

According to reports from Cairo, Mubarak is not expected to approve Tahan's execution nor will he grant a pardon. This could leave the man in prison for years with the death penalty hanging over him. Tahan was arrested at the Cairo airport in August 1985 with 1.35 kilos of heroin. He was on his way home to Israel from India.

At his trial, he said he intended to market the drugs in Israel.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW
BLACK-JEWISH COALITION SEEN
RENEWED IN THE AFTERMATH OF A
CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH IN GEORGIA**

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Blacks and whites, Christians and Jews, 15,000-strong, joined the largest civil rights march Saturday in Cumming, Georgia, since Martin Luther King, Jr. led the 1965 march in Selma, Alabama.

The march marked a reaffirmation of the Black-Jewish coalition for civil rights which blossomed in the 1960's, according to Rabbi A. James Rudin, American Jewish Committee director of interreligious affairs, who was a featured speaker at the march.

Rudin called the march an awesome display by Americans asserting their right to march and demonstrate peacefully anywhere in this country.

Saturday's march came exactly one week after the little town of Cumming, population 2,000, was the scene of a smaller but more violent march, brought to an abrupt and premature

halt when Ku Klux Klansmen hurled bottles and rocks at an interracial brotherhood march.

Within a week, civil rights leaders, Jewish community leaders and Christian clergy organized a massive response to the violence. But the outpouring of support overwhelmed the organizers who did not expect the huge turnout, Rudin told the JTA Sunday after returning to New York.

A convoy of some 200 buses carried the marchers from their meeting point in Atlanta to the outskirts of Cumming in Forsyth County, north of Atlanta. But they were not the only ones demonstrating Saturday. Several hundred counter-demonstrators, a handful of them Klansmen donning white sheets, awaited the demonstrators in Cumming behind a human wall of security forces.

Rabbi Describes The Scene

Rudin described the scene as the buses neared Cumming.

"It was one of the only times in my life I feared for my physical survival. We saw the security forces on the roof with automatic weapons," Rudin said. "Then I saw about 15 men in white sheets, some of them extending their right arms in a Nazi salute. The bus got very quiet, very tense. I had seen pictures of them. But it was the first time in my life I had ever seen the KKK in their white sheets, in broad daylight with the Confederate flags and the Nazi salutes."

Rudin rode in a leadership bus, the second in the convoy, which also carried slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.'s widow, Coretta Scott King. "We had been warned about snipers who might want to hit the leaders, especially Ms. King," Rudin said.

After reaching the starting point of the march, Rudin and other leaders addressed the march in front of the county courthouse.

"Once again, our nation has seen the ugly face of racism and bigotry, this time in Forsyth County, Ga., but fear and intimidation will never stop Americans of good will from asserting their right to assemble peaceably," Rudin told the marchers.

"I am proud to represent the American Jewish Committee in this historic march. Bigots and racists everywhere must learn that Americans who stand for justice and equality will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to eradicate racist hatred from our midst."

Shocked By Racist Shouts And Slogans

As the marchers moved through the streets of Cumming, the counter-demonstrators on the other side of the human security wall called out "Nigger lovers. . . go home Niggers. . . Commie faggots." Rudin said he was shocked to see one of them holding up a sign saying "James Earl Ray, American Hero." James Earl Ray assassinated King. Another banner proclaimed, "Trade with South Africa -- Our blacks for their whites." Some of the counter-demonstrators tried to spit on the marchers.

Some of the marchers flashed the V sign for love and peace. Some sang "We Shall Overcome."

Rabbi Alvin Sugarman of The Temple in Atlanta also addressed the march, and about 40 members of a Black-Jewish coalition from Atlanta participated.

1964 And 1987 Contrasted

Rudin contrasted the Cumming march with Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1964, where he marched for voting rights. The civil rights movement

has come a long way since then but is still fighting the battle. "We will do it again and again and again," Rudin said.

The most dramatic difference between 1964 and 1987, according to Rudin, was the support and solidarity of the security forces. He noted that the combined forces of the FBI, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, National Guardsmen, and local police were clearly supportive of the peaceful demonstration.

"In Hattiesburg, I looked on the local police and the sheriff as ambivalent. Whose side were they on? Saturday there was no question that the whole state apparatus was on our side."

PERES SAYS ISRAEL WOULD SUPPORT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres asserted here Saturday that Israel would back an international conference for peace in the Middle East but warned that speed is essential in advancing the peace process because the Iran-Iraq war, continued unrest in Lebanon and Arab economic difficulties threaten to destabilize the entire region.

But while Peres, at separate meetings with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac, was elucidating in some detail the conditions Israel would attach to such a conference and how it might be organized, Premier Yitzhak Shamir flatly rejected the idea. An international conference "will not bring peace or blessings to Israel," he said. (See separate story.)

Peres, who arrived here from London Saturday, met with Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace for lunch and later conferred with Chirac. He met Sunday morning with Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. At those meetings he stressed Israel's desire to see the peace process resumed at the earliest possible time and maintained that the recent visit to the Middle East by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy succeeded in paving the way for an international peace forum.

Three Points Must Be Settled

However, Peres told his hosts, three points must be settled: Israel considers the participation of the Soviet Union in a peace conference possible only after Moscow renews diplomatic ties with Israel and restores normal relations with the Jewish State.

Secondly, the duration of the conference should be settled in advance. The conference itself should be a strictly formal affair which would launch negotiations between the parties. Actual negotiations should be conducted by various subcommittees, for example, a Lebanese-Israeli subcommittee, another composed of Syria and Israel and a third of Israel, Jordan and a Palestinian delegation, Peres said.

Thirdly, he made clear that Palestinian representation must be by independent Palestinians prepared to accept Israel's existence and to seek a peaceful solution to their conflict -- not Palestine Liberation Organization delegates.

Peres reportedly told the French leaders, who themselves recently met with King Hussein of Jordan, that "Hussein is the key to peace" in the region and that Western Europe should use its influence to bring him to the negotiating table. Mitterrand and Chirac reportedly told Peres that

Hussein was prepared to attend an international conference but also felt some preliminary points had to be settled.

No Change In West Bank Policy

Peres said that Israel's policy in the administered territories has not changed since the rotation of power last October when Likud leader Shamir took over as Prime Minister. Israel still wants to improve the quality of life in the territories and ensure their economic development, with Jordan's participation, Peres said.

He said Israel would welcome European investments in the West Bank. Its only condition is that the investments be funneled through Israeli or Jordanian government-controlled bodies and not go to independent organizations which might serve as a cover for the PLO.

Peres met with French Jewish leaders Saturday. He said he was optimistic about Israel's future relations with the Peoples Republic of China but thought that much would depend on Moscow's attitude toward Israel. He said China would probably formalize its ties to Israel if the Soviets moved in that direction.

SHAMIR REJECTS INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDEAST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir strongly rejected an international peace conference on the Middle East over the weekend because, he maintained, at least three of the major participants -- France, the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union -- would demand that Israel withdraw to its 1967 borders. He thought that even the U.S. would insist on such a retreat, though it would probably agree to minor border changes.

Such a conference would "leave us isolated, confronting the whole world," Shamir said, addressing a seminar of Russian immigrants in Ramat Gan. It "will not bring peace or blessings to Israel. The only way to achieve peace is by direct negotiations without prior conditions," Shamir declared. His remarks underlined a fundamental division between Likud and the Labor Party, its partner in the unity coalition government.

NCSJ INITIATES 'PRIORITY POC'

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) has initiated PRIORITY POC, an intensive effort to free Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, it was announced by NCSJ chairman Morris Abram.

The project will be chaired by Constance Smukler, of Philadelphia, a long-time activist on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and a vice chairperson of the NCSJ.

The NCSJ will work nationwide, through local Soviet Jewry committees, to create a network of PRIORITY POC chairpeople. They, in turn, will create individualized community structures in order to:

- * maintain regular communication by telephone, telegram and mail, with POC families in the Soviet Union and Israel, to gather information on the condition of the POC's, and the most effective ways to serve their interests.

- * disseminate this information to political figures, business people, artists and prominent public persons planning trips to the Soviet Union.

- * create a Calendar of Responsibility, containing names of POC's and special dates (wedding anniversary, birthday, first application to OVIR, arrest, trial, halfway point in sentence) to be used for publicity when making appeals on the behalf of individual POC's.

In addition, the NCSJ plans to meet with POC families during its Israel Seminar in March, and will work closely with the PRIORITY POC network, Abram said.

Smukler said she hopes that the actions of PRIORITY POC will serve as a deterrent to the incarceration of additional Jews in the Soviet Union, and a message of solidarity with POC families in the Soviet Union and Israel. "They must feel our presence in the camps," she stated.

Referring to a comment by former POC Natan Shcharansky concerning the fate of POC's, Smukler noted that Shcharansky and Anatoly Marchenko were both imprisoned at Chistopol. She stated that Shcharansky lived, and was freed, because he had "a world of Jewish support," and that Marchenko was not freed, and died in prison, because he had "a world of silence."

In creating PRIORITY POC, Abram stated, "The NCSJ wants the Prisoners of Conscience and their families to know that their welfare and ultimate freedom are of utmost concern to us. We want the Kremlin to know that we will not cease our efforts until all POC's are freed and allowed to emigrate, and those who have been released after serving their terms are also permitted to join their friends and relatives in Israel."

MORE PROBLEMS FOR FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN OF BANK LEUMI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The troubles of Ernst Japhet, former Board chairman of Bank Leumi, were compounded last week when a Tel Aviv district court seized all his assets in Israel.

The court acted on the petition of his former wife, Ella Japhet, to whom he was married for 35 years and who is the mother of his five children. But the assets, put at some \$2 million, are much less than the former wife expected. She is trying to find out if Japhet has additional assets overseas.

She also asked the income tax authorities to investigate whether he concealed assets from her at the time of their divorce settlement. As the complainant, she originally petitioned the court to award her half of the \$4.5 million severance payment awarded Japhet by the Bank Leumi directors when he stepped down last spring. She also asked for half of his \$30,000-a-month pension.

Two weeks ago the bank's Board resigned after expressing "horror" over the excessive compensation to Japhet who was forced to resign as a consequence of the 1983 bank shares scandal.

INTER-CONTINENTAL ELECTRIC POWER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- How does a high-tech plant on the outskirts of Jerusalem help the California Edison Co. supply electric power at maximum efficiency to some 50,000 homes in the Golden State 9,000 miles away?

The answer is remote control. Luz Industries, manufacturers of electronic equipment in Jerusalem, recently built huge reflectors in California's Mojave Desert to capture solar energy for conversion to electric power. They also installed computers to monitor sunshine and other climatic conditions, minute-by-minute.

**RABBIS URGED TO UNDERTAKE
'A MAJOR INITIATIVE' TO SOLVE
THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVORCE**
By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, has urged his colleagues in all three trends of Judaism to "undertake a major initiative" aimed at solving one of the most vexing and divisive problems in Jewish community and family life -- the get, or religious divorce.

Lookstein, who is rabbi of Congregation Kehilat Jeshurun in Manhattan, defined the central problems and offered solutions at the Board of Rabbis annual meeting here last Wednesday at which he was re-elected to another one-year term as president.

The Central Problems

"The first problem concerns encouraging Jews to obtain a get prior to remarriage," he said. The second "results from a recalcitrant partner to a previous marriage who refuses to give or accept a get after a civil divorce has been granted."

The get is not a universal requirement. Many Reform rabbis will perform a second marriage where one or both of the previously married partners has not obtained a religious divorce. Orthodox and Conservative rabbis generally will not.

Lookstein pointed out that a second marriage where there has been no get is considered adulterous under Jewish religious law and the offspring of such marriages are "mamzerim"--illegitimate. "I appeal to all of my colleagues to compromise on this and to require a get before remarriage," said Lookstein, whose stated goal is to "avoid all future mamzerut in America."

He pointed out that illegitimate persons may never marry religiously into the Jewish community and have no recourse, such as conversion, to alter their status.

Proposed Strongest Possible Sanctions

Lookstein called on the Board of Rabbis to resolve that none of its members should officiate at a second marriage unless and until every possible effort has been made to obtain a get for the partner who needs it.

With respect to the second problem, the Board of Rabbis president noted that "there are at present thousands of men and women -- mostly women -- who have received a civil divorce but who are prevented from entering a second marriage because of a vindictive or avaricious former spouse who refuses to cooperate in the get process."

He proposed the strongest possible sanctions against such a spouse, including denial of all honors or privileges of membership in a synagogue or temple. "This kind of social pressure will have a great impact on recalcitrant spouses and may go a long way toward eliminating the problem," Lookstein said, adding that "the publicity alone which will attend the acceptance of such a proposal may greatly enhance the get process."

In urging that the get requirement be made universal in all trends of Judaism, Lookstein acknowledged "problems with the non-egalitarian

structure of a get." Under Jewish law only the male partner to the marriage can give a get. But "the problem of mamzerut is sufficiently grave to warrant a compromise on the issue of egalitarianism," Lookstein maintained.

Ironically, the issue of non-egalitarianism has arisen in connection with New York State legislation enacted several years ago, known as the Get Law, which is intended to protect women seeking a get from a spouse who refuses to give one.

The law requires that in order to obtain a civil divorce decree in New York State, the complainant must remove all barriers to future remarriage of the other party.

Julie Frank, of New York City Council President Andrew Stein's office who is knowledgeable on the Get Law, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it works only when the male partner is the complainant. A woman complainant may agree to remove all barriers to future remarriage of her spouse but it is meaningless because a woman cannot give a get, Frank said.

Lookstein offered as another solution to the problem of a recalcitrant spouse that members of the Board of Rabbis urge all prospective brides and grooms to sign a prenuptial, civil agreement pledging to cooperate in giving and receiving a get should their marriage end in divorce.

He said he has been using such an agreement at his congregation for the past five years which provides a model and which conforms with New York State law and is halachically acceptable.

Two Responses Offered

Lookstein's presentation was generally supported by members of the Board of Rabbis. There were two responses at the meeting, however.

Rabbi Marc Gelman of Temple Beth Torah in Dix Hills, Long Island, asserted that the entire subject of egalitarianism and sexism in the get process requires much more study. He said many Reform rabbis find the process in conflict with the principle that men and women should have equal control over their lives, which includes marriage and divorce.

He also expressed qualms about the idea of sanctions against a recalcitrant husband. Since Reform rabbis do not at present require the get as a prerequisite for remarriage, it is unfair to apply sanctions to a husband in a temple where the rabbi does not consider the get necessary, he said.

Rabbi Gilbert Rosenthal of Temple Beth El in Cedarhurst, N.Y., said he agreed with Lookstein's proposals but was concerned by the fact that there are many "agunot" (abandoned wives) who cannot obtain a get.

He said a prenuptial agreement would solve the problem for the future but leaves unresolved the problem of abandoned spouses now. Similarly, it may reduce or eliminate mamzerut in the future "but it will not solve the tragic dilemma for tens of thousands of mamzerim who already exist," Rosenthal said.

The Board of Rabbis voted unanimously to appoint a committee of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis to study the proposals further and to report back to a plenary meeting with specific suggestions for action.

**NOTORIOUS 'PROTOCOLS' ON SALE IN PARIS**
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- A new version of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the "classic" of anti-Semitic literature, is currently on sale in Paris. The French edition was printed in Kuwait shortly after the Yom Kippur War and includes a foreword explaining that its "publication is now considered necessary, even imperative."

The book is on view in several bookshops in predominantly Arab areas in the north of the city and is sold for 60 Francs (\$10), a relatively low price for its size.

Several Jewish organizations reportedly plan to lodge formal complaints as the Protocols infringe on French legislation which makes it illegal to spread racial hatred or contribute to religious prejudice.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion were first published in Czarist Russia by the secret police and have since been used by neo-Nazi organizations and various anti-Semitic governments.

A GROUP OF 22 NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM THE USSR ARRIVE IN ISRAEL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- A group of 22 new immigrants from the Soviet Union, including several refusenik families, arrived here Sunday on an El Al flight from Vienna, the largest single group of Soviet Jews to come to Israel in many months. They had little good to say about the new Soviet emigration regulations.

The purpose of those rules, which took effect January 1, is to ultimately reduce the number of refuseniks, the newcomers said. From now on the refusal of exit visas will be strictly a legal matter. But they will be refused to all applicants save those with immediate relatives abroad--parents, children or siblings.

Others will not even be allowed to apply. "Jews who wish to be repatriated to Israel but who have no immediate family here will find the Soviet gates firmly shut," the new arrivals told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport.

They include families who had waited as long as eight years for permission to leave the USSR. Several of them served prison sentences for submitting visa applications or for teaching Hebrew which is illegal in the Soviet Union.

Among the emigres are Iszhak and Bezalel Shalolashvili, brothers from Tiflis, Soviet Georgia, who were accompanied by their families; and Dr. Joseph Zarkitzky, a Moscow physician and his wife Tatiana, all long-time refuseniks. There were also three families from Lithuania.

ISRAEL AND U.S. AGREE TO GO AHEAD ON CONSTRUCTION OF VOA RADIO TRANSMITTERS IN THE NEGEV
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Israeli and American delegations have successfully completed a week of private discussions here for construction of Voice of America (VOA) radio transmitters

in the Negev, with Israel apparently winning its point that major contracts go to Israeli firms.

Yoram Alster, Director General of the Communications Ministry, expressed satisfaction with the agreement Sunday. Walter Roberts, who headed the American delegation, said more than \$300 million would be invested in the project, at least half to be spent in Israel.

"It may very well be more than 50 percent will go to Israeli firms," Roberts said. After legal advisers complete drafting work within a few weeks, Washington will call for bids from Israeli construction firms only.

The transmitters and antennas will be built in the U.S. and shipped to Israel for construction at the Negev site. According to Roberts, some of the electronics work will also be done by Israeli firms. Actual construction should begin within a year.

The negotiations, which were not publicized, ended Sunday night and the Americans return home Monday. The relay station, which Israel agreed several years ago to accommodate on its soil will transmit broadcasts of the VOA, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The latter two, based in Western Europe, beam their programs to Eastern Europe.

C'EST LAVI

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration will not permit American companies to sign long-term contracts with the Israel Air Force in connection with the Lavi fighter plane project which Washington wants Israel to abandon, Haaretz reported Sunday.

The U.S. maintains there is no point in entering long-term contracts while Israel examines alternatives to the Lavi which have been proposed by the Pentagon. The Lavi, a prototype of which had its first test flights last month, is Israel's second generation jet combat aircraft.

It is financed by U.S. military grants, but the Pentagon insists production costs would be excessive. Haaretz noted that the Americans argue that if Israel chooses an alternative to the Lavi, contracts entered into would have to be cancelled, requiring compensation for the American companies that would only add to the cost of the project.

According to Haaretz, the American move has no practical significance at this stage and does not affect continuing work on the Lavi.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAEL REJECTS APARTHEID BUT MUST LET WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ESTABLISH POLICY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Minister of Immigration Yaacov Tsur, greeting 50 youthful olim from South Africa at Ben Gurion Airport Sunday, made clear that Israel totally rejects the apartheid regime but must leave it to the Western powers to establish policy toward the Pretoria government.

"We must be part of the Western world, including the U.S., in our policy toward the South African governments but I do not recommend that

Israel play a leading role on this issue," Tsur said. He stressed that "Israel opposes the apartheid regime in South Africa and rejects everything related to it. However, Israel's responsibility and commitment to the Jewish community calls for a warm and continuous connection with the Jews there, in order to encourage their immigration to Israel."

Meanwhile, Mayor Harold Rudolph of Johannesburg, who is visiting Israel, said economic sanctions against South Africa would not harm the Jewish community. But he said he would be disappointed, nevertheless, were Israel to impose sanctions, "since sanctions don't solve a thing and don't help anyone."

Rudolph, who is Jewish, spoke at a new immigrant absorption center in Rishon LeZion where immigrants from South Africa have settled. His visit, which began last Thursday, had been kept secret because of the tense situation surrounding relations between Israel and South Africa. It was disclosed Sunday after the Rishon LeZion town council issued a press release about his arrival which was published in the newspaper Maariv.

POLICE SEEK REMOVAL OF KAHANE'S PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY SO HE CAN STAND TRIAL ON CHARGES OF INCITEMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police have recommended that Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the extremist Kach Party, be stripped of his parliamentary immunity so that he can be brought to trial on charges of incitement to violence, Israel Radio reported Monday.

The charges stem from Kahane's remarks on television six weeks ago calling for the establishment of a "second Jewish underground." That was Kahane's reaction to a police search for concealed weapons in the Shuvu Banim Yeshiva in the Old City whose students had been attacking and harassing Arabs. The incidents followed the fatal stabbing of 22-year-old yeshiva student Elishu Amdit whose alleged assailants were promptly arrested.

Kahane's public advocacy of a new Jewish underground was seen as incitement because 27 members of a Jewish underground in the West Bank were convicted two years ago of acts of violence against Arabs. Several of its members are still serving their prison sentences.

If convicted of incitement, Kahane would face up to five years in prison.

MOVE TO IMPROVE IDF-UNIFIL COMMUNICATIONS TO AVOID INCIDENTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has appointed a permanent liaison officer to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to prevent the recurrence of incidents such as the killing of an Irish UNIFIL soldier by Israeli tank fire on January 10.

The officer will be stationed at the IDF post at Bint Jbail in the south Lebanon security zone. Others will be stationed elsewhere in the zone as personnel becomes available, IDF sources said. The purpose is to improve communications between the IDF and UNIFIL which have been round-about and tenuous until now.

For example, an Israeli officer wishing to contact a UNIFIL unit now has to call the IDF in Marjayoun in the security zone which, in turn, has to contact a liaison officer in Tiberias. The

latter then calls the IDF at the Rosh Hanikra border checkpoint which has to contact UNIFIL headquarters across the Lebanese border in Nakura.

By the time the message reaches the UNIFIL unit for which it is intended, an incident could have occurred in which UNIFIL soldiers are accidentally injured in a clash between the IDF and a terrorist band.

ISRAEL FACILITATING PILGRIMAGES TO MECCA AND MEDINA IN SAUDI ARABIA By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Israel is facilitating pilgrimages to Mecca, known as the Haj, making it possible for its Moslem citizens to fulfill the Koranic requirement any time during the year.

Moslems are enjoined by their faith to visit the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia at least once during their lifetime. From now on the journey by Israeli Moslems will not be limited to the annual mass pilgrimage. They can go whenever they please on what Islamic tradition calls the "Umra" or "little Haj."

It is the only occasion when Israeli citizens are permitted to visit any Arab country, apart from Egypt. Their trip is made possible with the covert cooperation of the Jordanian and Saudi authorities. The pilgrims travel to Saudi Arabia via Jordan, carrying a Jordanian laissez passer.

About 2,700 Israeli Moslems made the annual Haj last year. For security reasons, Israel limits exit permits to persons aged 35 or older. The Umra will be limited to persons of 40 or older.

'GLASNOST' POLICY ELUDING SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Despite Soviet indication of greater Jewish emigration in 1987, only 98 visas were granted by authorities in January, it was announced Monday by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). Commenting on the January figure, NCSJ chairman Morris Abram stated:

"One year ago, in the wake of a much publicized announcement by Soviet officials that increased Jewish emigration was imminent, only 79 visas were granted to Soviet Jews. Emigration remained at a stagnant low for the entire year. In late 1986, in the spirit of General Secretary Gorbachev's policy of 'glasnost,' it was announced that there would be an increase in Jewish emigration in 1987.

"If the January 1987 figure is a harbinger of the effect of 'glasnost' on Jewish emigration, then one can only believe that there is no 'glasnost' for nearly 380,000 Soviet Jews. If General Secretary Gorbachev wishes to achieve credibility in the West for his new policy line, Jewish emigration must increase dramatically in the coming months."

CABINET APPROVES DAN SHOMRON, A CAREER SOLDIER, AS THE NEXT CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE IDF

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Dan Shomron, a versatile career soldier who commanded the airborne hostage rescue operation at Entebbe, Uganda, in 1976, was approved by the Cabinet Sunday as the next Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Force.

O'CONNOR AND JEWISH LEADERS TO MEET

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Seven or eight leaders of national and local Jewish organizations are scheduled to meet privately with John Cardinal O'Connor at his home Monday to discuss his Middle East trip and future relations between Catholics and Jews.

A spokesperson from the Cardinal's office at the Archdiocese of New York, Joe Zwilling, said O'Connor decided to postpone a press briefing that had been scheduled for Friday morning at the request of Jewish leaders to meet with him privately before such a briefing.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who will be one of the leaders meeting with O'Connor Monday, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday that he does not think any irreparable damage has been done to Catholic-Jewish relations and specifically to the New York Jewish community's relations with the Cardinal as a result of a statement issued by 53 Jewish organizations last Saturday. The statement was highly critical of some statements made by O'Connor during his Mideast trip. Abram was one of the signatories.

Interest In Continuing The Dialogue

Jewish leaders are interested in continuing the dialogue with O'Connor and O'Connor seems to have similar interests, Abram said.

O'Connor was angered by last Saturday's statement which expressed disquiet and distress over his statements that were seen as supportive of the Palestinians and a comment he made about the Holocaust during his visit to Israel.

After learning of the statement, which was issued hours before he returned to New York, O'Connor asked publicly for an apology and indicated that the criticism could affect his support for Jewish causes in the future.

Abram told the JTA that it was still not possible to say if the Jewish leaders had been mistaken in issuing so strong a statement. "We'll have to await the course of events to have a post mortem," he said.

ISRAEL TO ADOPT SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The sanctions taken by the U.S. and Western European countries against the apartheid regime in South Africa will also be adopted by Israel, the Director General of the Foreign Ministry, Yossi Beilin, said in an interview with Israel Radio from Washington Thursday.

Beilin is in Washington for a periodic discussion with American officials that cover bilateral, regional, international and other issues of mutual interest to Israel and the U.S.

The State Department is preparing a report for Congress on countries that are not complying with the arms embargo against South Africa. According to Israel Radio, countries defying the ban will be subject to cuts in U.S. aid.

Israel Radio quoted Beilin as saying that Israel has signed no arms agreements with South Africa for 10 years.

Regarding the Middle East peace process, Beilin said Washington is examining the positions of Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Once an assessment is made, the Reagan Administration will consider the next steps to be taken, he said.

SOVIET CANCER PATIENTS MEIMAN AND MARYASIN PERMITTED TO LEAVE

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Soviet refusenik cancer patient Inna Meiman, 54, has received a temporary visa to come to the United States for treatment of a tumor on her neck. She will arrive in Vienna on Sunday. She is expected to arrive Monday evening at Dulles Airport. The Lombardi Cancer Center of Georgetown Medical Center in Washington has offered to treat Meiman at no cost.

The information was received by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from the New England Medical Center in Boston, which hosted the first major medical press conference on the plight of the Soviet cancer patients in August 1986.

Meiman's visa is a temporary one good for one year, and she must leave Moscow alone. Her husband, Naum Meiman, 75, who is ailing, will not be allowed to accompany his wife, Naum Meiman is an 11-year refusenik and dissident, formerly a member of the disbanded, unofficial Moscow Helsinki monitoring group.

The Soviets have been reluctant to release Naum Meiman, although for a time they expressed some ambiguity on his status and raised a tiny bit of hope that he would be permitted to accompany his wife.

'A Cruel Mistreatment'

Dr. Gerald Batist, the Montreal oncologist who has kept on top of the case as well as that of all refusenik cancer patients, told JTA he considers the Meimans' separation "a cruel mistreatment of a person. It is pitiful to see a superpower treat a cancer patient this way. Separation from her husband will only make the treatment more difficult. She is coming to fight both for her life and for her husband."

Batist said that a nurse from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow will escort Inna Meiman from Moscow. She is extremely ill. The tumor on her neck is the fifth recurrent tumor of its kind. She has been operated on four times in the USSR for the previous growths, and Soviet doctors told her they could do no more for her.

Another Cancer Patient Allowed To Leave

Meanwhile, another cancer patient, Leah Maryasin, was told Tuesday that she would be permitted to emigrate with her husband, Alexander. The Maryasins are 15-year refuseniks. The Canadian Embassy in Moscow was informed of the Soviets' decision on the couple.

Maryasin, 61, suffers from myeloma, a primary tumor of the bone marrow that causes other growths on bones. She has had several tumors since 1980. The Maryasins are expected to come

to Toronto, where her sister, Mara, and brother-in-law, Eugene Katz, live. The Maryasins have been told to report to the OVIR emigration offices January 19.

LAVI'S FUTURE UP IN THE AIR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- A prototype of the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane, has undergone two test flights, but its future remains up in the air while Israeli defense experts mull over alternatives proposed by U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Dov Zackheim.

Zackheim spent five days in Israel last week trying to convince its political and military leaders that the Lavi, financed by U.S. grants, is too costly to produce. But according to Brig. Gen. Menahem Eini, head of the Lavi project at the Defense Ministry, many of Zackheim's ideas were less feasible than alternatives Israel has already rejected.

Some U.S. Proposals Termed Fantastic

In an interview in the Israel Defense Force weekly, Bamachane, Eini was quoted as saying, "We've already thought of all the possible alternatives. I can say with certainty that they were numerous and more realistic than Zackheim's." While Eini stopped short of accusing the Pentagon official of carelessness, he noted that "they (the Americans) left here a document containing thousands of pages which ought to be studied" but some proposals seemed "a bit fantastic."

Zackheim urged the Israelis to abandon the Lavi in favor of an already tried and tested aircraft. Many more test flights of the Lavi are necessary to prove its capabilities and several different prototypes are being produced by Israel Aircraft Industries to determine which is best, a lengthy and costly process.

Zackheim proposed as options the F-16 manufactured by General Dynamics, and the F-18, each of which would be produced under license in Israel and modified by the Israelis according to their needs.

U.S. Proposals Would Delay The Program

But Eini dismissed the F-18 as a very expensive plane. He said the proposal that Israel buy the F-16 and equip it with Lavi avionic and electronics systems would set the program back three years.

He explained that the modification would require re-designing thousands of components tailor-made for the Lavi. "The designer would have to begin the development from scratch" and between 3,000-4,000 people employed on the Lavi project would lose their jobs, he said.

Zackheim had argued that, on the contrary, modification of American-built planes would ensure steady employment for Israelis in high technology industries.

Another view of the Lavi was expressed by Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Amos Lapidot. He said after the plane's second test flight last week that he liked it but the Air Force could live without it if necessary.

CAROLINE GRUSS DEAD AT 76

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Caroline Gruss, who, with her husband Joseph Gruss, was a leading benefactor of Jewish education in the United States and Israel, died at home Wednesday

after a long illness. She was 76. Funeral services will be held here Friday. Her body will be flown to Israel for burial Sunday at the Mount of Olives.

Born in Poland, Gruss was trained as a lawyer at the University of Lvov, where she also studied classical languages. She and her husband came to the United States in 1937. A few years later, Gruss founded Gruss and Company, a member of the New York Stock Exchange and a successful investment firm.

Endowments from the Grusses have made the couple's names synonymous with Jewish education around the world. At Yeshiva University, the Caroline and Joseph Gruss Center in Jerusalem is a modern, five-acre complex designed as a permanent campus-home for the programs in Israel of the university and its affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS).

The benefaction of Caroline and Joseph Gruss also created the Caroline and Joseph Gruss Post-Graduate Kollel (Institute for Advanced Talmudic Research) and the supplemental Faculty Salaries Fund at RIETS and rededicated the new RIETS Beth Hamidrash (study hall).

The Grusses are listed as Benefactors and Century Benefactors of Yeshiva University and Founders of the university's Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Joseph Gruss serves as a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

Established And Expanded Jewish Schools

The Grusses also established and expanded several Jewish schools, especially Toras Emes Kaminetz, the United Lubavitcher Yeshiva, and the Bais Yaakov School.

Under the auspices of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the Grusses established the Joseph and Caroline Gruss Scholarship Fund for Jewish Education and the Joseph and Caroline Gruss Excellent Teachers Fund, Life Insurance Fund, Medical Benefit Fund, Fashion Institute of Technology Fund, School Building Renovation Fund, and Live Monument Fund and Federation.

Other institutions that have benefitted from the charity of the Grusses include New York University, where the Caroline and Joseph Gruss Chair of Talmudic and Civil Law and the Caroline and Joseph Gruss Talmudic Civil Law Library were established; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which acquired a 33-foot-long "Medallion Ushak" carpet through the generosity of Caroline and Joseph Gruss.

BERNARD WOLF DEAD AT 96

TORONTO, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Bernard Wolf, a prominent merchant and civic leader who successfully challenged racial covenants in Canada, has died in London, Ontario at the age of 96. He had been the first president of the Jewish Community Council in London and a member of the national board of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University.

Born Pinchas Baer in the Ukraine, he came to Canada with his parents early in the century and built up a prosperous retail business. He came to national prominence in 1948 when he brought legal action against an anti-Jewish racial covenant on property he wanted to buy in the resort area of Grand Bend, Ontario.

When the covenant was upheld by a lower court, Wolf appealed to the Canadian Supreme Court which voided the covenant in what entered Canadian law as the Noble and Wolf vs. Beach

O'Pines case. The court barred clauses in land or property deeds which state that the property may not be sold or rented or in any way used by persons of a given race or religion.

Although not religious, Wolf was active in many Jewish causes. He was a strong supporter of Jewish culture and of the Workmen's Circle when it had a branch in London.

WALDHEIM SAYS AUSTRIA HAS A PROBLEM WITH ITS PAST BUT AVOIDS CITING HIS PAST AS PART OF THE PROBLEM
By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA Jan. 15 (JTA) -- President Kurt Waldheim suggested to his fellow Austrians this week that their country has a problem with its past which "we have tried to suppress in recent years" and advised them to learn from experience. He also warned against evading the past.

The President spoke at the traditional New Year reception for the diplomatic corps at the Hofburg Palace. It was his first allusion, since his election last July, to historical events that continue to haunt Austria. He did not intimate that his own personal past was part of the problem.

Austrians, he said, "have had to learn to live with more international criticism than ever before. We consider much of it unjust, but we may have heard some questions that were justly asked. Many things we have tried to suppress in recent years have returned even more intensely."

But "it is never too late to learn from these experiences," Waldheim said. "We have learned there is no collective guilt for a people but there is such a thing as a heavy common heritage which no individual can evade. Only by being ready to draw the conclusions from this past do we have the chance to master the problems of today and tomorrow."

The reception was Waldheim's first meeting with the U.S. Ambassador Ronald Lauder, who was absent from Vienna when the President was inaugurated. Diplomats from all other Embassies, except Israel's, were present.

Israel has yet to replace its Ambassador, Michael Elizur, who retired several months ago. Jerusalem has made clear it does not want an Israeli envoy to present credentials to an Austrian President whose Nazi past was exposed during the election campaign last summer.

LEADING BRITISH THEATER TO PRESENT A PLAY DEPICTING ZIONISTS AS COLLABORATING WITH NAZIS IN HUNGARY
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The Royal Court Theater, one of the most prestigious in London's West End, will shortly present a play titled "Perdition" which depicts Zionists as willing collaborators with the Nazis in the mass extermination of Hungarian Jews.

The play has already drawn angry protests from British Jews, Holocaust survivors and others as an insidious libel and propaganda windfall for the Soviet Union and anti-Israel hatemongers in Libya and Iran. Scholars of the Holocaust, including Winston Churchill's biographer, Martin Gilbert, and Dr. Stephen Roth, director of the Insti-

tute of Jewish Affairs and himself a member of the Zionist movement in Hungary during World War II, have called the play "preposterous" after reading it in script.

'Vicious Travesty' Libel

According to Gilbert, it is a "vicious travesty of the facts." Roth branded it "a libel against all those who lived through, fought and mostly perished in the Holocaust."

The playwright, Jim Allen, a former miner, admits to being an outspoken foe of Israel but claims to be "very pro-Jewish" and that he is "rescuing the Jews from Zionism."

In an interview published in The Guardian, Allen maintained that the Zionists were "Hitler's favorite Jews" because their interests coincided with his "on the basis of opportunism."

Allen's rationale is that "Hitler wanted the Jews out of Europe and the Jews wanted a state in Palestine. It was almost a volkist (folk) thing, blood and land. Hitler was fond of the Zionists, they were good Jews, prepared to fight for land."

Ironically, the Royal Court Theater has several wealthy Jews among its patrons and its chief fund-raiser in the U.S. is believed to be the impresario Joseph Papp, a strong supporter of Israel.

Allen's play is loosely based on events in Hungary in 1944 when the Zionist leader, Rudolf Kastner, engaged in hopeless negotiations with Adolf Eichmann to buy Jewish lives in exchange for trucks and money. Kastner's activities were the subject of bitter controversy in Israel after the war.

ARRIVAL OF HADASSAH HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR MARKS NEW PHASE OF ZAIRE MEDICAL PROJECT

KINSHASHA, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- An Israeli hospital administrator has arrived in Zaire's capital city to organize operation of the nation's newest medical facility -- a new hospital being built jointly by a local Christian sect, the United States Agency for International Development and Hadassah.

Eli Mor, Administrator of the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem, will lead the Kinshasha hospital's staff of 157 medical and support personnel through the early stages of its operations over the next 30 months. The facility occupies seven buildings on the site of a small hospital run by the Kimbanguist Church and will serve about 150,000 Kinshasha residents.

Mor will be joined in six months by the first of several teams of doctors and nurses from the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel who have volunteered for rotating two-month stints at the new hospital to help train its staff in the latest techniques in patient care.

Funding to expand and upgrade the site and to equip the hospital was provided through a \$1.5 million A.I.D. grant awarded last September. The hospital includes departments in pediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics, surgery and internal medicine and is equipped with operating theaters, recovery room, diagnostic laboratories and intensive care and radiology units. The project has the support of the governments of both Israel and Zaire.

ANNIVERSARY OF SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARKED AT THE ISRAEL EMBASSY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA) --The anniversary of the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was commemorated at the Israel Embassy here Wednesday with calls for the restoration of the coalition of whites and Blacks which marked the civil rights movement that was led by the slain Black leader.

Coretta Scott King, widow of the civil rights leader, took note that the Embassy was packed with more than 200 Washington area Jews and Blacks for the ceremony.

"Whenever we gather in the name of Martin Luther King Jr. it must be done as an interracial, a multiracial, a multicultural kind of way," she said. She said her husband stressed that "we are all part of the same human family."

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Embassy has marked the birthday of King, who would have been 58 Thursday. The Embassy held the event in cooperation with the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, the Jewish National Fund of America and the America-Israel Friendship League.

Singular Contribution Cited

Asher Naim, the Embassy's Minister of Information, noted that Israelis and Jews everywhere have always admired King's "courageous leadership" for civil rights and his "rejection of anti-Semitism along with all forms of bigotry."

Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne read a message from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in which Peres noted King had made "a singular contribution to the moral heritage of humankind." Peres said that King "identified with the history, faith and ideals of the Jewish people" and was a true heir to the "prophetic vision."

Coretta King said the observance of her husband's birthday, of which the official federal holiday will be on Monday, was an opportunity to begin a "new tradition." She urged a restoration of the cooperation between Black and white students, which marked the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

James Farmer, founder and former national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, also urged the "restoration of the coalition."

Farmer, who organized the Freedom Bus Rides through Mississippi in the 1960s, stressed that one-third of the persons who rode the buses to bring about integration on the interstate buses in the South were Jews.

He said they did so because "they believed in the brotherhood of man and were compelled by their belief to do something about it."

Rusty Jackson, community relations director for the Adolph Coors Co., who along with Naim was co-master of ceremonies for the commemoration, also stressed that "Jews and Blacks have shared much." They "have suffered together and very often against the same enemies, prejudice, bigotry and discrimination," she said.

Also participating were Washington Mayor Marion Barry Jr., and Isaiah Robinson, vice president of the America-Israel Friendship League. The two Black leaders stressed the need to use the commemoration of King's birthday for a recommitment to the problems still existing in the U.S. and abroad. This should be done "whether in south Alabama or South Africa, whether in Mississippi or the Soviet Union," Barry said.

Both also stressed King's role as a leader for peace with Barry noting King's hope for peace for Israel and the Middle East.

Coretta King thanked the Israeli government for holding a memorial for her husband last year and Israelis and our "Jewish brothers and sisters" in the United States for the King forest in Israel.

Jeffrey Cohen, representing the JNF, said the forest now has 10,000 trees. He pointed to Lenore Siegelman, program director of the American-Israel Committee to Commemorate Martin Luther King Jr., who planted the first 39 trees, marking King's age when he was slain in 1968.

On display at the Embassy was the American-Israel Committee's travelling exhibit, "Hand in Hand for Justice," which highlights King's career, as well as Jewish involvement in the civil rights struggle. It includes statements by King against anti-Semitism and in support of Israel and Soviet Jewry.

Siegelman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the exhibit can be rented by schools or organizations and can be used throughout the year.

PRICE INDEX ROSE 5% IN DECEMBER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The consumer price index rose by five percent in December, it was announced Thursday, a relatively small increase in line with the Treasury's predictions. Economists forecast steeper rises in January, February and March however, reflecting new economic measures including the 10 percent devaluation of the Shekel.

Government sources expect the inflation rate to decline again by the second quarter of the year if wage and price restraints hold under the new economic policy.

Meanwhile, the dispute between the government and Histadrut over a proposed \$30 million cut in subsidies for Kupat Holim (sick-fund) continued Thursday to delay the formal signing of the new economic program by the government, labor and management.

The labor federation has agreed to forego part of the cost-of-living allowances payable to wage-earners to offset inflation. But Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar vowed not to sign the economic package until funding for Kupat Holim is assured.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Lebanese sources reported Wednesday that an Israel Navy patrol seized three Lebanese fisherman and their trawler in waters near the port of Tyre. Israel refused immediate comment. The Lebanese sources told news agencies that the men were innocent fishermen who lived in Tyre. Israel has recently stepped up naval activity to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into Lebanon by sea.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A minor earthquake, 5.0 on the Richter scale, was recorded in northern Israel Thursday. There were no casualties or damage. An earthquake that measured 5.1 on the Richter scale was recorded in Cyprus some hours earlier.

**FRENCH JEWISH LEADERS URGE REMAINING JEWS IN LEBANON TO LEAVE THAT COUNTRY**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) urged Lebanon's remaining Jewish community Wednesday to flee the country at the earliest possible moment to save their lives. Fewer than 100 Jews are believed to remain in Lebanon.

Roger Pinto, head of CRIF's committee for imperiled Jewish communities, made his plea a day after a Shiite terrorist group in Lebanon announced the "execution" of another Jewish hostage, bringing to nine the number of Lebanese Jews kidnapped and murdered in less than two years.

The latest victim was identified by the killers as Yehoudah Benesti, 70, whose two sons, Ibrahim and Youssuf, were slain by the same group last year.

Pinto stressed that Lebanese Jews "belong to no community" as do Moslems and Christians, "have no militias of their own and do not enjoy the help or protection of any foreign powers." According to Pinto, "They remain in Lebanon because they love their country," but the time has come for them to flee.

Two Lebanese Jewish hostages are believed here to be still alive. They are Isaac Sasson, the former president of the Lebanese Jewish community, who was kidnapped on March 31, 1985; and Selim Jamous, the community's former secretary, who was kidnapped from his office on August 14, 1984.

They are believed held by the same extremist terrorist group responsible for the murders of Jews, the self-styled "Organization of the Oppressed (Mustadafin) in the World."

Meanwhile, French sources in contact with various factions in Lebanon believe the latest victim, Yehouda Benesti, was not murdered, as his captors claimed, because of his activities "on behalf of Israeli intelligence," but died as a consequence of mistreatment and ill health.

GOVERNMENT DEFEATS FIVE NON-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS OVER THE NEW ECONOMIC PLAN, BUT DISPUTE WITH HISTADRUT CONTINUES

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The government defeated five non-confidence motions in the Knesset Wednesday over the new economic plan approved by the Cabinet Tuesday. But it remained locked in dispute with Histadrut over a proposed \$30 million cut in subsidies to the Kupat Holim (sick-fund) which was excised from the Health Ministry's budget.

The imbroglio forced postponement of the ceremonial signing of the economic plan by the government, Histadrut and the Association of Manufacturers and Employers. It had been scheduled for Tuesday night.

Talks continued throughout Wednesday between Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, the heads of the Treasury's budget department, and Yisrael Kessar, Secretary General of Histadrut. They are

expected to continue through the night and possibly all day Thursday.

The labor federation has dug in its heels against the subsidy cut. Kupat Holim, which provides comprehensive health care benefits, is a major inducement for Israelis to join Histadrut.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry is conducting its own battle against cuts in the education budget. Members of the Histadrut Teachers Association, mainly elementary and junior high-school teachers, staged a one-day strike Thursday against the cuts and the education tax which is another feature of the new economic program. Classes were held for only the first two grades.

Plan Under Fire From Right And Left Parties

During the Knesset debate, the government's plan was attacked by both the left and rightwing parties. Yair Tsaban of Mapam, pointing to Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, who is a strong supporter of the economic plan, declared, "You will go down as the man who organized the counter-revolution against social security in Israel."

Rafael Eitan of the Tehiya Party charged that the coalition government encouraged "destructive apathy" among the public. He said Israelis have no confidence in the government and have lost hope for the future.

Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) attacked the devaluation of the Shekel, a major feature of the economic plan. She said it was part and parcel of the government's skewed priorities.

Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List noted that the military's refusal of cuts in the defense budget was accepted by the government while it slashed the budgets for health, education and housing.

Communist Party leader Meir Vilner assailed Histadrut for "helping cut off the legs of the workers." He added that the government "wants to cut off their arms as well."

Nissim, replying for the government, was repeatedly heckled by Yaacov Shamai, who heads the Likud faction in Histadrut. When a hand vote was taken on the non-confidence motions, both Shamai and Histadrut chief Kessar were absent from the chamber.

MURPHY IS 'CONVINCED' THAT ISRAEL, EGYPT AND JORDAN ARE SERIOUS ABOUT ADVANCING THE PEACE PROCESS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, winding up a two-week tour of the Middle East, said here Wednesday that he was "convinced" that Israel, Egypt and Jordan are serious about advancing the peace process, though they remain at odds over how to go about it.

Murphy, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia Wednesday and returns to the U.S. by the end of the week, briefed Premier Yitzhak Shamir on his talks in Jordan and Egypt. His stopover in Jerusalem was his second since he came to the region two weeks ago on his first visit since September.

He told reporters, "I am returning to Washington convinced of the seriousness of purpose about advancing the peace process here, in Jordan and in Egypt." A spokesman for Shamir said Murphy informed the Premier that there was no change in the basic disagreement among the three countries over how to revive the peace process.

"There are good intentions, but there is disagreement over how to proceed," the spokesman quoted Murphy as saying.

Disagreements Over How To Proceed

Egypt and Jordan are pressing for an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties concerned, including the Palestinians. Both countries recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as spokesman for the Palestinians.

Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO. It insists that any international forum must be a framework for direct negotiations, not a substitute for them and it is determined to prevent the re-entry of the Soviet Union into Middle Eastern affairs.

The U.S. appears to favor the Israeli position. Murphy, who is Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, will meet Shamir again when the latter comes to Washington next month for meetings with President Reagan and top Administration officials. During his visits to Israel, Murphy met with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israeli sources believe Murphy will return to the region after the Islamic Conference in Kuwait later this month. They believe much depends on whether the conference will give Egypt and Jordan a freer hand to act. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is due to visit Washington a week after Shamir's visit.

Israeli sources also maintain that a major purpose of Murphy's current Mideast tour was to allay Arab fears over the Reagan Administration's covert shipment of arms to Iran and to restore Washington's credibility in the Arab world.

If that is the case, his success was only partial, the sources said. They noted that King Hussein of Jordan, presently on an official visit to France, said in Paris Tuesday that because of the Iran affair, American credibility has sunk to "nearly zero."

UN REPORT SAYS ISRAEL IS MAJOR CAUSE OF WORSENING SITUATION IN LEBANON
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The United Nations Secretary General has issued a report in preparation for the upcoming debate on renewal of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) mandate which targets Israel as the major cause of the deteriorating security situation in southern Lebanon.

The report, prepared by UN Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Murrack Goulding referred to the situation in Lebanon and the refugee camp wars as only a secondary factor in the threats against UNIFIL soldiers.

The UN Security Council is scheduled to begin a debate on renewing the UNIFIL mandate on Thursday.

In the past six months, 10 UNIFIL soldiers were killed in hostilities and another 5 in acci-

dents. Eight of the hostile deaths were attributed to "armed elements," a common euphemism for the Hezbollah, according to the Israeli UN Mission.

Goulding's report also conveyed accusations leveled by the Israeli-backed Christian militia, the South Lebanese Army (SLA), that UNIFIL permits Hezbollah to attack the SLA from the vicinity of UNIFIL positions.

The Secretary General also issued a condemnation of the killing by Israel Defense Forces last week of an Irish UNIFIL soldier and of SLA fire on UNIFIL positions described as "unprovoked and deliberate."

The report acknowledged that attacks by Hezbollah have increased recently and that more terrorists participated in each attack. The Hezbollah forces are aided by elements from outside the region, according to the report. This referred to the support provided by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley, according to Eyal Arad, spokesman for the Israeli Mission.

Goulding dismissed the prospects of an imminent dismantling of the security zone by Israel. If the UNIFIL situation continues to deteriorate, the Security Council "may feel that it is no longer right that the troop-contributing countries should be asked to keep UNIFIL in being," the report said.

Arad said the tone of the report was relatively moderate. Yohanan Bein, the Israeli Charge D'Affaires in New York, reiterated the Israeli position that the security problems in south Lebanon stem from the lack of central authority in the region.

Bein said Israel would be open to any alternative arrangement that would ensure the protection of Israel's northern region. He said that UNIFIL serves a positive role and Israel has no intent to attack its forces.

"On the contrary, we regret any attack on UNIFIL and we make every effort possible to prevent clashes between our forces," Bein said.

CONTROVERSY AROUND MILLER CONVERSION CASE IS TEMPORARILY DEFUSED
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Shoshana Miller, the convert to Judaism from the U.S. whose right to status as a Jew was upheld by the Supreme Court although she was converted by a Reform rabbi, appears to have temporarily defused the fierce controversy aroused by her case.

The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday that Miller, who returned to the U.S. to care for her ailing father, has elected to remain there and not claim the Israeli citizenship the high court said she is entitled to.

(However, the rabbi who converted her and whose Reform congregation employed her as a cantor, Rabbi David Kline of Temple Shalom, Colorado Springs, Colo., told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that Miller "hasn't announced her final decision" about remaining in the United States.

(He said she is one of "three or four candidates" for her old job, and that the synagogue would decide on a cantor by the end of the month. Kline added, "There are plenty of people in the temple who would love to have her for a cantor.")

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, resigned as Interior Minister two weeks ago rather than comply with the Supreme

Court's order to issue Miller an identification card as a Jew, without the description "converted" or any other qualification.

Orthodox Establishment Further Enraged

Deputy Minister Ronnie Milo of Likud, whom Premier Yitzhak Shamir put in direct charge of the Interior Ministry until a new Minister is appointed, announced Monday that he was prepared to issue the ID card to Miller as soon as she applied for it. But her application must be made in Israel, not from abroad, Milo said.

His statement further enraged the Orthodox religious establishment, particularly because Milo acknowledged to the Knesset that the Supreme Court's decision established a precedent which will have to be honored by the Interior Ministry in the future. The Orthodox parties are reported seriously considering leaving the Labor-Likud unity coalition government over this issue.

The Union for Progressive Judaism, as the Reform movement is known in Israel, says it has 15 converted olim waiting to apply for ID cards in the wake of the Miller decision. But it is apparently undecided whether to initiate another test case at this time.

'A Miserable Experience In Israel'

The Jerusalem Post, in an interview with Rabbi Kline, reported him as saying that Miller was being interviewed for the job of cantor in his temple. But he did not say unequivocally that she had decided not to return to Israel. He said that she "had a miserable experience in Israel" and now wants time "out of the limelight" while she considers her future.

The rabbi added, "Her aliya just didn't work out... I'm not ashamed of her having come back. After all, the great majority of American olim end up leaving Israel."

SPIRIT OF WALLENBERG, KING EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE OF COEUR D'ALENE

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- "Holocaust, slavery, I-have-a-dream, Selma, Raoul Wallenberg, Howard Beach, the city of Coeur D'Alene, freedom to worship at the Western Wall, apartheid, the right to emigrate -- all of these, and much more, all are part of the story of humanity's struggle for freedom."

This list offered by Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee encapsulated the many themes of freedom, human rights and justice at a ceremony here Wednesday commemorating the 42nd anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg. Wallenberg, who was a Swedish diplomat, is revered for personally aiding in the rescue of more than 100,000 Jews in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II. He was arrested on January 17, 1945 by the Soviets after the Red Army marched into Budapest and disappeared into the Soviet Gulag. His fate remains a mystery. Among those at the ceremony were Jews rescued by Wallenberg and his family members.

Although Wallenberg's heroism was compared frequently during the ceremony to Martin Luther King's struggle for civil rights in America, the real focus of the commemoration was on what many called the contemporary expression of Wallenberg's and King's spirit, the people of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. King's birthday, a national holiday, will be celebrated Monday in America.

The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States presented a civic award to the city of Coeur D'Alene, population 22,000, for its definitive opposition to the entrenchment of the white supremacist Aryan Nations in their idyllic Rocky Mountains town.

Coeur D'Alene, has few Jews and few blacks. Its beauty has been compared to the Swiss Alps. And on a mountain overlooking this seeming utopia, a small number of neo-Nazi extremists calling themselves the Christian Identity or Aryan Nations, sought a warm cradle and a fertile ground to plant the seeds of bigotry.

Instead, they were met with grass-roots revulsion and rejection by the people of Coeur D'Alene who let their neighbors on the hilltop know their ideas were not welcome on the streets of the town.

Wednesday, Mayor Ray Stone, Undersheriff Larry Broadbent and Father William Wassmuth of Coeur D'Alene received a heroes' welcome at New York's City Hall for fighting on the front line against hatred and prejudice. And it was this fight, many noted, that embodied the legends of Wallenberg and King.

Faced Mortal Danger

These three men had faced mortal dangers to stand up against the Aryan Nations. Broadbent was the subject of an Aryan Nations' assassination conspiracy. Wassmuth's house was bombed.

"When neo-Nazis tried to make Coeur D'Alene a base of operations, these three men and others in the town made clear that the hatemongers were not welcome," said Andrew Stein, New York City Council President.

"In essence, the message that the Undersheriff, the Mayor, Father Wassmuth and the residents of Coeur D'Alene sent to the neo-Nazis was clear and unmistakable: You're entitled to your views. But damn it if we're going to stand by passively as you seek to sow your seeds of hate, bigotry and intolerance in our community. We stand against you. We will give you no comfort. And we will resist without end the campaign of divisive hate you seek to sow in this Nation. Your ways are violent. Your views are un-American. Your ideology is repugnant. You will find no home here."

Coeur D'Alene, like the recent racial killing in Howard Beach, Queens, brought home the reality that the spirit of Nazism, of slavery and of prejudice remains viable in our day, the speakers noted.

Mayor Stone, in accepting the Wallenberg Committee's award, said the honor was particularly important because the outspoken advocates of human rights in Coeur D'Alene have recently come under fire. "We are going to stand tall and we are going to stand straight against those who preach, teach, or advocate, in any form or manner, the superiority of one group over another and any form of violence to accomplish their aims," Stone declared.

"Whatever we do, it will be little as compared to the sacrifices made those few years ago by Raoul Wallenberg, and as we learn more and understand more of those circumstances and the courage that was present in those trying times, the award will continue to serve as a light for us in our own way to follow and to emulate not only Raoul Wallenberg, but all who believe in the divinity of the human spirit."

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
JEWISH UNEMPLOYED IN THE NEW YORK AREA**

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- At least 55,000 Greater New York Area Jews are unemployed, and the number could increase unless existing training and job-creation programs are strengthened, according to two studies.

Prof. Herbert Bienstock, director of the Queens College Center for Labor and Urban Programs, Research and Analysis, who conducted the studies for the Federation Employment and Guidance Service (FECS), a UJA-Federation agency, also warned that the figures are conservative. They include only persons registered at federal employment centers, not part-time workers, recent college graduates or people who have given up looking for work.

Bienstock, whose study on Jewish unemployed was completed in November, said the total number of jobless or underemployed Jews in the metropolitan area -- New York area, City and Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties -- may be as high as 160,000, with 105,000 in the city's five boroughs. The reported figures in the study, he said, estimate between 35,000 and 45,000 jobless Jews in the city and 15,000 to 20,000 in the rest of the area. But Bienstock also noted that the total Jewish unemployment rate in the area is below the 6.1 percent of the total general jobless rate in the metropolitan area. He said he found that the majority of unemployed Jews are college graduates and middle-level managers. His report did not show the total number of Jews employed in the area labor market.

Some Preliminary Findings

Bienstock's other study, a still unpublished demographic report based on interviews with 600 Jewish clients who sought assistance from FECS in 1985, showed the following preliminary findings:

- * The Jewish unemployed are mostly adults, between 18 and 55.

- * About 30 percent of area Jews who go to FECS for help have management backgrounds. Another 35 percent have clerical experience, and about 8 percent are manual workers. The remaining 27 percent are classified as "miscellaneous."

- * Unemployed Jews in New York tend to be better educated than the general population. About 75 percent of FECS clients had attended college; 57 percent had undergraduate degrees, and more than half of those had finished graduate school. Only a negligible number had failed to complete high school.

- * Some 60 percent of FECS clients wanted permanent jobs. About 16 percent wanted counseling, and 12 percent sought additional training.

Gail Magaliff, associate executive vice president of FECS, said the unemployment figures confirm that the New York economy has been shifting -- from manufacturing industries that employ many production workers and a large number of middle-level managers, to service enterprises that require information processors and other white-collar employees.

According to Labor Department statistics, the number of jobs in New York City reached a 12-year-high of 3.5 million in 1985, largely because of growth in such fields as finance, insurance, communications, and international trade. By contrast, manufacturing jobs declined by 18 percent between 1981 and 1985. Such changes have serious social and economic implications,

Magaliff said. Many of the manufacturing jobs lost, including those in the garment and jewelry industries, had traditionally provided entry-level work for untrained people.

"People need more training these days, even for low-level office jobs," she said. Many entry level clerical positions require word-processing and other advanced skills. Even years after the trend was recognized, she said, employers still have trouble finding people with the skills now needed.

Steps To Combat Jewish Unemployment

To take advantage of the continuing shortage of skilled employees, and to combat Jewish unemployment, UJA-Federation has allocated \$295,000 for the current fiscal year to the \$632,000 FECS Jewish Emergency Employment Program. Some 3,596 Jews from throughout the area take part in the program, which includes career guidance, skills training, psychological counseling, and other assistance.

The clients include middle-level managers who lost their jobs when companies closed or relocated; heads of single-parent families; women returning to the work force; Russian immigrants; and recent college graduates.

KLINGHOFFER FOREST DEDICATED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A forest in the memory of Leon Klinghoffer was dedicated in Yatir near Beersheba on Sunday by Deputy Prime Minister Arnaldo Forlani of Italy. The Ambassadors of Italy and the United States also planted trees in the memorial forest in memory of Klinghoffer, the 69-year-old American Jew killed during the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship. Palestinian terrorists killed him and then threw his body overboard.

"Israel and Italy are united in the war against terrorism," Forlani said at the dedication ceremony. He said it was important that Italy should be represented at the dedication because Klinghoffer was killed on an Italian ship. The Klinghoffer forest, sponsored by the Italian government, is part of a five-million-tree forest donated by Italian Jews.

A RARE PRINTED HEBREW BOOK ADDED TO THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- One of the only five known copies in the world of the first edition of "Meshal Hakadmoni," the first illustrated printed Hebrew book, has been added to the incunabula collection of the Jewish National and University Library at the Hebrew University, the University announced Wednesday.

The copy was donated to the library by Ludwig Jesselson of New York, who purchased it for \$175,000, the highest price ever paid for a Hebrew printed book.

It was written by the 13th-century Hebrew poet and scholar Isaac Ben Solomon Abi Sahula and printed by the Soncino Press in Brescia, Italy, in 1491.

The book is a collection of fables and allegories in rhymed prose embellished with 75 pictorial woodcuts. It will be displayed to the public after undergoing restoration in the library's laboratory for restoration and preservation.

**SHIITE TERRORISTS SAY THEY
'EXECUTED' ANOTHER JEWISH HOSTAGE**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- A Shiite terrorist group in Lebanon announced Monday that it "executed" another Jewish hostage, Yehouda Benesti, 70. He is believed to be the ninth Lebanese Jew murdered by the group which calls itself "The Organization of the Oppressed (Mustadafin) in the World."

He is also believed to be the father of two other murdered Jewish hostages; Ibrahim Benesti, 34, who was killed on February 15, 1986, and Youssuf Benesti, 33, murdered on December 30, 1986.

The exact identity and relationship of the victims is not entirely clear because there is no organized Jewish community in Beirut. Jewish organizations here have only sketchy documentation on missing Jews believed taken hostage.

The Mustadafin said it executed its latest victim because of his activities "on behalf of Israeli intelligence." It released a photograph of an elderly bald-headed man with a well-trimmed white beard.

According to the group's announcements, 10 Lebanese Jews were taken prisoner during the last 20 months and nine have been killed. Only three bodies have been recovered, however. Those were identified as Haim Cohen, 38, kidnapped on March 30, 1985 and murdered on December 24, 1985; Isaac Tarrab, 70, murdered in late December 1985; and Ibrahim Benesti.

The French Jewish community has appealed to the French government and to President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon to try to secure the release of Jewish hostages still alive and the return of the bodies of those put to death. Shiite gangs are presently holding 19 French nationals hostage.

Neither the French Government nor Gemayel seems to have influence with the Shiite extremists in Lebanon. Terry Waite, the Englishman representing the Archbishop of Canterbury in trying to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon, has intervened on behalf of the Jewish victims, so far without success.

He told a press conference in Beirut Monday night that he was also trying to act on behalf of Israeli prisoners of war in the hands of various groups in Lebanon but could do nothing unless Israel "stops bombing (south Lebanon) and opens the way to a peaceful solution" in that region.

Shiites claiming to speak for the Mustadafin were quoted as saying they would return the bodies of the slain Lebanese Jews only if Israel releases Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in custody of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

**WHITE HOUSE ASSURES SHAMIR THAT
THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS NOT
TRYING TO SCAPEGOAT ISRAEL IN
THE IRAN ARMS SALES-CONTRA AFFAIR**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir received assurances from Washington this week that the Reagan Administration was

not trying to scapegoat Israel in the Iran arms sales-Contra affair.

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres confirmed this to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Tuesday. He also disclosed that he sent a message of his own to Vice President George Bush reiterating Israel's denial that it was involved in the transfer of proceeds from Iranian weapons purchases to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, or that Israel initiated the U.S. arms sales to Iran in 1985.

The impression that Israel was the prime mover in the arms sales was contained in a briefing memorandum to President Reagan by his then National Security Advisor, Admiral John Poindexter, released by the White House last Friday.

Israel was also agitated by reports in the U.S. media attributed to Administration and Congressional sources, that it was shipping weapons to the Contras at its own initiative in 1985, unknown to the U.S. until "detected" by American intelligence.

Israeli diplomatic sources in Washington were quoted by Israel Radio as expressing concern "that Israel was now being made a scapegoat" by the White House.

A Realization By The White House

Peres confirmed Tuesday that a message from the White House was conveyed orally to Shamir by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering Sunday assuring Israel that the documents released last week were not intended as criticism of Israel.

A State Department official said Monday that the White House realized after the documents were released that they were potentially damaging to U.S.-Israel relations.

A State Department source was quoted in the American media Tuesday as saying that "Tom Pickering was told to tell Shamir that the White House release of the documents was not an attempt to point fingers and accuse Israel of anything, but that so much partial and incorrect information had been leaked out and the President had a commitment to get everything out to the public, that the White House felt it was important to get them on the record."

The Poindexter memo stated that an emissary from Peres, who was Prime Minister at the time, brought to Washington a plan to sell weapons to Iran as a means of securing the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon and for mutually beneficial strategic interests of Israel and the U.S.

The memorandum reportedly was prepared by Lt. Col. Oliver North, an aide to Poindexter at the time. The implication was that the memo prompted Reagan to issue his "intelligence finding" of January 17, 1986, authorizing the covert shipment of American weapons to Iran.

Peres, in his appearance before the Knesset committee, blasted the Israeli media for "drawing fire" down on Israel by publishing reports of its role in the Iran arms sale and transfer of funds to the Contras. Israel has maintained that it facilitated the arms shipments solely at the

request of the Reagan Administration to help an ally obtain the release of its hostages. It has vigorously denied any Contra connection.

The developments of the past week caused severe embarrassment both in Washington and Jerusalem at a time when U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is visiting the region to explore ways to advance the stalled peace process and to restore American credibility with the Arab states seriously disturbed by the arms sales to Iran.

Murphy visited Jordan, Israel and Egypt last week. He is due back in Israel Tuesday or Wednesday. The White House announced, meanwhile, that Shamir will go to Washington for a meeting with Reagan February 18, to be followed a week later by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

U.S. STRESSES THAT ISRAEL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SELL ARMS TO IRAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration stressed Tuesday that the United States government, not Israel, is responsible for the Administration's decision to sell arms to Iran.

"Israel does not make decisions for the U.S. government," State Department deputy spokesperson Phyllis Oakley said. "We make our own decisions and accept responsibility for our own actions."

Oakley noted that over the past three days there have been news reports in which members of the Administration appeared to be blaming Israel for the decision to sell arms to Iran in exchange for the release of American hostages in Lebanon and for diverting excess funds from the sale to the Contras.

The White House released last Friday a memorandum dated January 17, 1986, by the then National Security Advisor, John Poindexter, to President Reagan which indicated that Israel promoted U.S. contacts in Iran in an effort to bring about a more moderate government there and suggested selling arms in return for the release of the hostages. The President did not read the memorandum but was briefed orally from it.

The release of the document was followed by reports alleging that Israel pressed the U.S. to continue dealing with Iran despite the reluctance of White House aides.

Denies U.S. Apologized To Israel

Oakley denied reports that Reagan or any other Administration official had apologized to Israel for the attempt to blame U.S. policy on Jerusalem. But she confirmed that Thomas Pickering, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, discussed the "issue" with Premier Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday. She said Pickering did not present Shamir with a letter from Washington, but orally gave the U.S. position that it assumed responsibility for its action.

However, Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, said in Jerusalem that Pickering assured the Premier that the Administration was not trying "to make Israel a scapegoat for the decisions made by Washington."

Oakley's comments came as Yossi Beilin, Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, was conducting two days of talks here with Michael Armacost, Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

She noted that the talks were part of the periodic discussions between Armacost and the Director General of the Foreign Ministry which began in 1983, although this was Beilin's first participation since becoming Director General.

The talks covered "the full range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest to the U.S. and Israel," Oakley said.

THE CONTINUING O'CONNOR-JEWISH STORY By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Representatives of two Jewish organizations--the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Agudath Israel of America-- which withdrew their names from a statement critical of John Cardinal O'Connor said they disagreed with some of the criticism and that the name of Agudath was used without authorization on the original statement released Saturday.

Meanwhile, O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, asked publicly for an apology from the leaders of 53 national Jewish organizations which issued the statement criticizing remarks O'Connor made on his recent trip to the Middle East.

Nathan Perlmutter, ADL director, said he disagreed with the criticism of O'Connor's remark upon visiting Yad Vashem that the Holocaust "may be an enormous gift that Judaism has given the world." The statement called this remark "disturbing and painful."

Says Remarks Were Misinterpreted

But Perlmutter said O'Connor's remarks were misinterpreted. "He spoke out of Christian love and we heard it out of Jewish pain. The Cardinal was talking in Christian terms and we did not feel that he should be criticized for it," he said. In Catholic theology, O'Connor's defenders noted, suffering is revered as an experience which brings one closer to the Almighty.

Perlmutter also said he preferred not to air the criticisms in a public forum. "Public lecturing rarely changes anyone's mind," he said. ADL also decided to withdraw its name from the statement after learning it would be issued before O'Connor would have a chance to see it. The statement was released hours before O'Connor returned to New York at the conclusion of his trip.

A spokesman of Agudath Israel, Rabbi Yitzhak Brandriss, said his organization informed O'Connor that they had never authorized the use of their name on the statement. Brandriss would not comment further on the content of the statement except to say that the leadership of Agudath Israel would consider the "sensitive matter" and decide on any future reaction.

Perlmutter said he did agree with some of the criticism contained in the statement and noted that O'Connor tended to oversimplify the Palestinian problem.

"The Cardinal is an imperfect friend, but he is not an enemy. We preferred to talk with him rather than attacking a person who has been, on many levels, a good friend."

O'Connor responded publicly to the statement Monday on the New York NBC-TV news program "Live at Five," saying "Honestly, I feel an apology is in order." O'Connor said he would continue to support the Jewish community even if an apology was not forthcoming but said that would make it more difficult.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, appearing on the same news broadcast, said "if we hurt him, we would be terribly sorry" but defended and even repeated the criticisms in the statement.

CABINET APPROVES NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Cabinet early Tuesday morning approved a new economic program which its proponents say will stimulate economic growth and exports, curb inflation and assure economic stability without causing hardship to wage-earners or increasing unemployment.

The main features of the plan, agreed to after an exhausting all-night session and intensive consultations with labor and management, are a 10 percent devaluation of the Shekel; a 400 million Shekel reduction in the national budget; some minor tax reforms; and a new levy on education.

Although the prices of some subsidized goods and services will go up as a result of devaluation, they are expected to be neutralized by wage-price constraints agreed to by Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association. A proposed 30 percent hike in transportation fares was dropped. The price of gasoline was not raised. A total price freeze will be in effect until April.

Defense Budget Emerges Unscathed

The budget itself, the subject of fierce debate within and outside of the Cabinet for the past month, emerged with the defense budget unscathed. The modest 80 million Shekel cut in defense expenditures urged by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim with the support of Premier Yitzhak Shamir was voted down by a majority of the Ministers, a singular victory for Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The 80 million Shekels will be excised instead from the budget reserves.

A major and even more controversial change of policy was the decision to impose an annual education tax of between 100-400 Shekels per child, the amount contingent on the parents' income. The Cabinet thereby deviated from the principle of free compulsory education which has been in effect since the founding of the State.

But according to government sources, about 43 percent of the population will be exempt. Parents of more than three children, residents of development towns and families with a monthly income of 1,000 Shekels or less will not have to pay the tax.

Major Tax Reform Plans Abandoned

The Treasury's ambitious plans for major tax reforms, including the elimination of loopholes and exemptions, went by the board. What emerged in the new economic program was a reduction of the top income tax bracket from 60 to 48 percent on incomes of up to 9,000 Shekels a month. Families earning more will pay a surtax of 53 percent on the difference. Corporate taxes were put in the 40 percent bracket.

Under heavy pressure from Histadrut, the Finance Minister was forced to abandon plans to eliminate tax exemptions for new development towns, working mothers and the handicapped. Nissim also backed away from health care fees. Histadrut called those proposals anti-social and regressive.

The 10 percent devaluation of the Shekel may have the greatest impact. Nissim gave assur-

ances Tuesday that it would not usher in a new era of periodic devaluations.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange reacted favorably. Virtually all shares advanced in price Tuesday. Investors were apparently convinced that the currency rate adjustment will spur exports and business in general.

A One-Time Action

At a joint press conference with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar and Dov Lautman, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, Nissim declared:

"Let me assure our public that this is a one-time action ... It will not upset our hard-won stability ... We have seized the opportunities to ensure that the effects of the devaluation are neutralized ... and therefore the exchange rate will stand for a long time to come."

The official rate now stands at 1.64 Shekels to the Dollar and 1.68 Shekels to a "basket" of currencies.

By "neutralization," Nissim was referring to the government's decision to waive 2.7 percent of employers' payments to National Insurance and Histadrut's agreement to waive 2.7 percent of cost-of-living increments occasioned by devaluation. But Kessar warned that if inflation rose despite these efforts, Histadrut would demand that the full COL increment be paid.

Peres and Nissim maintained that the new economic plan "created the conditions for a continuation of the stability in the economy and renewal of growth." Its purpose, they said, was to avoid unemployment and not widen the social gap. They contended that industry and exports would benefit.

The entire plan is subject to approval by the Knesset where it is expected to encounter some stiff opposition. Three motions of non-confidence were introduced Tuesday by Mapam, the Hadash (Communist) Party and the Progressive List. Yair Tseaban of Mapam attacked the tax reform measures. He said they would cost the government upwards of 1 billion Shekels in lost revenues. But President Chaim Herzog called on the nation Tuesday to "continue giving unified support" to the efforts for economic recovery.

BANK LEUMI BOARD RESIGNS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Board of Directors of Bank Leumi resigned Tuesday and Leon Dulzin, Governor of the bank, though not a director, said he, too, would resign within a month, as soon as a new Board has been named and is in place.

Dulzin made his announcement after appearing before the Knesset Finance Committee which demanded that he quit as head of the holding company which controls 75 percent of Bank Leumi's voting stock.

The Bank Leumi crisis erupted two weeks ago with the disclosure that its former chairman and chief executive officer, Ernst Japhet, was given \$4.5 million in severance pay and a \$30,000 a month pension when he was forced to resign last spring after being implicated in the 1983 bank shares scandal.

Eli Hurwitz, who replaced Japhet and served without compensation, announced his resignation Tuesday and said all other Board members have submitted their resignations.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS IN BRAZIL
By Rochelle Saidel**

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The National Bishops' Conference of Brazil has issued a 187-page "Guide for a Catholic-Jewish Dialogue in Brazil," according to Rabbi Henry Sobel, coordinator of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue sponsored by the Bishop's Conference there.

Sobel, who heads the commission of five Jewish and five Catholic leaders, is rabbi at Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, the largest synagogue in Latin America.

The guide was prepared by the commission and distributed last month to Brazil's 229 Catholic archdioceses and dioceses by the National Bishops' Conference, and covers such subjects as Israel, Jewish history, the Holocaust, roots of anti-Semitism, Judaism in Brazil, and interfaith cooperation, Sobel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency during his visit to New York last week to speak to the American Jewish Committee.

Brazil has the largest Catholic population in the world, some 117 million, and the Jewish population is only about 150,000. "The mere fact that the Catholic Church reaches out to the small Jewish minority reflects theological and political sensitivity, commitment and vision," Sobel said.

Significant Elements In The Book

Most significant is the fact that the book acknowledges the legitimate existence of the State of Israel within secure boundaries, Sobel said. He emphasized, however, that the Bishops' Conference does not have within its powers the ability to recognize or not recognize Israel. "This can only come from the Vatican," Sobel said. "But the mere fact that the Brazilian Bishops speak of 'the right of the Jews to a peaceful political existence in their land of origin' reflects tremendous sensitivity."

The introduction to the guide says its objective is "helping Catholics in Brazil to understand better the historical, religious and national aspirations of the Jewish people."

Written in simple language, the guide is designed to stimulate discussion on Judaism in the Catholic churches and schools in Brazil. Suggested questions include: Does anyone know a Jew? Are there prejudices in this society? To what extent is the figure of Judas used to strengthen prejudices against Jews? The manual points out the sources of traditional and continuing distrust between Catholics and Jews.

The Bishops' Conference is known for its political activism for social justice in Brazil. In addition, "they are ecumenical in spirit and action and deeply committed to dialogue with the Jewish community," according to Sobel.

In November 1985, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of "Nostra Actate," the first Pan-American Conference on Catholic-Jewish Relations was held in Sao Paulo, under the sponsorship of the Brazilian Bishops' Conference. Seven resolutions were adopted, including one that stated "Zionism is not racism," to mark the 10th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the infamous Zionism is racism resolution.

Major Problem Facing Jews In Brazil

In his remarks to the AJCommittee, Sobel said that the major problem confronting Jews in

Brazil was not anti-Semitism but Semitism -- the preservation of Jewish identity.

"If we are mesmerized by anti-Semitism," Sobel stated, "we divert our energy from many more urgent problems on our agenda: Jewish identity, Jewish education, Jewish values, Jewish culture. We are so concerned with the idea that we may some day be denied the right to be Jews, that we neglect our duty to remain Jews."

"Our most urgent task in Brazil today is not only to combat possible anti-Semitic trends. Brazilians are among a most tolerant people, and consequently, anti-Semitism is not a major threat. The prominent task is to motivate Jews to remain Jews."

Sobel emphasized that he was not discounting difficulties facing Jews in Brazil. He noted that: Brazil is leaning more on oil-producing countries to cope with a mounting international debt of \$120 billion; pro-PLO groups have used the Israeli operation in Lebanon as an excuse to intensify their public demonstrations; the Methodist University of Piracicaba recently joined with the PLO in seminars on the "Zionist threat"; and Brazil, as a major arms manufacturer, has sensitive relations with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and other anti-Israel Arab nations.

Present-day uncertainties affecting Brazil's Jews, Sobel told the AJCommittee, center largely on their former tendency to keep their distance from social justice movements. Until recently, he stated, because of the rightwing government, any movement for human rights was automatically interpreted as a leftist movement against the government.

Adapting To Liberalization

But now, he pointed out, Brazil is on the way to becoming one of the world's largest democracies. Moreover, he said, the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America has been opposing the "conservative power structure" and Jews are less inclined to avoid association with human rights causes.

As a result, Sobel asserted, the ethical values of Judaism have more space to express themselves and more of an opportunity to affect the lives of Jews. "The problem Jews face," he said, "is how to adapt to this period of liberalization. Just as we have the liberty to manifest ourselves as Jews, so do anti-Semites have the liberty to manifest themselves as anti-Semites."

Born in Lisbon, Portugal, of Belgian refugees from Hitler, Sobel was raised in New York City. He received his ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1970 and soon afterwards moved to Brazil.

ISRAELI JETS HIT TERRORIST BASES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in Lebanon Tuesday, for the second time in two days. All the aircraft returned safely to their base. The latest action came hours after an attack by Lebanese terrorists on a position staffed by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army east of Sidon in which three people were reported killed and 10 wounded.

An Israel Defense Force spokesman described the targets hit Tuesday as stone houses and a tented area used by a pro-Syrian terrorist group in the Bekaa Valley not far from the Syrian border and in an area protected by Syrian missiles.

RABIN WARNS SYRIA NOT TO THINK OF USING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGAINST ISRAEL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that Israel has information that Syria possesses chemical weapons more potent than those used by Iraq in its war with Iran. He warned Damascus not even to contemplate chemical warfare against Israel because it knew full well what the consequences would be. He did not elaborate.

Addressing Jerusalem high school students, Rabin said the Israel Defense Force has taken measures to protect soldiers and civilians against poison gas attacks. He said four million gas masks are in stock at central warehouses and that a practice drill indicated they could be distributed swiftly throughout the country.

Gas masks and chemical resistant clothing and equipment would be distributed if and when the government thought the situation warranted it, Rabin said.

Assad Urges Mubarak To Cut Ties With Israel

Meanwhile, Syria's President Hafez Assad reportedly called on Egypt to sever its relations with Israel, contending that a country cannot be Arab and at the same time "be with Israel," according to media reports from Kuwait Tuesday.

Assad and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt are attending the meeting of the 46-member organization of the Islamic Conference in Kuwait. Mubarak made no response, the reports said.

Assad was reported to have warned that relations between Israel and "certain other Arabs" must be ended. Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979, followed by the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

Assad also denounced the United States and claimed that American Middle East policy was dictated by Israel and implemented by Washington.

NEW LABOR-LIKUD RIFT OVER STATEMENTS PERES MADE IN EUROPE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres returned from a one week trip to Europe Wednesday to confront a new rift between his Labor Party and its Likud coalition partners over statements he made abroad indicating that Israel was prepared to support an international peace conference on the Middle East, if certain firm conditions were met.

Peres, who visited Paris, London and Brussels, told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that whatever he said overseas conformed with national policy approved by the Knesset, including its Likud faction. He said Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, was fully aware before he left of what he would say on the subject of the Middle East peace process and had raised no objections.

Peres has also come under fire in Likud circles for alleged impropriety when he accepted a "gold watch" from a businessman, David Balas, as

a birthday present in August, 1984, shortly before he took office as Premier. Balas is presently on trial for allegedly defrauding the kibbutz movement of some \$20 million.

The Likud critics imply that the watch was a "bribe" and claim that Balas illegally made a \$600,000 contribution to the Labor Party's election campaign.

Shamir Trying To Defuse The Situation

The attacks on Peres are coming mainly from Likud back-benchers and Shamir is reportedly trying to defuse the situation. The Labor and Likud Knesset factions and the leadership of both parties were due to meet Wednesday night to discuss the growing coalition dispute. The Labor faction, which met in the afternoon, said the unity coalition should be dissolved. They assailed Likud for attacking the Foreign Minister while he was abroad.

Peres dismissed Likud charges as "demagogy." He said the campaign contribution from Balas was reported to the State Comptroller in accordance with the law. He acknowledged that he received a watch from the businessman, "and I don't regard that as any crime," he said.

Members of the Herut young guard filed complaints with the police fraud squad over Balas' contributions to the Labor Party campaign fund and to Ezer Weizman's Yahad Party which is aligned with Labor -- and over the watch given Peres. The police have yet to decide whether to investigate the charges or seek an opinion from the Attorney General.

Peres Explains His Peace Talks' Position

Meanwhile, Peres explained that he had agreed to Palestinian participation in a Jordanian delegation to peace talks provided the Palestinians were not known members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and opposed terrorism.

He noted that he has always maintained that an international peace conference could serve as the framework for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan and other Arab states. He said Israel would accept Soviet participation only if Moscow lifted emigration restrictions on Soviet Jews and moved to restore diplomatic relations with Israel.

SOME DEFENDANTS IN THE ARMS TO IRAN CASE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES, BUT ISRAELIS DENIED REQUEST
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Several of the defendants in the arms to Iran case here have received the court's permission to return to their home countries until their trial. But the court is delaying granting similar requests by Israeli defendants because the Israeli government has refused to give assurances sought by the court.

U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand said in a hearing on the bail extensions Wednesday that he is seeking written or oral assurances from the Israeli government that it will in no way impede the return of the Israeli defendants to the U.S. for a trial or other proceedings in the case.

WORLD SEPHARDI LEADER URGES EXPANDED JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH TO COMBAT ASSIMILATION, INTERMARRIAGE

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Expanded and intensified new programs of Jewish education both in Israel and the diaspora are required to combat the "surging problems of assimilation and intermarriage" confronting Sephardi Jewry, according to Nessim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation.

Addressing a joint meeting of the American Zionist Assembly and the American Sephardi Federation here earlier this month, Gaon warned that "lack of modern educational, cultural and religious facilities" was threatening "the continuity of our traditions and heritage. If we do not involve our generation of young people, if we do not inculcate them with an appreciation of their culture and their roots, Sephardi Jewry will become an historic memory." Of 12 million Jews living outside Israel, approximately 1.2 million, or 10 percent, are of Sephardi heritage.

Task Force Appointed

Gaon told the conference that he had appointed a special task force to study the dimensions of the problems and to determine how best to "realistically" deal with them.

He said the World Sephardi Federation, in conjunction with local Sephardi community leaders and educators in Israel and the diaspora, would evaluate existing programs for reaching the younger generation and "in concert with the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency, launch a vigorous outreach program to instill this generation with traditional values of worship, learning and sacred deeds."

He said the new programs would require "larger budgets" and expressed confidence that they would be secured.

Gaon called on the American and other Sephardi federations to work closely with the World Federation, the WZO and other Zionist groups "to provide the means and facilities for reaching out to our youth with innovative educational concepts."

Assails Cuts In Israel's Social Welfare Budget

He asserted that Sephardi Jewry in the diaspora had "a responsibility to insure the gains achieved for our people through Project Renewal in Israel are not lost through cuts in social welfare budgets and new taxes on families now living a marginal existence.

"It would be tragic if new social problems develop that would diminish the gains made through Project Renewal," he declared.

In this connection, the Sephardi leader said that new student taxes and higher tuition costs in Israel are already having a "major impact" on the Federation's scholarship program for youth from development towns, which he said had enabled more than 5,000 young people to attend universities in Israel.

Gaon also announced that the World Sephardi Federation expects to expand its program of seminars in Israel for young Sephardi leadership from the diaspora. He cited a recent seminar conducted in Jerusalem with the WZO that brought together young Sephardi leaders from 12 countries.

"No better learning tool exists than to experience the land and the people of Israel," he said, adding: "Mere self-preservation of our

communities is inadequate. If there is to be a renewal of Jewish life, and if we are to recapture the minds and the hearts of our marginal youth, Israel is the starting point."

Gaon, who resides in Geneva, is one of the architects of Project Renewal and an international chairman of Israel Bonds and co-chairman of the United Israel Appeal-Europe.

CONGRESS EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The 100th Congress, in its first session, has made overwhelmingly clear that it wants an improvement of human rights in the Soviet Union, particularly the right to emigrate for Jews and others, as a condition for improvement of bilateral U.S.-Soviet relations.

A resolution strongly stating Congress' concern in these matters was adopted by a vote of 99-0 in the Senate last week with the House concurring. The bipartisan resolution was introduced by Sens. Robert Byrd (D. W.Va.) and Robert Dole (R. Kan.), the Majority and Minority leaders, respectively.

It calls for the immediate release of all Soviet Prisoners of Conscience and permission for all refuseniks and others who so wish, to emigrate. "The Senate action clearly indicates the overwhelming support of Congress and the American people for the just cause of Soviet Jewry," Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said in a statement after the vote.

The resolution called "deceptive" the new Soviet regulations codifying emigration procedures, noting that they "do not permit emigration for religious, national or political reasons" and in fact "codify the previous pretexts for denying emigration permits even in cases involving the reunification of immediate families."

The resolution also noted that nearly 400,000 Soviet Jews have applied for emigration "at considerable personal risk" but during 1986 fewer than 1,000 Jews have been allowed to emigrate.

The resolution "declares that the Soviet Union's "continued human rights abuses, especially its refusal to permit all those who wish to emigrate to do so, seriously affect the atmosphere for productive negotiations on other aspects of bilateral relations (between the U.S. and USSR) and make more difficult the reaching of viable agreements with the Soviet Union."

SAMARITAN COMMUNITY LEADER DEAD AT 87

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Yaacov Ben Uzi HaCohen, the High Priest of the Samaritan community was buried on Mt. Gerizim in Nablus Monday. He died at the age of 87. Almost the entire Samaritan community of 528 attended the funeral along with HaCohen's many Jewish and Arab friends.

He served as High Priest since 1984. His fluency in Arabic, English and Hebrew had made him the principal spokesman for the community before becoming High Priest. He was the author of several books and supported himself as a palm reader.

During the 1930's HaCohen served as Nablus correspondent for a number of Jewish newspapers and was the main source of information about that Arab center in pre-war Palestine.

Declaring that American Jews "have an obligation, each of us in our own community," to uphold the principle of separation of church and state, Metzenbaum said, "You and I together have a responsibility to protect our grandchildren from this invasion of religious freedom."

Reagan, in his nationally televised address from the Capitol Tuesday night, urged Congress to permit voluntary prayer in the schools.

"Our nation could not have been conceived without divine help," Reagan said. "Why is it that we can build a nation with our prayers but we can't use a schoolroom for voluntary prayer? The 100th Congress of the United States should be remembered as the one that ended the expulsion of God from America's classrooms."

Yows That Reagan Won't Succeed

Metzenbaum said he was concerned that the President, who he had expected to "give us a new message of hope" used the State of the Union address to call for prayer in the schools. "He is not going to succeed," Metzenbaum vowed.

The Jewish leaders, after an off-the-record speech from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, heard from 20 Senators Wednesday.

Efforts To Scapegoat Israel Attacked

Both Sens. Claiborne Pell (D. RI) and Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ) criticized efforts to blame Israel for the Reagan Administration's decision to sell arms to Iran.

"The inclination of some in this Administration to slough off the blame for an embarrassing policy failure onto Israel a cynical attempt to make her the scapegoat," said Pell, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Whatever the facts concerning who broached the idea of arms-for-hostages to Iran, the clear fact of the matter is that the White House gave its approval--over the objections of the Secretaries of State and Defense--to the fateful decision to 'deal' with Teheran," Pell stressed.

Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) stressed that the demonstration of a united Jewish community "really has an impact on what happens in this country in relations between Israel and the United States." Lautenberg also said that the "uncompromising" support of Israel by the Jewish community does affect Congress and is something Jews "never need to be shy about."

Reps. Jack Kemp (R. NY) and Richard Gephardt (D. Mo.), both potential candidates for the Presidency in 1988, said that the tax reform bill adopted in 1986 should increase donations to charity rather than decrease it as some have feared.

They stressed that people will have more income in which to give to charity. Kemp added that people do not give to charities based on tax benefits.

At a dinner at the Israel Embassy Tuesday night, Martin Stein, the UJA's national chairman, presented an award to Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne for his efforts on behalf of the UJA. Rosenne said the UJA "is one of the strengths of Israel."

Samuel Lewis, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, told the Jewish leaders that the strategic security of Israel has never been better than it is now. He also said that the relation between the U.S. and Israel "has never been stronger."

Jerome Dick, of Washington, was the chairman for the Mission to Washington. Sens. Lautenberg and Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) hosted the luncheon Wednesday at which many of their colleagues appeared.

ORTHODOX RABBI SAYS GOD'S LAW SHOULD NOT BECOME POLITICAL FOOTBALL

ORLANDO, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The president of the Rabbinical Council of America said Wednesday that the burning issues of personal status such as "Who Is A Jew," "what is a legitimate conversion," and a "get" (Jewish divorce) should not be debated in the political arenas of Jewish life, the media or major American Jewish organizations.

"The average American Jew hears these questions discussed in the lecture circuit or in the media and gets the impression these are political issues, when, in fact, they are religious issues," declared Rabbi Milton Polin.

"Politics is the art of the possible and, therefore, involves give and take. These issues are halachic and in many instances are based on divine imperative. We don't play politics with God's law."

Polin, in an address at the closing session of the 38th Annual Midwinter Conference of the Rabbinical Council of America, at the Orlando Hyatt, pointed out that issues of personal status are now being debated in the political arena without reference to halachic underpinnings.

"A Jew is one who is born of a Jewish mother or has been converted according to Jewish law. It is not the ritual of conversion alone but also the commitment to the total Jewish way of life that makes a convert a Jew. Rabbinical groups which have allowed these issues to be placed on the political agenda have abdicated their rabbinic responsibility and authority," Polin stated.

"Decisions of personal status must be determined by religious authorities and not lay leaders," he stressed.

REBBE OF LELOV DIES IN BNEI BRAK

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Biderman, the Rebbe of Lelov, died in Bnei Brak this week and was buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Although the Hasidic sect he led was small, he was admired in Israel and abroad for his long and fervent worship.

The Rebbe was born in Jerusalem around the turn of the century. His grandfather, Rabbi David of Lelov, was one of the foremost Hasidic rebbes in the Holy Land during the 19th century.

A SOLUTION TO INTERMARRIAGE

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Eliezer Sheffer, head of the World Zionist Organization's young leadership department, says he has the solution to the problem of intermarriage -- a worldwide computerized Jewish dating service. According to Sheffer, one of the causes of intermarriage is that many young diaspora Jews have little chance to meet socially with other Jews, especially in small communities. He said he got the idea for a computerized dating service at a meeting of young WZO leaders from Europe last month. He said they complained there was a dearth of Jewish marriage partners in small towns in Italy, France and Greece.

Four of the 17 defendants charged with conspiracy to sell U.S. weapons to Iran -- Brig. Gen. Avraham Bar-Am, Guri and Israel Eisenberg, and William Northrop -- have all asked to extend the conditions of their bail to allow them to return to their homes in Israel because the trial date has been postponed to May 18, at the earliest.

The court has in the past week granted such permission to one British and to one German defendant and to Sam Evans, the alleged middleman in the conspiracy, who is named in every count in the indictment.

The prosecutor in the case, U.S. Attorney Lorna Schofield, told the court Wednesday that she had contacted the U.S. State Department to discuss the issue. The State Department had forwarded the court's request to the Israeli government. But the Israeli government "was not prepared to make any such assurances," Schofield said.

Neal Hurwitz, attorney for the Eisenbergs, said he believes the Israeli government's position is the only impediment preventing the Eisenbergs from receiving permission to go home.

Indications By Israeli Defendants

The Israeli defendants have indicated in the past that they were working with the knowledge and tacit approval of the Israeli government. After Wednesday's hearing, one of the Israeli defendants said he was working on behalf of the Israeli government. But the Israeli government has totally dissociated itself from the defendants in the case and has not intervened to assist them in any way.

The indictment handed up in April charged the four Israelis and other defendants with conspiracy to sell American made weapons to Iran, some of which were in Israeli stockpiles, and with breaking American laws forbidding any such transactions. In the same time period covered in the indictment, January through April 1986, President Reagan secretly authorized the sale of American weapons to Iran. Some of those transactions involved Israel as a third party.

In past months, attorneys in the case have filed papers with the court tying certain defendants in this case to those involved in the government-sanctioned arms deals with Iran.

Paul Grand, attorney for Evans, has recently filed a new document with the court which links Evans and the other defendants even more intimately with major players in the U.S. government Iran arms deals, including Adnan Khashoggi, Roy Furmark and Manucher Ghorbanifar and officials of the Israeli, American and British governments.

Elements In The Grand Document

The Grand document tells the following story: American-born Evans lived and worked as a lawyer in London. One of his clients was Khashoggi. Evans was aware of the covert U.S. foreign policy from information he received from Khashoggi and a number of other independent and reliable sources, according to Grand.

In January, 1985, Roy Furmark, another client of Evans, introduced Evans to Cyrus Hashemi, an Iranian arms buyer who turned U.S. government informant in the case and set up the "sting" leading to the defendants' arrest and indictment. Furmark, a close friend of CIA director William Casey, reportedly alerted Casey in

October 1986 that money from secret arms sales to Iran was being diverted to Nicaraguan rebels or Contras.

Furmark, at this time, informed Evans that Casey had told him the U.S. had supplied and approved the supply of U.S. arms to Iran. As a result of this information and the introductions, Khashoggi, Hashemi and Furmark formed World Trade Group, a joint venture which would, among other things, supply U.S. arms to Iran. Khashoggi assured Evans on many occasions between early 1985 and mid-1986 that the U.S. would approve covert arms sales to Iran, according to Grand.

Khashoggi met with then National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane in early 1985 to discuss covert arms sales to Iran, according to media reports.

To further the business of World Trade Group, the principals held a series of meetings in Hamburg, West Germany between January 13 and 17. Among others attending the meetings were, Evans, Khashoggi, Furmark, Hashemi and Manucher Ghorbanifar, the central Iranian middleman involved in all U.S. sanctioned arms sales to Iran during 1985 and 1986.

Further Contacts Followed

As a result of these meetings, Khashoggi and Hashemi went to Israel and met then Prime Minister Shimon Peres to discuss arms sales. Further contacts between Israeli and U.S. officials followed.

Khashoggi and Hashemi eventually split up and pursued arms deals separately, according to the Grand document. Khashoggi was successful. Hashemi was not.

Grand contends that Evans had no criminal intent in negotiating with Hashemi and other defendants in the case for the arms deals because he believed approval from the U.S. government would be forthcoming.

Grand asked the court not to accept the prosecutor's assurances that this case has no connection to the U.S.-approved covert arms sales without a further investigation.

Schofield said she was told by an unnamed Justice Department official that there was no connection between this case and the approved deals.

SOLON RAPS REAGAN FOR CALLING FOR A RETURN TO SCHOOL PRAYERS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) criticized President Reagan Wednesday for calling for a return to school prayer in his State of the Union address.

But Metzenbaum, speaking to some 200 Jewish leaders from across the country, participating in the United Jewish Appeal's Washington Connection II Mission, also castigated the American Jewish community for not challenging more strongly the efforts to return prayer to the public schools.

"I am concerned that the New Right is taking over the government more and more each day," he said. "I am concerned that the American Jewish community is not reacting."

Metzenbaum said he supports Israel as much as any other American Jew. "But Israel is not our only issue," he stressed. "We must be concerned about the kind of America in which we live."

**AUSTRALIAN P.M. SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING REPORTS THAT EX-NAZIS AND SS OFFICERS ARE LIVING IN AUSTRALIA**

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Robert Hawke of Australia said here that his government is studying reports that many former Nazis and SS officers have found refuge in Australia.

The reports, submitted by Jewish groups, concern alleged Nazi war criminals who immigrated to Australia after World War II. "We will undertake whatever steps are necessary," Hawke told reporters. (See Related Story.)

The Australian leader is on a three-day visit to Israel, the first ever by a Prime Minister of Australia. He arrived from Jordan where he had meetings with King Hussein.

At a dinner in his honor at the Knesset Tuesday night, Hawke called for Palestinian self-determination. However, he said he had the impression from his visit to Jordan that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation was a widely supported solution to the Palestinian problem.

'Differences Among Friends'

Hawke, who heads a Laborite government in Canberra, acknowledged that his views on the Palestinians are not generally shared by Israelis. He spoke Wednesday of "differences among friends." He told the newspaper Davar that those differences did not cloud relations between Israel and Australia.

In fact, Hawke's remarks on the Palestinian issue were carefully worded and followed close consultations between his aides and the Foreign Ministry in Canberra. They also reflected his private conversation Tuesday with President Chaim Herzog who urged his guest not to issue a direct call to Israel to support a Palestinian state, as apparently he intended to do originally.

Nevertheless, Hawke is regarded as a staunch friend of Israel. He was introduced in the Knesset Tuesday by speaker Shlomo Hillel as a "long-time friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel." Hillel also expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome Herzog received when he visited Australia last year.

Hawke had a private meeting Tuesday with Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He reportedly stressed his impression that Jordan's King Hussein is earnestly seeking progress in the peace process "but needed the international umbrella" of a peace conference which would include the participation of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Bilateral Trade Discussed

On the bilateral level, Shamir and Hawke agreed to establish a joint committee to promote trade between their countries and particularly to try to increase Israeli imports of Australian coal and exports of industrial goods to Australia. Figures released here last week by Israel's Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that Israel enjoyed a favorable balance of trade with Australia in 1986. Israel's exports to Australia totaled \$57 million against imports of \$51 million.

Exports to New Zealand totaled \$5.7 million compared to only \$500,000 of imports.

According to the report, Israel's exports to New Zealand grew by 17 percent last year but there was a three percent decline in exports to Australia. That was attributed to the decreased value of the Australian Dollar against the U.S. Dollar. Israeli exports to Australia include chemicals, irrigation equipment, medical supplies, and polished diamonds. Israel buys coal and wood from Australia.

Hawke, who is accompanied by his wife, Hazel, spent an hour at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Tuesday where they placed a wreath. The Prime Minister observed: "If anyone wants to understand the commitment of the Jewish people to the State of Israel and their commitment to ensuring that Israel will have the right to exist behind secure and recognized boundaries, one only has to come to the Yad Vashem to understand."

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH LEADER FORESEES SWIFT GOVERNMENT ACTION ON NAZIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Leslie Caplan, said he expects the government of Prime Minister Robert Hawke will take steps within the next two months to implement most of the recommendations of a recently concluded official probe into the presence of fugitive Nazi war criminals in Australia.

Speaking in New York at a meeting of the World Jewish Congress-American Section, Caplan outlined the history of the war criminals issue in Australia. He noted that in 1961, Australia's then Attorney General, Sir Garfield Barwick, had flatly ruled out taking legal action against suspected Nazis.

Barwick said at the time, "We think the time has come to close the chapter" so that Australia might "enable men to turn their backs on past bitterness and make a new life for themselves and for their families in a happier community."

In June 1986, following more than a year of investigative reporting by the media disclosing the presence of accused Nazi war criminals in the country, the government appointed Andrew Menzies, a retired government official, to direct a comprehensive investigation into the matter. But after decades of government inaction, Australia's Jews remained skeptical, Caplan noted. "Frankly, we feared a whitewash was being planned," he told the WJCongress meeting.

A Landmark Document

But, Caplan added, Menzies' final report, which was made public in Canberra last month, is a landmark document "that endorses precisely what we have been calling for." Menzies principal recommendations include:

* The government should announce "that it will take appropriate action under the law to bring to justice persons who have committed serious war crimes found in Australia.

* The government should establish a war crimes prosecution unit along the lines of the

U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

* The government should consider amending the War Crimes Act of 1945 to shift jurisdiction in such cases from military to civil courts.

In his 200-page report, Menzies also confirmed allegations made in 1985 by the World Jewish Congress that requests made by the U.S. Justice Department for information to be used in investigations of suspected Nazis in the U.S. had been regularly refused by Australian officials.

These requests, Menzies concluded, were "handled by Australian departments in an unsatisfactory manner." Caplan's predecessor, Isi Leibler, had raised this matter in a private meeting with Hawke in February 1986.

VALERIAN TRIFA DEAD AT 72

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Archbishop Valerian Trifa, the Rumanian-born cleric who was accused of being a Nazi collaborator and a rabid anti-Semite, died Wednesday in the town of Cascais, Portugal, at the age of 72. He reportedly suffered a heart attack recently.

Trifa was deported from the United States in 1984 after a prolonged campaign by Jewish Holocaust survivors, Jewish organizations and the U.S. Justice Department. He was ordered to leave the U.S. in 1982, but he was unable to find a country that would admit him until two years later, when Portugal accepted his request to settle there.

Trifa was accused of being a member of the Iron Guard, a Rumanian fascist group similar to the notorious Nazi storm troopers in Germany. One of the major charges against Trifa, who was until his deportation the spiritual leader of 35,000 members of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate in Grass Lake, Mich., was that he incited attacks against Jews in a speech on January 20, 1941 in Bucharest. His speech touched off four days of violent attacks in which 300 people, mostly Jews, were murdered.

The Justice Department began its proceedings against Trifa in 1975. He was deported on the ground that he concealed his past when he entered the United States in 1950. In 1980 Trifa voluntarily surrendered his citizenship, but the U.S. continued nonetheless in its efforts to deport him. The Archbishop agreed in 1982 to be deported, claiming that his trial was putting a heavy financial burden on his church.

ACTION CONTINUES ON FORMER CHAIRMAN OF BANK LEUMI

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- A two-man committee set up to study excessive severance pay and pension awarded to former Bank Leumi chairman Ernst Japhet when he was forced to resign last spring, recommended Tuesday that the matter be resolved through negotiations with Japhet or by legal action in court.

The committee, composed of Eli Hurvitz, who succeeded Japhet as chairman and then resigned on Sunday, and former Justice Minister Haim Zadok, also recommended that the pension payments be placed in escrow until the matter is settled. It maintained that a suitable severance and pension should be calculated on the basis of a "suitable salary."

But Japhet's salary and emoluments in 1986, his final year as Bank Leumi chairman and chief

executive officer, exceeded \$800,000, a sum the committee plainly does not consider "suitable."

Japhet was forced to resign as a result of his role in the bank shares manipulation scandal which touched off a panic on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in 1983, with severe losses to thousands of Israelis who had invested their savings in shares issued by the country's largest banks.

The committee's report contained disclosures embarrassing to the former Board members who resigned en-bloc Sunday when a new Board was installed.

Payments To Other Bank Directors Revealed

It reported, for example, that Japhet managed to delay his final act of resignation until the compliant bank directors agreed to his demands for severance pay of \$4.5 million and a \$30,000 a month life pension.

The committee also revealed that payments of hundreds of thousands of Dollars were made to several other top executives of Bank Leumi, in salary and later pension and severance pay.

The committee believes that the payments to Japhet can be brought in line with normal Israeli standards either through negotiations with him, binding arbitration or by going to court. According to the committee, Bank Leumi could legally cut back the payments and win in a court action.

Hurvitz, who was replaced as chairman by Meir Heth Sunday, urged that the committee's recommendations be accepted in order to end the affair so that Bank Leumi, under its new chairman and Board of Directors, can rebuild public confidence. Apart from the scandal, the bank is considered sound.

NEW UNREST IN WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Unrest flared in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Thursday. Border police broke up a riot in the Gaza Strip town of Kahn Yunis, wounding a Palestinian youth who disregarded their orders to halt. Several rioters were arrested.

The latest eruption was a continuation of disturbances which flared last week after the Israeli authorities expelled a 26-year-old Palestinian, Mohammad Dahlan, an alleged Palestine Liberation Organization activist.

An Egged bus driver was slightly injured when his vehicle was stoned near the Dahariya refugee camp south of Hebron Thursday morning. Five local youths were detained on suspicion of stone-throwing.

It was announced, meanwhile, that local branches of the Jordanian-owned Cairo-Amman Bank will be allowed to open in Hebron and Ramallah. The Israeli civil authorities agreed last year to allow the bank to do business in the administered territories. The first branch was opened in Nablus.

ISRAEL SAYS UNIFIL CHARGE IS FALSE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Israel registered a sharp protest with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Thursday, branding as false a charge that Israel was responsible for wounding six soldiers of the Irish contingent whose billet in the south Lebanon village of Tibnin was ripped by an explosion early Wednes-

day morning. The soldiers were asleep at the time. Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, commander of the Israel Defense Force in the northern region, handed the protest to UNIFIL's commanding general Gustav Haglund after the Irish commander accused the IDF of opening "tank fire" on the two-story billet. Unknown persons are believed to have planted the explosives.

The incident was the second this month involving Israel with UNIFIL's Irish troops. Israel apologized to Ireland earlier for accidentally causing the death of an Irish soldier, Cpl. Dermot McLaughlin, on January 10 when IDF tanks fired on suspected terrorist positions in the south Lebanon security zone and inadvertently hit a UNIFIL command post.

LABOR AND LIKUD CLASHING OVER ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFAB

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Labor and Likud are clashing again over the issue of an international conference for Middle East peace, specifically whether Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stepped beyond the bounds of government policy when he stated during his trip to Europe last week that Israel was amenable to such a conference under certain conditions.

At a Labor Party caucus Wednesday night, calls were heard to dissolve the unity coalition government because of Likud attacks on Peres while he was abroad. But most pundits believe the latest flare-up will subside, as others have in the past. Nevertheless, fundamental differences exist between the coalition partners over how to pursue peace, new Jewish settlements in the administered territories and other issues.

On Monday, Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens of Likud accused the Foreign Minister of "creating policies" which other members of the government learned of only from the newspapers. When he returned from Europe Wednesday, Peres insisted that his remarks about an international conference and the conditions for participation by the Palestinians and the Soviet Union conformed with government policies approved by the Knesset.

But Premier Yitzhak Shamir told the Knesset Wednesday, an hour before Peres landed, that the Cabinet has as yet reached no decisions with respect to an international conference. Shamir's own opinion, expressed several days ago, was that such a conference would pose a grave danger to Israel.

Peres Defends His Statements

Peres, who held an impromptu press conference at Ben Gurion Airport, said his views were contained in a speech he made to the Knesset last September after returning from the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He said the Knesset, including the Likud faction, voted confidence in his speech "and so this was a resolution of the parliament."

Peres also referred to his agreement with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt when they met in Alexandria last year to set up a joint preparatory group for an international conference. "I consider this the official position of Israel and no person can change it unless there will be a majority to do so," Peres said.

He said there were also points of agreement with Jordan on how the conference could be structured. The chief provision was that it would

have no power to impose a solution and would not be a substitute for direct negotiations. Nor would any nation that has no diplomatic relations with Israel be allowed to participate, Peres said. In an obvious reference to the Soviet Union, he said the participants not only must have official ties with Israel but they must not maintain policies which discriminate against the Jewish people. Peres said that in Brussels he had urged the Foreign Ministers of the European Economic Community to pressure Moscow to relax its policies toward Soviet Jews and toward Israel.

VANUNU'S APPEAL TO LIFT JAIL RESTRICTION TO BE HEARD NEXT WEEK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem district court postponed until next week its decision on an appeal by Mordechai Vanunu to lift punitive measures taken against him by his jailers.

The former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, on trial for selling information about Israel's alleged nuclear capabilities to a British newspaper, is in the 28th day of a hunger strike to protest his treatment.

The court said it would rule next week on Vanunu's request that he be allowed to meet privately with his American woman friend, Judy Zimet. She visited him Sunday but he refused to see her under the conditions imposed by prison authorities. The latter insisted they communicate through a plate glass window by exchanging notes which would be read first by a censor.

Vanunu has also asked for reading material and to see a priest. He converted to the Christian faith in Australia. The court said it would take those requests into consideration.

Punishment was imposed on Vanunu after he flashed a message to the media, while being driven to court, alleging that Israeli agents had kidnapped him in Rome last September 30.

MEMORIAL TO JEWISH PIONEERS

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Raleigh Street Synagogue in Central, Port Elizabeth, will be turned into a memorial to Jewish pioneers in the city if a proposal to have it proclaimed a national monument is approved. The synagogue, the oldest surviving one in Port Elizabeth, fell into disuse in the late 1960's.

The proposal to have it proclaimed a national monument was recently supported by the City Council. It was rescued by the Synagogue and Youth Foundation from the vandalism and destruction that have overtaken many of the city's historic buildings.

A spokesman for the Foundation said that they planned to develop the building as a memorial to the Jewish pioneers "who contributed so much, not only to the development of their own community but also to the economic, civic and cultural progress of the city and its hinterlands." He said the history of the Jewish community in the Eastern Cape dates back to 1820 when 18 Jews arrived with the British settlers.

ATHENS (JTA) -- Sixteen prominent Greeks who performed outstanding work in cultivating trade relations between Greece and Israel were honored by Moshe Gilboa, Israel's diplomatic representative in Greece who holds the rank of Ambassador.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

THEY CAME TO MARCH FOR BROTHERHOOD

By Richard Bono

Atlanta Jewish Times Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The massive march on rural Forsyth County, Georgia, on January 24 was more than a demonstration against the hostile racism that occurred there one week earlier. Rather, according to consensus, it was a collective show of solidarity against the racial intolerance that has occurred recently in Howard Beach, NY, at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and in recent racial incidents in Philadelphia and Boston.

"This thing developed a life of its own," said Sherry Frank, Southeastern director of the American Jewish Committee. Frank commented that the Ku Klux Klan's hostile appearance January 17 in Forsyth County, situated 38 miles north of Atlanta, shocked the sensibilities of the nation and was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The largest civil rights march in more than two decades, estimated at 15,000 to 20,000, bore witness to the change that has occurred with the passing of time. Nearly half the marchers on January 24 in Forsyth County were white and this time the law was on the side of the demonstrators, not against them as it was in the 1960's.

Demonstration Resembled An Army Camp

In fact, the scene of the demonstration resembled an army camp: Some 1,700 Georgia National Guardsmen in riot regalia were joined by law enforcement officials from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia State Patrol and a myriad of law enforcement officials from jurisdictions in and around metropolitan Atlanta.

In all, a force of nearly 3,000 kept an angry group of about 1,000 counter-demonstrators at bay, staving off a potential confrontation with the marchers.

Prior to leaving Atlanta for the ride to Cumming, the county seat of Forsyth, 175 busloads of participants, including this reporter, waited anxiously, not knowing what lay ahead.

Jews Were Well Represented

Frank said that Jews, from Atlanta and elsewhere, were well represented in proportion to their percentage of the country's population. And if it had not been for the Shabbat, she said, more Jews would have participated.

"The words of the counter-demonstrators last week (January 17) were an affront to Jews as well as to Blacks," she said.

On January 17, about 90 people, men, women, children, both Black and white, went to Forsyth County to march for brotherhood in the all-white county. Blacks have not been welcome there for 75 years. But, to the surprise of everyone, the brotherhood marchers were met by 400 screaming Ku Klux Klansmen and their allies. Obscene racial epithets were hurled at the group as was a barrage of bottles and rocks.

The organizer of the march, civil rights veteran Rev. Hosea Williams, said afterward it was the most violent, hate-filled group he had ever encountered. Representatives of three Jewish groups joined with Atlanta's Black leaders to plan the second march for brotherhood in Forsyth

County. They were the Atlanta chapters of the American Jewish Committee, the Black-Jewish Coalition and the American Jewish Congress.

A permit was secured. Law enforcement, housing and transportation were arranged. But, no one anticipated the outpouring of support that came from throughout the nation.

Frank said Jews lent much in the way of support for the second brotherhood march. A local hotel, owned by a Jewish Atlantan, made 100 rooms available to the dignitaries who came in to march. And, Atlanta's largest Reform Temple opened its doors for other demonstrators who had no place to sleep. Those arrangements were made by The Temple's rabbi, Alvin Sugarman.

"We share a history of oppression with Blacks," Sugarman told The Atlanta Jewish Times. "It's in different forms and to different degrees, but we know what it means to be in an underclass, to be oppressed solely by virtue of birth--we as Jews, they as Blacks."

Vehemence Toward Jews And Blacks

For most of those who came to demonstrate against racial intolerance, the march provided their first glimpse at the vehemence some Americans feel toward Jews and Blacks. Many of the Klan sympathizers wore swastikas and many were young teenagers, striking a sense of fear in some observers that the seeds of intense racial hatred are once again being sown.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said there are probably 10 Klan sympathizers for each of the 200 Klan members who they estimate reside in Georgia.

"We've known for years that Forsyth County is a white enclave and that the people there are determined to keep it that way," said Charles Wittenstein, the ADL's southern civil rights director. "In both Howard Beach and Forsyth County, you have white youths expressing a territorial impulse, which is to defend their turf against outsiders, particularly of a different race."

Wittenstein also noted that ADL's estimates on the numbers of Klan members are difficult to attain. Often, he said, Klan leaders themselves don't know how many members they've got.

What will become of Forsyth County now that the historic march through that small southern county is done and gone?

"Blacks will move back into Forsyth," said Sugarman. "But, it won't be tomorrow and it may not be next year. Eventually the 'good leadership,' and I'm putting that in quotes, will take charge. But, it's not going to be easy to integrate Forsyth County."

3 YESHIVA STUDENTS DETAINED BY POLICE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Three yeshiva students in the West Bank were detained by police this week for allegedly firing rifles illegally in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

They are Ben Zion Stern, Haim Ben-Zion and Roman Aldoubi, all students at the Od Yosef Hai Yeshiva at Joseph's tomb in Nablus.

They were driving to the yeshiva last Thursday when rocks were hurled at their car. The three left the car and chased the rock-throwers into the Balata camp where they allegedly fired shots into the air.

KOHL CALLS ON GERMANS NOT TO FORGET CRIMES OF THE NAZI ERA

BONN, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl, on the 45th anniversary of the "Final Solution," called on Germans Tuesday never to forget the crimes of the Nazi era.

"We Germans must never forget, repress or trivialize the crimes of Nazism because only by remembering them will we be capable of reconciliation," Kohl said. "The memory of those who were deported in Germany's name, enslaved, humiliated and murdered in the extermination camps of Auschwitz, Treblinka, Birkenau, Maidanek and Sobibor obliges us never again to stir feelings of hatred."

On January 20, 1942, leaders of the Third Reich, meeting in the Wannsee suburb of Berlin, drafted the "Final Solution" to the Jewish problem -- the mass extermination of Europe's Jewish population. On Tuesday, a memorial service was held at the villa where the meeting took place. One of the speakers, Heinz Galinski, chairman of West Germany's Jewish community, warned that many German politicians and historians were attempting to bury the past.

Kohl's statement was seen in part as a response to similar charges by the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) which faces the Chancellor's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in a general election this Sunday. The CDU is expected to win a solid victory, according to opinion polls.

ITALIAN DEFENSE CHIEF WARNS OF POTENTIAL 'NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL' BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUPS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini warned here Tuesday night of the possibility of "nuclear blackmail" by terrorist groups.

Addressing faculty and guests at Tel Aviv University which awarded him an honorary degree, the Italian defense chief called for an international conference to include the two superpowers, the U.S. and USSR, to explore ways to fight international terrorism. The civilized world may not survive into the next century unless terrorism is stopped, he said.

Spadolini contended that nuclear blackmail is a potential threat because simplified nuclear technology is within the grasp of well organized terrorist groups.

"Considering that airplanes and cruise ships are a favorite target of terrorists, modern means of transportation are more dangerous than the roads of the late Middle Ages," the Italian Minister said.

"Voltaire wrote in 1750 that what differentiates Europe from other continents is that diplomats can be sure of returning safely to their countries at the end of their mission. That is no longer true anywhere in the world," Spadolini maintained.

The Italian Defense Minister arrived here Monday night after visits to four Arab countries where, he said, he gained the impression that

there is a growing interest among moderate Arab leaders in an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Spadolini visited Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Saudi Arabia before coming to Israel.

He made a similar statement Wednesday after a 90-minute meeting with six Palestinian leaders-- three from the West Bank and three from the Gaza Strip. They met at the Italian Consulate in West Jerusalem.

Spadolini said they had discussed the need for an international conference on Middle East peace with the participation of the major powers and all parties concerned. He said most of the Palestinians favored negotiations for Palestinian autonomy to go hand-in-hand with security for Israel. They stressed the need for the Israeli administered territories to confederate with Jordan.

The Palestinians attending the meeting all stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They included Rashad A-Shawa, the former Mayor of Gaza, Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, Mustapha Abd A-Nabi Natshe, the former Mayor of Hebron, and Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu-Rahme.

The latter two have been barred by the Israeli authorities from attending an international symposium on Middle East peace at San Diego State University in southern California. The ban has been protested by Israeli and American invitees.

Not Acting As A Mediator

Spadolini, in statements to reporters on his arrival in Israel, stressed that he was not trying to be a mediator between Israel and the Arab states and was carrying no messages to the Israeli government from any Arab leaders. He said he gained the impression that the latter are interested in a peace conference from hours of conversation but not from any specific statements.

Spadolini called on President Chaim Herzog Tuesday morning to discuss Middle East problems and bilateral relations between Italy and Israel. He also met with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who was in Italy recently and with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

ITALY AND ISRAEL SIGN AGREEMENT FOR JOINT PROMOTION OF TOURISM
By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Italy and Israel signed an agreement here this week for the joint promotion of tourism between the two countries and to each of them from North America and other areas of the world. Both countries have suffered a slump in tourism over the past year.

The agreement, signed by Israel's Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir and his Italian counterpart, Nicola Capria, contains a strong condemnation of terrorism. Terrorist acts in the Mediterranean area, particularly the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985, is considered responsible in large measure for the lag in tourist traffic.

The agreement provides for the tourism ministries of both countries to create vacation packages that include stop-overs in Rome and Jerusalem. The ministries will try to arrange direct flights between Milan and Tel Aviv by Alitalia and El Al, the national air lines of Italy and Israel, respectively. Sharir signed a similar agreement recently with Greece.

"Israel Weeks" will be inaugurated for Italian tourists and "Italy Weeks" for Israelis. Both countries will promote health cures based on the many thermal spas in Italy and the curative properties of the high saline waters of the Dead Sea and the hot springs at Tiberias.

Because more Israelis visit Italy than Italians visit Israel, a special inducement for the latter will be the establishment of a duty-free zone at Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat.

Sharir also discussed tourism with Vatican officials. They spoke at length about encouraging Christian pilgrimages to Israel and how the churches can publicize such trips. Sharir also met with regional representatives from Naples, Sorrento and Positano who expressed interest in tour packages.

PERES IS EUROPE-BOUND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres left for Europe Wednesday morning for a week of meetings in London, Paris and Brussels. He may also visit Bonn.

Peres will meet with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Thursday. With no major bilateral issues on the agenda, their talks are expected to focus on general Middle East questions and East-West relations.

In Paris on Friday, Peres has meetings scheduled with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac. He will be in Brussels Sunday for a meeting with the European Economic Community (EEC) Foreign Ministers and to sign an agreement governing the export of Israeli agricultural products to the EEC countries. The agreement takes into account the effects that the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC last year will have on Israeli trade.

A visit by Peres to West Germany is still tentative. In each of the countries he visits, the Israeli Foreign Minister will meet with leaders of the Jewish communities. In Paris he will attend a special performance of Racine's "Esther" a French classic based on the Purim theme, presented by the Comedie Francaise.

The play, now in rehearsal, will offer a special preview for Peres at the request of Israeli Ambassador Ovadia Soffer.

SHAMIR SEES EVENTUAL PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir appears to hold high hopes for an eventual peace between Israel and Jordan.

Hosting a group of Israeli authors and poets at his home Monday night, Shamir said relations between the two countries were much improved over what they were two years ago. He noted that King Hussein is not yet Israel's friend, but felt that relations with Jordan would continue to improve over the next two years.

Shamir defended Israel's role in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran. He said they were part of the strategic cooperation between the two countries and also helped Israel's military industries.

SHAMIR ACCUSED BY PARTY COLLEAGUE OF RENEGING ON NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENTS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir was accused by his Herut colleague Deputy Premier David Levy Wednesday of dealing "falsely" with his party on the issue of new Jewish settlements in the administered territories.

Levy, who is Minister of Housing, charged in the Knesset that a reported statement by Shamir that previously planned settlements could not be built because of budgetary constraints was without foundation.

According to Levy, the government is allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to various other sectors. "Anyone who claims that the \$10 million needed to establish the new settlements may affect the economic situation deals falsely and is untrue to others and to his party," Levy said. There was no immediate response from Shamir.

The outspoken Minister was cheered at a press conference convened later by the Gush Emunim. They hailed Levy as the only Likud Minister active in building settlements and demanded that Shamir resign if he cannot fulfill his pledge to build the new settlements.

HOSPITAL WORKERS CONTINUE TO STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Some 10,000 government hospital employees on strike since Monday, were ordered by a Jerusalem labor court Wednesday to return to their jobs immediately. But a spokesperson for the strikers indicated that the court order would not be observed.

The strike by administrative, service and maintenance personnel hit 29 government hospitals all over the country. The workers are demanding that their salaries be equalized with those of employees of Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund.

Meanwhile, hospital conditions deteriorated. Kitchens, laundries and housekeeping services are paralyzed. Heating and water supply systems are untended and there is no one at the desks to handle admissions and discharges.

IDF UNIT REPELS SHIITE ATTACKS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin disclosed Wednesday that an Israel Defense Force unit operating irregularly in south Lebanon repulsed several attacks in recent days by the Shiite extremist Hezbollah on units and positions of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Replying to questions in the Knesset, Rabin said the attacks were repelled with no casualties to either the IDF or SLA. He estimated that at least five attackers were killed and 10 wounded.

Rabin noted that the attacks were launched some distance from the Israel border which only confirmed the importance of the south Lebanon security zone as a buffer against attacks on Israel.

MEIR'S DENVER HOME FACES DEMOLITION

By Chris Leppek

Intermountain Jewish News

DENVER, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The former home of Golda Meir has lost the latest -- and perhaps last -- round in its six-year battle for survival. The City's Building Department Board of Appeals voted unanimously January 15 to demolish the house unless a savior appears within 30 days.

The Board concluded that the house presents a public health hazard and that funds to fix it are not readily available. The dilapidated duplex, home of the late Israeli Premier from 1913-14, is resting on girders in a local park. The city is paying for liability insurance.

The Board also decided, for purposes of the ruling, that the City and County of Denver own the house. This means that the fledgling Golda Meir Memorial Association is no longer the designated custodian of the house, which is widely believed to be the last U.S. structure still standing in which Meir resided.

The Board would consider a request for a rehearing if \$150,000-\$250,000 were committed within 30 days for restoration and a plan were approved by the City's Community Development Agency (CDA), according to Board chairman Ralph Nordhauser.

Court Action May Delay Demolition

The demolition also could be delayed through court action. "We're going to have to talk with counsel before we decide what to do," said Association member Mel Cohen.

The Board had earlier set conditions for restoration and use of the building, including a guarantee of available funds, provision of security and a schedule of renovation. The Association replied in writing, but Cohen contended that the Board didn't regard it seriously.

Nordhauser responded that the Board considered the response unsatisfactory in terms of safety of the building and availability of funds for restoration. The 15-member Association has drained its funds in moving the home to the park and providing security.

Nordhauser said that he has inspected the house. He added, coincidentally, that he lived in the home as a child and is Jewish.

Cohen charged that the city has violated its own commitment to work with the Association in restoration of the home. Since the election of Mayor Federico Pena in 1983, Cohen said, the city has relentlessly pressured the Association with "unreasonable" deadlines.

Home Faced Wrecking Ball Before

The home has faced the wrecking ball before. In 1981, just hours away from being demolished by its then owners, the Boys Club of America, its historical nature was discovered. A grass-roots effort prevented that demolition and gained the support of the city to help finance moving the house from its original West Side location.

Several restoration efforts at the new site failed, and the building survived vandalism, including the painting of swastikas, and a fire. It was moved to the park last summer in an agreement with the City that set a time limit for the Association on restoration. In November, after several deadlines passed, CDA began pressing to either restore or demolish the house.

The Allied Jewish Federation of Denver has not endorsed the restoration project or assisted the effort financially, citing budget restraints and the need for community resources in more pressing areas.

Meir attended high school during the time she resided in the house with her sister and brother-in-law, Shana and Sam Korngold, who owned the building.

BENJAMIN LEVICH DEAD AT 69

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Dr. Benjamin Levich, a former refusenik whose effort to immigrate to Israel garnered worldwide support from scientific communities, died Monday night of a heart attack in Fort Lee, NJ. He was 69 years old. He will be buried Thursday in Israel next to his wife Tanya, who died in 1983.

Levich, creator of a new science known as "physico-chemical hydrodynamics," divided his time equally between New York and Tel Aviv, holding simultaneously the positions of professor of engineering at Tel Aviv University, and Albert Einstein Professor of Sciences, as well as director of the Institute of Applied Chemical Physics and Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and Physics, at the City College of the City University of New York.

Levich immigrated to Israel in December 1978 after a nearly seven-year struggle to leave the Soviet Union. At the time of his application to emigrate, in February 1972, Levich became the highest-ranking scientist to apply to leave.

Prior to his visa application, Levich was department head of electrochemistry at the Institute of Hydrodynamics of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and held a professorial chair at Moscow University. He was expelled from both positions following his application to emigrate.

During his period of refusal, Levich was deprived of all opportunity to engage in scientific activity, and he and his family were constantly harassed by the authorities.

A Test-Case For The Soviets

Levich was a test-case for the Soviets, and as a result of his application for an exit visa, other Jews in high scientific positions were also emboldened to seek visas.

In May 1976, 1,000 scientists in New York called upon the Soviet Academy of Sciences to use its influence in urging the Soviets to allow Levich and his wife, Tanya, to join their sons Evgeny and Alexander in Israel. In July 1977, more than 100 Western scientists held a three-day conference at Oxford, England, to draw attention to Levich's case.

Levich's arrival in Israel was greeted by Israeli government officials, representatives of universities, other Soviet immigrants and relatives. But Levich seemed particularly pleased by the handshake of a policeman. "I had a good feeling shaking the hand of a friendly policeman," Levich said.

Levich was the author of more than 150 papers in theoretical physics, electrochemistry and hydrodynamics. He also wrote a four-volume textbook on theoretical physics that was translated into English, German, Spanish, Czech, Portuguese and Chinese.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW
LABOR'S LOVE LOST
 By Margie Olster

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Muki Tzur, an historian of the kibbutz movement and the second and third aliyot, educator, writer and Zionist ideologue, expressed concern over the perpetuation of Israel's social democratic system.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here recently where he addressed the American Zionist Federation's First Zionist Assembly, Tzur said modern Zionism is linked inextricably to democracy and criticized the Israeli Labor movement for losing track of its earlier social-democratic values in the constant struggle to maintain political power.

Zionism and democracy have become estranged and Israel today faces the problems of reconciling the dreams of early socialist and democratic Zionist thinkers with a difficult political reality, in Tzur's view.

Even within his own Labor Party, in which Tzur has been active politically and ideologically for almost his entire life, the social-democratic principles on which it was founded have been compromised in the constant struggle to regain the political power it lost in 1977 to Likud, he said.

'Politically ... We Are Very Dull'

"I don't believe we should always be repeating A.D. Gordon or Berl Katznelson. There should be something original about the Labor movement, but politically speaking we are very dull," he said. Tzur attributed this to years of challenges in war and peace and of compromises creating what he called a coalition mentality wherein retaining power in government was the primary goal.

"Even the times we were not in power, we still saw ourselves only in terms of getting back in power," he said.

Tzur, 49, was born in Jerusalem in 1938, a first generation Israeli. His father Yaacov Tzur, a Russian immigrant, served as Israel's Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay and France.

A father of four, Tzur has lived on Kibbutz Ein Gev on the shore of the Kinneret since 1956, where he now works in the children's house.

He authored several books, including "The Seventh Day," a series of interviews with soldiers following the 1967 war, and "Early Spring." He is a professor of Kabbalah and the origins of the kibbutz movement in Haifa University's Department of Education. And in the tradition of his former teacher at Hebrew University, Gershom Sholem, Tzur is a philosopher of Labor Zionism.

The Nature Of Modern Zionism

"I believe Zionism is the political expression of the Jewish people of this century which means, for the Jews, the possibility to express themselves in this world democratically. I don't believe in a totalitarian Jewish state. This is not possible."

Tzur defined modern Zionism as "a way of analyzing the Jewish condition, a discipline of thinking; looking deeply into the sociological conditions of the Jews and taking seriously the possibility of the destruction of the Jewish people."

Although traditional Zionists thought the establishment of Israel would solve the Jewish

problem, the persistence of the diaspora is a challenge to modern Zionism, Tzur said.

"Israel is the most important laboratory of the Jewish people. But it is not the happy ending of the Jewish people. It's the beginning of a new phase of a very difficult self-searching," Tzur said.

Major Problems Facing Israel

Among the major problems facing the State currently and throughout its short history is the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, a problem which mandates a democratic solution according to Tzur.

"I don't believe that the conflict is eternal. I don't believe peace is eternal," he said. "I personally believe we should avoid any kind of false messianic ideas in the sense of believing we can make peace tomorrow morning."

But Tzur has no easy solutions. "The important thing for me in the long run is that Israel must be a democratic society. If the West Bank will be Israel, we have to give (the Palestinians) full rights and pay the consequences or create an independent political entity with all the costs."

The peace process should follow what Tzur called a natural sociological pattern in which the Palestinians in the West Bank would move closer to Jordan.

"I personally feel that we should prepare ourselves not to map out solutions but to try to see where we want to arrive and move towards peace with the Arabs."

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Tzur disclaimed any notion that the Arab-Israeli conflict is currently worse than ever. In the early years of the State, as today, there was always a debate about the realistic possibility of coexistence, Tzur said. "Some people felt the conflict was inevitable, others said it didn't exist. Some felt we should do something about it." But there was never a consensus, he said.

Arab-Israeli relations plunged to their lowest point in 1948 when five Arab states waged war against Israel and, as a result, many Arabs were thrown out of the country.

Problem Of The Kibbutzim

Tzur also addressed the problems plaguing kibbutzim, their economic crisis and the questions raised about hiring outside laborers.

Hired labor, especially Arab labor, to do many of the menial tasks, remains an ongoing dilemma in the kibbutz movements. Tzur explained this in part by saying many Jews simply will not do these types of jobs anymore.

"The kibbutz has an ethic of producers. In many cases, the kibbutz could not fulfill the demands on itself to produce all the things. So they hired Arab labor."

Tzur also lauded a new phenomenon that has arisen in the kibbutz movement as a result of the present economic crisis, mutual aid among kibbutzim.

"We have to seriously rethink what our socialism means," Tzur said. "We have to try new ways of living, new schools, communes in the city, new ways of spiritual and cultural dialogue. All these kinds of things are very urgent."

In the meantime, Tzur said he will continue to seek the deeper meaning in washing 50 dirty dishes a day in Ein Gev's children's house.

**CASTRO PERMITS FIVE CUBAN JEWS TO LEAVE FOR VENEZUELA TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES**

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- A rabbi from Caracas recently obtained personal permission from President Fidel Castro to bring five Cuban Jews to Venezuela to be re-united with their families there, the Rabbinical Council of America disclosed Monday.

Rabbi Pynchas Brener, spiritual leader of the Union Israelita de Caracas, quoted Castro as telling him he was allowing the Jews to leave "on humane grounds of reuniting families, a worthy cause, and we are going to permit them to leave with you."

According to Rabbi Milton Polin, president of the Rabbinical Council, Brener flew to Havana last November 24, accompanied by Bishop Alfredo Rodriguez, vice president of the Committee of Relations Between Synagogues and Churches in Venezuela, of which Brener is president.

After meeting with Castro and other Cuban officials, and with Jewish community leaders, Brener was permitted to take the five Jews back with him on the same plane that brought him from Venezuela.

The five were identified as Dr. Julio Imiak and Dr. Solomon Mitrani; Imiak's mother; and Alberto Fernandez Vinas and Abraham Shujman, all who have kin in Venezuela. The Cuban authorities had previously forbidden the physicians to leave because of the local shortage of medical doctors.

Brener reported that Castro expressed interest in knowing more about the Jewish people and that he had explained to him the history and travails of the Jews, the Holocaust and the importance of Israel to them.

Brener said that 12,000 Jews lived in Cuba prior to the revolution led by Castro in 1959. Today only about 1,000 Jews remain in Havana and 300-400 elsewhere in Cuba. Brener said he brought with him prayer books and religious items for the community.

As a gift for Castro, he brought a Hebrew Bible printed in Israel with an inscription on the inside back cover: "Man is the crown of God's creation. Therefore, whoever labors on behalf of man and of human society is acting in the spirit of these holy scriptures."

ISRAELI SOLDIER WOUNDED IN SOUTH LEBANON; FULL PROBE ORDERED INTO THE DEATH OF AN IRISH UNIFIL SOLDIER
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was wounded in the south Lebanon security zone Monday morning when his armored personnel carrier struck a land mine eight kilometers from the Israel border. The soldier was taken by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Meanwhile Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, commander of the northern region, has ordered a full investigation into the circumstances of the death of an Irish soldier under fire from an Israel Defense Force Patrol in south Lebanon last Saturday night.

The soldier, Cpl. Dermot McLaughlin, 33, a member of the Irish contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was hit by shell fragments when the IDF tank patrol opened fire on "a large terrorist squad in the village of Barashit" at the edge of the security zone, an IDF spokesman said Sunday. According to the IDF, the soldier was at a UNIFIL post close to the terrorist positions and "was accidentally killed by the shots."

Premier Yitzhak Shamir called the incident a "tragic mistake." Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy have already apologized and expressed regrets. The Irish government lodged a strong protest with Israel. McLaughlin was married and the father of five children.

Initial Confusion Over Responsibility

There was initial confusion here over who was responsible. Early reports said he was killed by soldiers of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) who opened fire on "suspicious" persons. Later reports confirmed the responsibility of an IDF unit that took up positions in what was previously an SLA stronghold in Barashit near a UNIFIL outpost.

The SLA position was overrun by the Shiite extremist Hezbollah last month resulting in the deaths of six SLA soldiers. The post was later retaken by the SLA and temporarily occupied by an IDF tank unit.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said Sunday that the UNIFIL post in the village has been there since 1978 and was clearly marked by a large sign and a United Nations flag which is floodlit at night.

He said when the first tank shell hit the UNIFIL structure the unit commander went to the roof and fired red flares, an identification signal agreed upon with the IDF. But the firing continued, he said. One shell exploded in a room where McLaughlin was sleeping.

UNIFIL has complained frequently about what it describes as "indiscriminate shooting" by SLA units. Goksel said shells fired by the SLA have exploded on or near UNIFIL positions 59 times in the past three weeks. He said UNIFIL was reconsidering its standing orders not to return fire.

20 UNIFIL Soldiers Killed in 1986

Marrack Goulding, UN Undersecretary for Special Political Affairs, who was in Israel last week in connection with the impending renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, said that 20 UNIFIL soldiers were killed in 1986 as a result of attacks by "various armed groups in the area." A total of 139 UNIFIL soldiers have been killed since the international peacekeeping force was sent to Lebanon more than 10 years ago.

France recently reduced its contribution to UNIFIL from 1,400 to 500 soldiers because of severe casualties. UNIFIL sources indicated Monday that Ireland might pull its troops out altogether. Goulding held the SLA responsible for most of the UNIFIL casualties. He charged that it often "deliberately fires on UN positions."

The SLA claims that terrorists often use UNIFIL positions as cover and that UN casualties occur when their men are caught in cross-fire. The IDF said that while it supplies and trains the SLA it does not give it orders.

O'CONNOR ANGERED BY CRITICAL STATEMENT OF 53 JEWISH GROUPS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- John Cardinal O'Connor was taken aback and visibly angered Sunday by a statement sharply critical of his conduct and remarks during his visit to Israel and Jordan last week. The statement, which expressed disquiet and distress about some of his remarks, was released Saturday. It was signed by the leaders of 53 major American Jewish groups, including community, rabbinical, Zionist and fund-raising organizations.

O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, told reporters after conducting Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, that he feared the "fruits" of his trip and his meetings afterwards at the Vatican could be "destroyed" by the response of the Jewish organizations.

He expressed "deep, deep disappointment" at the statement. "I hope there is nothing in that statement that will make it more difficult than it has been for me in trying to support the Jewish cause," he said.

He described his trip to the Middle East as the most difficult he ever made, one that involved "great personal and professional risk." He went to Israel "in good faith," the Cardinal said.

Trip Fraught With Controversy

The trip was fraught with controversy and embarrassment. The Cardinal was forced to cancel appointments he had made with Israeli leaders because Vatican policy which does not recognize the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, forbade him to meet with them at their offices in Jerusalem.

He did meet, however, with President Chaim Herzog at the Presidential residence in Jerusalem and with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the latter's home. The Cardinal apologized profusely during his trip for any offense he might have given the Israeli people and their leaders and faulted himself for failing to recognize the ramifications of the constraints placed upon his movements by Vatican policy.

The Jewish leaders said in their statement that they were "disquieted and distressed" by remarks made by O'Connor sympathetic to the Palestinians and that they "found disturbing and painful" his statement at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem that the Holocaust "may be an enormous gift that Judaism has given the world."

O'Connor was particularly stung by the latter criticism. He said he meant it as "an enormous compliment to the Jewish people ... If this is considered demeaning to the Holocaust, then it demeans my entire theology because mine is a theology of suffering," he said.

He also said that the compassion he expressed when visiting a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza was not meant as an indictment of Israel. "I said repeatedly that this was not to be blamed on Israel," the Cardinal declared, adding that the blame rests on the entire Middle East. Both Arabs and Jews are "involved and responsible." The Israel government promptly dissociated itself from the statement by the Jewish leaders. Barukh

Binah, press spokesman for the Israel Consulate in New York said Sunday that "It was an American response and not an Israeli response."

The statement acknowledged that the Cardinal has been an outspoken foe of anti-Semitism and a strong supporter of Jewish causes, particularly the struggle of Soviet Jews for civil rights and the right to emigrate.

O'Connor, however, saw the statement as a whole as amounting "to a unilateral censure, which I do not appreciate and which makes it difficult for me to move farther toward peace. Serious damage could be done if this line is pursued," he said.

O'Connor Sent Flowers To Israeli Official

Ironically, O'Connor last week sent flowers to Israel's Consul General in New York, Moshe Yegar, thanking the Israeli official for having helped arrange his trip to Israel. The Archbishop sent the flowers upon his arrival in Rome through his New York office. A handwritten letter by O'Connor accompanied the flowers sent "in gratitude for your wonderful assistance" in arranging the Israel visit. Yegar was instrumental in arranging the details of the Cardinal's trip from the beginning.

According to an Israeli official here, O'Connor's aides kept Yegar regularly informed throughout the Cardinal's stay in the Mideast. "The flowers and the letter to Yegar are a clear sign that the Cardinal came out from his visit to Israel with a good feeling," the Israeli official said.

COURT ORDERS PRISON OFFICIALS TO LIFT PUNISHMENT IMPOSED ON VANUNU
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem District Court ordered the authorities at Ramle prison Monday to lift the punishment imposed on Mordechai Vanunu, the former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility currently on trial for passing secret information to a British newspaper.

Judge Zvi Cohen instructed the authorities to return Vanunu's Walkman radio and his books. They were confiscated after Vanunu managed to flash a message to reporters alleging that he had been kidnapped in Rome by Israeli agents on September 30. The message, printed in ink on the palm of his hand, was displayed to reporters when he was driven to court last month to be remanded in custody for the duration of his trial.

Judge Cohen, hearing an appeal by Vanunu's attorney, ruled that the prison authorities acted beyond their responsibilities by confiscating the radio and books. But he upheld their decision not to allow the prisoner newspapers.

He also dismissed Vanunu's complaint that parts of two letters he wrote to persons abroad were deleted by the prison censors. Cohen said the deleted portions contained information from closed sessions of the court and were therefore subject to censorship.

HUSSEIN WARNS OF CHAOS UNLESS MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS IS SPEEDED UP
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan, warning of chaos unless there is speedy movement in the Middle East peace process, urged Monday the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participa-

tion of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and "all those concerned by this problem, including the Palestinians."

"Something must be done rapidly. Otherwise, all hope will be lost and the entire region will be plunged into a chaotic situation," Hussein said in an interview with *Le Monde*, published as the Jordanian monarch arrived here for an official three-day visit.

He was greeted at Orly Airport by President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac, both of whom he will be meeting later during his stay. Hussein is expected to urge France and other Western European countries to convene a preparatory conference on the Middle East at the earliest moment.

According to Arab diplomats here, Hussein will call on France and Western Europe to persuade the United States not to veto an international peace conference. The U.S. and Israeli leaders are opposed to any forum that would replace direct Arab-Israel negotiations and reintroduce the Soviet Union into Middle East affairs.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy reiterated Washington's position in Cairo Sunday at the end of a Middle East tour that took him to Jordan, Israel and Egypt. He called for direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Hussein told reporter here he has discerned no visible changes in Israeli policy since the rotation of power last October when Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir replaced Laborite Shimon Peres as Prime Minister.

He also said that despite his break with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat last February, after a year of fruitless efforts to agree on a common negotiations formula, he still recognizes the PLO as "the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

CABINET TRYING TO REACH ACCORD ON NEXT FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The Cabinet convened Monday evening in an all-out attempt to reach agreement on a budget for the next fiscal year. The session, expected to last well into the night, was preceded by a meeting of the four-member Ministerial Economic Committee consisting of Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Economic Coordination Minister Gad Yaacobi.

The Ministers and their aides reportedly grappled with the Defense Ministry's adamant opposition to any further cuts in the defense budget, an issue which will now be addressed by the full Cabinet.

Nissim was said to have backed off from his original 180 million Shekel cut in defense expenditures but insists on a minimum reduction of 80 million Shekels. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin remains firmly opposed. Shamir and Peres are also opposed to significant defense cuts but Shamir conceded last week that some cuts were unavoidable. Another battle shaping up is over the education budget. Education Minister Yitzhak Navon said the proposed cuts were too drastic and he would vote against them. Navon has the backing of elementary school teachers who have threatened a strike if the cuts are made.

Peres held last-minute talks with trade union leaders and industrialists before the Cabinet convened. He was hoping to put together a package of wage and price restraints to enable the Treasury to proceed with its planned tax reforms and restructuring of the capital market.

Treasury sources said Monday that they still hoped to cut the top income tax brackets from the present 60 percent to under 50 percent. But the Treasury has apparently waived its ambitious plans to eliminate the myriad of exemptions and loopholes in the tax code, in face of strenuous opposition from Histadrut.

The labor federation seems neutral toward urgings by the Manufacturers Association for a devaluation of the Shekel which would stimulate exports. The Cabinet was expected to decide that issue Monday night in face of growing public concern. Rumors of devaluation triggered a buying spree in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Monday.

The main argument for devaluation is the growing gap in Israel's trade balance and a desire to maintain economic stability and Israel's greatly improved foreign currency reserves which amount currently to about \$4 billion.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar said Monday that the decision on devaluation was the government's alone. He said Histadrut would not object as long as wage-earners are compensated for the loss in buying power by cost-of-living increments. Some Treasury officials had hoped to persuade Kessar to forego part of the COL compensation.

Nissim promised Sunday that the government would take no steps "which could shake the stability of the economy." If the Shekel is devalued it is not expected to exceed 10 percent.

SHARON RAPS UNITY GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Ariel Sharon sharply criticized the Labor-Likud unity coalition government in which he serves as Minister of Commerce and Industry Sunday night and told a rally of 2,000 members of his own Herut Party that their leadership was "paralyzed."

Sharon, an outspoken Likud hardliner who advocates massive Jewish settlement of the administered territories, derided the unity government on that issue. He said this was the first year since the 1967 Six-Day War that no budget has been allocated to purchase land in the territories.

Speaking at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, he demanded the sort of education that would make Israeli youngsters proud Jews. He decried the "slackening of conviction in the exclusive right (of Jews) over all of Eretz Israel and the erosion of national pride."

"This is what leads to the weakening of the State more than any security or economic problem," Sharon said.

The Tel Aviv Fairgrounds was the site last March of an aborted Herut convention. The convention broke up in chaos as a result of a power struggle for party leadership between Yitzhak Shamir, then Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier, and Housing Minister David Levy. Sharon's faction aligned itself at the time with Levy.

In his speech Sunday, Sharon urged that the convention be reconvened at the earliest moment to instill new life into the Herut movement. "There is no need to wait for another two months," he said.

FUNDING ISRAEL OUTSIDE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS ATTACKED BY ZIONIST ASSEMBLY

By Winston Pickett

Staff Writer, Northern California Jewish Bulletin

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The American Zionist Federation (AZF) biennial convention here last week unanimously passed a resolution deploring allocation of Jewish community funds outside established channels.

The measure obviously was a reaction to the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation's (JCF) recent decision to bypass the Jewish Agency by allocating \$100,000 directly to projects in Israel -- even though the resolution did not cite the Federation by name.

Specifically, the resolution said the AZF "deplores any action by which public campaign funds of the community are disbursed outside the normal United Jewish Appeal-Federation allocations process."

Move Called Divisive

The resolution, one of 10 passed by 220 delegates from 16 American Zionist groups comprising the AZF, criticized the unusual allocation on the basis that "it tends to divide the community and the unity of the combined UJA-Federation campaign." It was a criticism that was echoed from the highest ranks of the international Zionist community and from the Jewish Agency itself through which funds raised by Federations in the U.S. (and by similar groups in other countries) are distributed in Israel.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, said the San Francisco's decision "was a very inconvenient move. It is a breach in the unity of the community's campaign. I urge them to abolish it."

Akiva Lewinsky, treasurer of the Agency and WZO, called the allocation a mistake, explaining that "if this were to happen on a grand scale, the Jewish Agency wouldn't be able to carry out its mandate."

Says Union Issue Is Not Applicable

When reached by telephone for a response, Rabbi Brian Lurie, executive director of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, said he appreciates the Zionist leadership's concern but does not think the unity issue is applicable.

"The \$100,000 constituted approximately one percent of our overseas allocation," he said, "compared to the more than \$9 million we've sent for projects within the UJA-Jewish Agency funding structure this year. If that's not a unified gesture, I don't know what is."

Last month, the JCF finalized plans to allocate \$100,000 for program to further democracy in Israel, including Arab-Jewish relations; improve Israel-diaspora relations; and encourage religious pluralism in Israel. The Federation's move, in the form of a one-year grant and stemming from a request by its Jerusalem-based all-volunteer board, was characterized at the time by JCF leaders as a signal to the Jewish Agency to alter its priorities.

These are areas of burning concern to Israelis and American Jews alike, and the ones that the Jewish Agency ought to address, the JCF leaders said. But it was the earmarking of separate funds that clearly upset the AZF leadership assembly here.

For Benjamin Cohen, AZF president, the Federation's action represents the beginning of a "trend of Federations who want to decide on their own how they want to spend their money." That, he said, constitutes "the first step in breaking up an effective process" of fund-raising in the United States."

According to Lurie, however, the Federation's decision fits the pattern of giving that has been established by American Zionist organization themselves. "I find their objection interesting," he said, "when in fact major movements under the AZF umbrella earmark funds for their own projects all the time."

Problem Can Be Resolved

Despite their objections to the JCF's action, the Zionist leaders interviewed here seemed confident, however, that the problem of separate funding can be worked out. "This is essentially a family issue and one which can be resolved," said Milton Shapiro, president of the Zionist Organization of America, which initiated the AZF resolution, although he noted that the JCF's allocation will have an "adverse effect" on community fund-raising.

Rabbi Reuben Katz of the American Jewish League for Israel, who chaired the committee that drafted the AZF resolution, said, "We're not censorious but think it was a breach of Zionist discipline. We're not going to take action against fellow Jews who are working for the good of Judaism."

SHAMIR TO MEET REAGAN NEXT MONTH

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is scheduled to meet President Reagan February 17 at the White House, a spokesman for the Israeli Consulate here said Monday.

According to the spokesman, Shamir will arrive in New York February 15 to begin a 10-day U.S. visit with meetings and appearances in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and Houston. The spokesman stressed, however, that the Premier's itinerary is not complete and many changes are likely to take place.

The main topic of discussion between Reagan and Shamir will be American-Israeli relations, the spokesman said. Asked if the Iran arms sales crisis will figure in the talks between the two leaders, the spokesman said: "Israel has already made its position known and said all it had to say on the issue."

Shamir's upcoming state visit is his first since he assumed the Premiership last October, replacing Shimon Peres, now Israel's Foreign Minister, under the terms of the rotation agreement. Shamir last visited the U.S. as Israel's Foreign Minister last September.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A gasoline bomb was thrown at an Israel Defense Force billet near the Patriarchs Tomb in Hebron Sunday night. It failed to ignite and caused no casualties or damage. A search of the area yielded pamphlets protesting the recent expulsion from Israel of Akram Haniye, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic newspaper A-Shaab.

**ISRAEL AGAIN DENIES INVOLVEMENT
IN SENDING ARMS TO THE CONTRAS
AND INITIATING ARMS SALE TO IRAN**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Israel was forced once again over the weekend to reiterate forcefully that it was in no way involved in the shipment of weapons to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, and that it acted in American arms sales to Iran only at the behest of the United States.

A government spokesman said Sunday that Israel was prepared to answer any questions by the U.S. with respect to the Iran arms affair.

These responses were to reports that surfaced in Washington last Thursday and Friday alleging that Israel had in fact initiated the U.S.-Iran arms sale and was shipping weapons to the Contras last year, apparently on its own initiative.

'Distorted And Baseless' Information

Premier Yitzhak Shamir characterized as "distorted and baseless" information leaked from the unpublished Senate Intelligence Committee's interim report on the Iran arms sale that cast Israel in the role of initiator.

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who flew to Rome Friday morning for a 36-hour visit in connection with the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Italian Social Democratic Party, strongly denied any Israeli link to the transfer of funds from the Iranian weapons purchases to the Contras.

The matter came up briefly at Sunday's Cabinet meeting. Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein referred reporters to earlier official government statements disclaiming any link between Israel and Contra funding. Rubinstein also reiterated earlier official statements to the effect that Israel was only responding to an American request in the Iran arms deal.

"If the United States poses questions to us, we will answer those questions," Rubinstein told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

Shamir advised the Cabinet that the entire matter would be subject to detailed review by the Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud Ministers) which meets in camera. Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein urged that Israel hold a full-scale inquiry of its own to counter the reports coming out of Washington.

A Growing Concern

There is growing concern here and among Israeli diplomatic circles in Washington that leaks and disclosures in the Iran affair could harm U.S.-Israel relations. Israeli sources in Washington were quoted by Israel Radio Sunday as "fearing that Israel was now being made a scapegoat" by the White House.

The developments giving rise to these fears and putting Israel once more on the defense were:

The release by the White House Friday of two key documents on Iran policy. One was President Reagan's "Intelligence Finding" of January 17, 1986 authorizing clandestine operations by the U.S. government with respect to Iran.

The other document was a briefing memorandum to Reagan by his then National Security Advisor Admiral John Poindexter, which stated that an emissary of then Premier Shimon Peres came to Washington with "a plan by which Israel, with limited assistance from the U.S., can create conditions to help bring about a more moderate government in Iran."

A media report Thursday stated that Reagan was told by his advisors last September that American intelligence had detected Israeli arms shipments to the Contras. Congressional and Administration sources were reported to have seen a White House memorandum on that subject.

No Indication For Israeli Motives

Reagan was said to have been advised of the alleged Israeli weapons shipments to the Contras on the eve of a White House meeting with Peres last September. According to the sources who purportedly saw the memorandum, Reagan was advised by his aides to thank the Israeli Premier. But the subject appears not have come up at their 60-minute meeting on September 15.

There were no indications in any of the reports what Israel's motivation could have been for allegedly unilaterally arming the Contras. One source alleged that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin favored Contra aid.

A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Ehud Gol, issued a statement Thursday saying: "We can only reiterate our previous unequivocal denial. Israel has not sold, delivered or transferred arms to the Nicaraguan Contras. The subject never came up in the conversation between President Reagan and Prime Minister Peres."

Poindexter's Memo To Reagan

Israel has yet to address itself directly to the content of Poindexter's memorandum to the President. It stated, in part:

"The Israelis are very concerned that Iran's deteriorating position in the war with Iraq, the potential for further radicalization in Iran and the possibility of enhanced Soviet influence in the Gulf all pose significant threats to the security of Israel. They believe it is essential that they act to at least preserve the balance of power in the region.

"The Israeli plan is premised on the assumption that moderate elements in Iran can come to power if these factions demonstrate their credibility in defending Iran against Iraq and in deterring Soviet intervention.

"To achieve the strategic goal of a more moderate Iranian government, the Israelis are prepared to unilaterally commence selling military materiel to Western-oriented Iranian factions . . . The Israelis are convinced that the Iranians are so desperate for military materiel, expertise and intelligence that the provision of these resources will result in favorable long term changes in personnel and attitude within the Iranian government . . ."

"As described by the Prime Minister's (Peres) emissary, the only requirement the Israelis have is an assurance that they will be allowed to purchase U.S. replenishments for the stocks they sell

to Iran . . . "The Israelis are also sensitive to a strong U.S. desire to free our Beirut hostages and have insisted that the Iranians demonstrate both influence and good intent by an early release of the five Americans . . . Prime Minister Peres had his emissary pointedly note that they well understood our position on not making concessions to terrorists . . ."

The memorandum did not name the Israeli emissary but described him as the Prime Minister's "special advisor on terrorism."

White House Deletes Segments Of Report

In another development Thursday, the White House acknowledged that it had deleted information about high level U.S. contacts with Israel from the unpublished Senate Intelligence Committee report. One deletion concerned Vice President George Bush's meeting in Jerusalem last July 29 with an Israeli counter-terrorism expert, Amiram Nir, at which U.S. hostages in Beirut were discussed.

Another deletion was a letter to Reagan from an unnamed head of state. According to media reports, the letter was from Peres urging the President not to give up on his arms to Iran policy and assuring him it would eventually succeed.

BANK LEUMI PROBLEMS CONTINUE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Banking sources predicted Sunday that the entire Board of Directors of Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, may soon resign or be forced to resign.

One Board member, Amnon Goldenberg, a prominent lawyer, announced his resignation over the weekend and others are expected to quit in the wake of mounting protests over the excessive severance pay and pension awarded the bank's former chairman, Ernst Japhet.

Japhet stepped down last spring after a commission of inquiry found him and the heads of Israel's four other largest banks culpable in the 1983 bank shares scandal. Japhet was awarded \$4.5 million in severance pay and a \$30,000 a month pension.

The Board, at a special meeting last Thursday, agreed that the payments were unseemly. Leon Dulzin, Governor of the bank, but not a Board member, said he ordered the pension suspended. The severance payment had already been made.

Bank Leumi employes staged a one-day strike Friday to protest the deal. Hillel Arbel of the employes committee said Japhet should return the money.

Japhet, meanwhile, left for New York Sunday on private business. He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that he was not fleeing and would be back. But the banking tycoon has troubles on another front. His former wife Ella, whom he divorced five years ago, filed suit in Tel Aviv District Court last week for higher maintenance payments. The court promptly attached half of Japhet's assets.

Ella Japhet told the court that her former husband cut her maintenance payments after his resignation from the Bank Leumi on grounds that he was no longer a bank executive but only a "pensioner."

DEFENSE MINISTRY NIXES VISITS BY TWO LEADING PALESTINIANS TO A MIDEAST SYMPOSIUM AT SAN DIEGO U.

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- The Defense Ministry has refused to allow two prominent Palestinians to attend an international symposium on the Middle East at the University of San Diego in southern California next week. The ban apparently does not apply to three other Palestinians invited to the symposium.

The two denied permission to leave are Mustapha Abd A-Nabi Natshe, the former Mayor of Hebron, and Fayez Abu-Rahme, a lawyer from Gaza. Security sources said there was concern they would use the occasion to meet with hostile elements but did not elaborate.

Natshe and Abu-Rahme were to have been part of a large Israeli delegation. The invitees include Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee; Knesset members David Libai and Shulamit Aloni; Prof. Shimon Shamir, a leading expert on Middle East affairs; Hanna Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily El-Fajer; Hatem Abu-Ghazale, a Palestinian educator from Gaza; and Dr. Sari Nusseibeh of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank.

The Defense Ministry was reported under pressure from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to lift the ban. Eban is to discuss the matter Monday with the other Israeli members of the delegation.

BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBER SENTENCED BY NABLUS MILITARY COURT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- A faculty member of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank was sentenced to 39 days' imprisonment and given a six-month suspended sentence by a Nablus military court Sunday for failure to cooperate with police during the December 4 sit-down strike at the university and the rioting which followed.

The sentence, handed down by the military judge, Col. Zeev Lison, corresponded to the time the defendant, Saleh Abdul Jawad, was held in detention pending trial. Lison rejected a prosecution demand that Jawad, a 34-year-old senior lecturer in history, serve two months in jail.

The defendant had pleaded guilty to failure to obey army orders to disperse the strikers and refusing to show his identity card to a policeman. Charges of inciting to riot were dropped.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Finance Minister Moshe Nissim announced a 320 million Shekel cut in his proposed budget for the next fiscal year, apparently ending the month-long debate on the issue. He made the announcement at the end of a meeting of the Ministerial Economic Committee at the Finance Ministry Sunday. The new budget retains an education tax and subsidy cuts. But a car tax in effect for the past two years will not be extended.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

SHIITE TERRORISTS RENEW
THREATS AGAINST LEBANESE JEWS

By Dr. George Gruen

(Editor's note: Dr. George Gruen is director of Middle East Affairs of the American Jewish Committee.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- The radical Shiite Moslem group that has claimed responsibility for kidnapping and killing seven Lebanese Jews in the past 21 months has now stepped up its campaign of terror by again threatening to kill all remaining hostages unless its demands are met.

What makes this particularly ominous is that the renewed threat by the self-styled "Organization of the Oppressed (Mustadafin) in the World" was delivered to the Beirut paper An-Nahar on January 6, only a week after the terrorist group had announced the execution of three Lebanese Jewish hostages.

The Shiite terrorist group contended that the men had been executed because they were "spies for the Israeli Mossad" who had supplied Israel with information on the Islamic Resistance, a coalition of Lebanese anti-Israeli groups. The timing of the latest executions, it declared, was "in retaliation for Israel's attacks against the south and western Bekaa (Valley) and the terrorist attacks against our people in occupied Palestine."

(A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry responded that "the gratuitous murder of three innocents reveals the true nature of terrorist movements in Lebanon," and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed that Israel would seek out and punish "these barbarians" who again had "used defenseless Jews as a means of hitting at Israel.")

The Latest Victims

The latest victims were reported to be Elie Srour, an electrical engineer, near 50, who had been kidnapped on March 28, 1985; Youssef (Joseph) Benesti, 33, kidnapped in mid-May 1985; and Henri Menn, a man in his fifties who lived alone in Moslem-controlled west Beirut. Until the publication of Menn's photograph and the announcement of his "execution" by the Organization of the Oppressed, there had been no information that he had been abducted.

(There had been reports earlier this month that another man named Elie Srour, 68, had been executed. But this man, a pharmacist, is alive and well in Paris.)

Fanatical Group Is Deadly Serious

The kidnapping and murder of Menn provides further evidence that this fanatical group was deadly serious when it first declared, on December 28, 1985, that it would strike against other Jews "on whom we may lay our hands" unless its demands against Israel were met.

That threatening statement was issued at the time of the murder of the first two hostages: Haim Cohen, 38, a department store accountant, on December 24, 1985; and Prof. Isaac Tarrab, 70, a retired professor of mathematics, whose body was found at the end of the month.

Neither Cohen nor Tarrab was involved in partisan Lebanese politics or in the Arab-Israel conflicts in any way. Indeed, it was precisely because they felt themselves deeply rooted in Lebanon that they and the other Jews who have become victims of Shiite terrorism remained behind when the vast majority of Lebanese Jews

emigrated either to Israel or to join relatives in other countries during the decade of turmoil that has engulfed Lebanon.

Dr. Rosemary Cohen, the sister-in-law of Haim Cohen, has declared that he "was given the opportunity to go to Israel. But he did not want to go so as not to have to face the possibility of killing his Arab friends."

A neighbor and former student of Tarrab stressed to me that he was not a Zionist and in fact had virtually no connection with Jewish life. "He was not interested in anything but his figures and his pipe." The killing of this gentle old man, she said, was "a senseless death."

Diverse Backgrounds Of The Victims

The kidnap and murder victims are of diverse backgrounds and ages. They have only two things in common: they were known to be Jews and they had the bad fortune of living in west Beirut, which made them targets of opportunity for the radical Moslem elements. (There are fewer than 10 Jews in west Beirut and about 70 in east Beirut.)

The third murder victim was Ibrahim Benesti, 34, the brother of Joseph. Ibrahim's body was found by the police on February 19, 1986. The coroner's office reported that he had been shot twice and strangled. The body also bore signs of torture and beatings to the head. Both Ibrahim and the father of the two men, Yehuda Benesti, 70, had been kidnapped earlier in February.

It is tragically ironic that when Joseph had been abducted the previous May, the father at first did not report the disappearance to the police, because he believed that his friends and customers of his shop within the surrounding Shiite and Palestinian communities would discreetly intervene on behalf of his son and secure his release.

The fourth victim was Dr. Elie Hallak, 58, vice president of the Lebanese Jewish community. Hallak was one of the four Jews kidnapped over the last weekend in March. Reportedly, armed men in uniform had dragged him from his home on a Friday night, during the Sabbath meal. His "execution" was announced in a statement published on February 19 in the Lebanese press.

The Organization of the Oppressed said that it would not release his body until Israel "stopped its criminal operations" in southern Lebanon, withdrew from "all of the occupied territories" and released "all our brothers detained in Khiyam," a South Lebanese Army detention camp.

The same conditions were reiterated by the group when it refused to release the bodies of the latest three victims. It is speculated that the bodies have not been released either because the Shiite terrorist group does not want to reveal evidence that it had also tortured them or because they may have been killed some time ago.

'He Was Totally Apolitical'

Rachel Hallak still vainly hopes that her husband may yet be alive. In public appeals to the kidnapers, she has stressed how her husband, a noted pediatrician, was known as "the doctor of the poor," because he would not collect fees from those who could not pay, "whatever their religion."

His patients included many Shiites in Beirut and in the villages of the south. His neighbors, she writes, all "could bear witness that he was totally apolitical, for the simple reason that his profession had shaped his entire life." (In fact,

one of his patients was the son of a prominent PLO leader.) The Organization of the Oppressed has stated that it is still holding the following persons: Isaac Sasson, 66, the president of the Lebanese Jewish community, who was kidnapped on March 31, 1985 on his way from the airport in west Beirut on his return from a business trip for the pharmaceutical firm he directed; and Yehuda Benesti, whose two sons were among those murdered by the group.

It is generally believed that the group may also be holding Salim Jammous, 56, the secretary-general of the Lebanese Jewish community, who was abducted near the synagogue in west Beirut on August 15, 1984. Nothing is known of the whereabouts of Clement Dana, an elderly man who lived alone and disappeared in April 1985.

The formation of a worldwide group under the name of "the Party of the Oppressed" was suggested by Ayatollah Khomeini during a meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister on August 16, 1979, in which Khomeini declared it to be "the same as the 'Party of God' (Hezbollah.)"

At a memorial meeting in New York on January 8, 1986 on behalf of the first two Jewish victims, the Rev. Joseph O'Hare, president of Fordham University, poignantly declared: "It is once again a cruel irony that the murderers of Haim Cohen and Isaac Tarrah should dare to call themselves representatives of the oppressed of the world. No greater human oppression is possible than the reduction of individual human beings to nameless symbols whose lives are snuffed out in some sterile political gesture."

**JEWISH GROUPS EXPRESS DISTRESS
OVER SOME REMARKS O'CONNOR
MADE DURING HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP**
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- A statement issued Saturday night by 53 major Jewish organizations said the leaders were "disquieted and distressed" by statements sympathetic to Palestinians that John Cardinal O'Connor made during his Middle East visit.

The statement noted that O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, failed to understand all sides of the Palestinian issue, although this was one of the motivations behind Israel's invitation to O'Connor.

"The Cardinal was understandably moved by the circumstances of the Arab refugees. But the refugee problem must be understood in the context of the deliberate policy of Arab states, some prodigiously wealthy, that has kept these people as refugees and in a dependent condition for nearly 40 years, serving as pawns in a war that the Arab world continues to wage against Israel. By contrast, Israel has resettled more Jewish refugees from Arab lands than there were displaced Arabs," the Presidents' statement said.

O'Connor said he was shocked by the conditions in a Gaza refugee camp he visited and contended that Americans stereotyped Palestinians as terrorists.

Earlier last week, some Jewish leaders praised O'Connor for his ecumenical statesmanship in working out a way to meet Israeli President Chaim Herzog and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in their Jerusalem homes.

The statement Saturday also noted that "Cardinal O'Connor has shown himself to be a strong voice against anti-Semitism and a supporter

of a number of causes to which Jews are devoted, especially that of Soviet Jewry.

"We recognize that the Cardinal is bound by Vatican policy concerning Jerusalem, and we note the sincerity of his apology for the misunderstanding that developed. But we were nevertheless disquieted and distressed by reports in the press of statements he made during the course of his visit to Jordan and Israel."

O'Connor's visit highlighted the two critical issues relevant to Middle East peace and closer Catholic-Jewish relations, the statement said.

"First, the failure of the Vatican to establish *de jure* diplomatic relations with Israel . . . Second, the failure of the Holy See to come to terms with the reality of a unified Jerusalem as capital of Israel."

The signatories represented virtually every major Jewish group in the nation including community, rabbinical, Zionist and fund-raising organizations.

**RECORD ISRAEL BOND SALES
OF \$603 MILLION IN 1986**

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- A total of \$603 million in cash proceeds for Israel's economic development, which represents an increase of \$98 million over 1985 results and close to \$200 million more than 1984 sales, has been announced by the Israel Bond Organization.

The announcement was made by David Hermlin of Detroit, international campaign chairman, and William Belzberg, national chairman, who described the 1986 accomplishment as "the most productive Bond campaign by far in the 35-year history of our organization."

They declared that the \$603 million response in 1986, which included sales of Israel Bond securities in the United States, Canada, and countries in Western Europe and Latin America, "demonstrated the continuing partnership with Israel by Jewish communities in all the countries where we conduct our Bond effort. In addition, it expresses the confidence of thousands of institutional investors, including banks, pension funds, and employee benefit funds, in Israel's economic future."

The Bond leaders praised the president and chief executive officer of the Bond Organization, Gen. Yehudah Halevy, "who was responsible for this great success and for the excellence of his leadership and management of the campaign all over the world."

In a cable to Israel Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, they joined with Halevy in "expressing the hope that our outstanding 1986 results will help Israel move forward from the economic stability achieved this year to further new growth."

In addition to its record Bond sales in 1986, the Bond Organization, in response to a request by the government of Israel, volunteered to accept an additional task and under its auspices, a total of 131 delegations, of which 107 were synagogue groups, visited Israel during the past year.

There will be no Bulletin dated January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a postal holiday.

**PERES: ISRAEL MIGHT NOT BE AVERSE TO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST TALKS IF IT EASES PLIGHT OF ITS JEWS**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres indicated here Thursday that Israel considers Soviet action to ease the plight of Jews in the USSR more important than the restoration of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union.

He hinted that such action could ease Israel's objections to Soviet participation in an international conference on Middle East peace. Israel is not averse to Soviet participation, he said, but Moscow must "pay the price" by making its own peace with Israel, and Israel's top priority is the rights and well-being of Soviet Jews.

Addressing an audience of Anglo-Jewish leaders, Peres recalled that Israel raised that issue at the brief meeting between Israeli and Soviet representatives in Helsinki last August and the Russians were furious that a small country dared to lay down conditions to a superpower.

The Russians wanted to discuss the status of Russian Orthodox Church properties in the Holy Land, Peres said. "Aren't people more important than property?" he asked. "We hope they (the Soviet leaders) will change their attitude toward Russian Jews. Then we won't place so much importance on having Russian diplomats in Ramat Gan." Ramat Gan is a suburb of Tel Aviv where many embassies are located.

Peace Process With Jordan

Peres also stressed the need to maintain the impetus of the peace process with Jordan. He claimed that Israel has "paved the way" by modifying its policies in the West Bank.

The Israeli Foreign Minister called for British and European economic aid to Jordan and other Arab countries of the Middle East suffering economically from the drop in oil prices. "At the gates of hunger you'll always have an assembly of bitterness and revolt," he warned. He referred also to the Iraq-Iran war which he called a no-win situation.

"Victory for Iran will pose a religious menace for the Arabs. If Iraq wins, it will be a religious menace to the (Arab-Israeli) peace process," Peres said.

Meeting With Thatcher

He delivered his address before going to meetings with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and with leaders of other political parties. Thatcher is preparing to visit Moscow in about six weeks and Peres is apparently seeking her good offices to probe Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's attitude toward Israel.

But his main purpose of meeting with Thatcher is apparently to build on the good relations he established with her when he was Prime Minister of Israel during the first two years of the unity coalition government.

THEATER CANCELS ANTI-SEMITIC PLAY

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- The Royal Court Theatre announced Wednesday night that it has cancelled the presentation of a play which depicts Zionists as collaborators with the Nazis in the mass destruction of Hungarian Jewry during World War II.

The play, titled "Perdition," was due to open shortly for a five-week run at the prestigious West End theater. It was withdrawn following angry protests by the Jewish community and by scholars and historians who branded it a vicious travesty, after reading the script.

The playwright, Jim Allen, is a Trotskyist who makes no secret of his antipathy for Zionists though he claims to be pro-Jewish. "Perdition" is based loosely on the desperate attempts of Jewish leaders in Budapest to save Jewish lives by offering the Nazis trucks and money during the last year of the war.

Dr. David Cesarani, a London University historian, called the play "one of the most serious examples of anti-Semitic thinking seen in this country for many years. It revives the anti-Semitism that goes back to 'The Merchant of Venice'."

Allen called the cancellation "an absolutely disgraceful form of censorship" and accused the Royal Court of succumbing to pressure. The cast also deplored the cancellation. Allen is reportedly looking for another theater to stage his play.

ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM DROPPED 7 PERCENT IN 1986, ADL SURVEY SHOWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Acts of anti-Semitic vandalism, including bombings and arson, directed against Jews, Jewish institutions and property totaled 594 across the United States in 1986 -- a drop of 7 percent from the 638 incidents reported in 1985.

Assaults, harassment and threats against Jewish individuals and institutions showed virtually no change in 1986 -- a total of 312 such incidents as against 306 reported in 1985.

These were the principal findings of the annual audit conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and made public Thursday. The survey described as "troubling" a rise in serious anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses, up from 12 in 1985 to 19 in 1986.

According to Burton Levinson, ADL's national chairman, the overall 1986 figures reflect a general downward trend in anti-Semitic incidents over the past five years which "in all likelihood is due to passage of anti-bias crime laws, more vigorous law enforcement and counteraction programs." In the past few years, 29 states have adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing ethnic vandalism, many of them based on ADL model legislation.

The ADL audit revealed that New York, with 186 vandalism incidents (down from 199 in 1985)

led the nation, followed by Florida with 79 (up from 47 in 1985), California, 62 (down from 85) and New Jersey, 48 (down from 74). Fifty-seven arrests were reported in connection with 33 vandalism incidents across the country compared to 78 arrested in 48 vandalism incidents the year before. As in past years, the overwhelming number of those arrested were in their teens.

Particularly noted was the fact that despite efforts by anti-Semitic extremists to scapegoat Jews for the economic hardships of farmers, the number of vandalism incidents in the Midwest's major farm states remained low and showed no significant change.

Incidents On College Campuses

The 19 anti-Semitic incidents reported on college campuses included the vandalizing of succahs at four colleges, the defacement of Jewish student property, the painting of anti-Semitic graffiti on campus buildings, and harassment of Jewish students stemming from friction with supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization and other anti-Israel groups.

Noting that the anti-Semitic incidents took place against a background of recent increases in racial incidents on campuses, the audit said that "any expression of prejudice or atmosphere of intolerance toward any minority at any education institution merits urgent action."

The ADL's survey, the eighth since 1979, was based on data reported in 33 states and the District of Columbia as gathered through the monitoring activities of the agency's 31 regional offices.

The audit report was prepared by the Research Department of the ADL's Civil Rights Division headed by Justin Finger.

In a section on counteraction, ADL described a new legal approach taken by Shaare Tefila, a Maryland synagogue, which was defaced by anti-Semitic graffiti and is seeking damages under the Civil Rights Act of 1866 that bans racially motivated discrimination. ADL has filed an amicus curiae brief in the case which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

ORT DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) has developed some innovative programs for certain segments of the population in countries where ORT operates, according to a report by American ORT Federation (AOF) president Alvin Gray, which he will present at the organization's national conference here on Saturday.

Gray, who will complete his four-year term in office at the conference, cited a series of courses recently developed in Israel available to the police force, ultra-Orthodox communities, youth groups, and prison inmates whom the staff of the ORT institute teach under a pilot program in conjunction with the Israel Prison Authorities and Hebrew University.

The courses, conducted by the ORT Institute for Adult training in the ORT Israel network, the largest ORT operation worldwide, tailors many programs to new immigrants from underdeveloped countries who may have been denied a formal education. Courses, designed to give them a second chance to learn or to change occupations, are conducted on a continuing basis in fields that include Jewish studies, computers, electricity,

electronics, mechanics and accounting. Discussing the program involving prison inmates, Gray said the project provides advanced education and skills training to 400 prisoners in six jails who have successfully completed basic courses in reading, writing and mathematics. ORT staff members go to the prisons five times a week to teach Hebrew, history, civics and a foreign language, usually English.

ORT has also introduced a basic course in technology which enables graduates to join technical training programs after their release from prison. Upon completion of the program, inmates receive a certificate of graduation from ORT which enables them to compete with other high school graduates when they seek employment.

According to Gray, ORT Israel also provides assistance to troubled high school dropouts in over 50 Israeli towns through an innovative program called HILA. Conducted by ORT in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Education and Culture and local municipalities, HILA provides basic education and skills to high school dropouts aged 15 to 18, one-third of whom have difficulty in reading and writing.

Study sessions take place at students' homes, community centers, or at ORT schools, and are planned for afternoons and evenings to avoid conflict with the students' work schedules. The study program, which varies in length from three months to a year, is planned individually for each participating youngster according to his or her potential, knowledge and field of interest. The curriculum is jointly planned, thus involving the students as active participants in the learning process.

New ORT School To Open In 1988

According to Gray, construction of the ORT Braude Institute of Technology in Karmiel, Israel, due to open in January 1988, is proceeding on schedule. Located in the Western Galilee, the Institute will provide high-level technological education in computers, electronics, robotics, energy studies, bio-technology, electro-optics and the pure sciences. The Braude Institute honors the memory of the late Max Braude, director general of the World ORT Union from 1957 to 1980.

Gray noted that recent additions to the ORT Israel network include: the ORT program at Habonim Comprehensive School in Bat Yam, offering both liberal arts and technical studies; the ORT school in Katzrin, formerly a junior high school, which has expanded to become a regional comprehensive high school; the new ORT Apprenticeship Center at Kiryat Malachi, which offers training in computers, auto mechanics, electro-mechanics and sewing; and a new ORT junior high school program in Karmiel, slated to expand to a comprehensive high school in the near future.

During the four-day Conference, which began Thursday, some 500 delegates from AOF chapters and divisions throughout the U.S. will participate in discussions geared to determining the future direction of support for the ORT global network of schools and training centers, which provide vocational, technical and Jewish education to over 158,000 student, 87,000 in Israel alone.

The guest speaker at the conference banquet will be Prof. Ephraim Katzir, newly elected president of the World ORT Union and former president of Israel. In his report, Gray described the work of ORT in countries around the world.

In Latin America there are 13,800 students in Argentina, 8,800 in Brazil, 1,500 in Chile, 3,300 in Mexico, 5,000 in Peru, and 7,900 in Uruguay. In France, ORT educates 8,500 students and in Italy ORT students number 4,500. Gray said that in France, at the request of the Ministry of Employment, ORT set up vocational training courses for long-term unemployed, geared toward the needs of local industry and commerce.

According to Gray, ORT's growing presence in the United States is increasingly in the area of adult and continuing education. At the Bramson ORT Technical Institute in New York City, which provides training in technology-intensive fields such as biomedical electronics, computer operations and advanced optics, more than 400 percent of the student population is over the age of 25.

The Los Angeles ORT Technical Institute, which began its second academic school year in October 1986, offers short-term courses in hi-tech skills as well as Jewish studies to adults looking for a new career or a fresh start in life. The Jewish High School of South Florida continues to pioneer programs for integrating computer education into all aspects of the curriculum.

WIESEL REFLECTS ON THE STATE OF WORLD JEWRY

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel delivered his State of World Jewry address to a packed house at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan Wednesday night and expressed his concern about the disunity within Jewish ranks.

"I am disturbed by the inner process of polarization," he reflected, "... by the rancor and hatred ... the turning of politics into religion or religion into politics." He observed that "Even Hillel and Shammai sat down at the same table together ... and let their children intermarry ... We need to know that we are brother and sister. Somehow, this isn't so. Have we forgotten our tradition of tolerance?"

In this vein, he struck a chilling chord by linking the issue of the failure of Allied leaders to save Jews during the Holocaust -- a word which he coined but which he said he doesn't like anymore -- and the problem of disunity among Jews. "So little was done to help Jews during the war," he said, "because there was so little unity among the Jews themselves."

His address, which also dealt with Israeli-diaspora relations, Soviet Jewry and international terrorism, was delivered with his usual fervor but was also punctuated with levity and wit.

During the question period, Wiesel was asked for his definition of "Who is a Jew." His response was: "To me, a Jew who links his destiny to the destiny of his people is a Jew. I don't need to go further." But he also observed that "I cannot imagine a Jewish people without a religious commitment."

Israel And The Diaspora

The world-famed author and lecturer and winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize addressed himself at length to the relationship between Israel and diaspora Jewry and the resistance of Israelis to accept as fact Jews who don't wish to live in Israel. This rift, he said, puts diaspora Jewry "on the defensive." "The diaspora poses problems," Wiesel reflected. As a child growing up in the Carpathian mountains, "Had anyone told me

there would be a Jewish State, I would not have believed it. But had anyone told me there would be a Jewish State and I wouldn't live there, I'd believe it even less."

The dual pull in the Jewish psyche is troubling, he agreed. "We have to constantly confront this. And there is no answer. I admit it," he said. "The Israelis resent us... What does it really mean that someone should be measured by where he lives?"

"Sure," he said, "the diaspora is unnatural to Israel," but, he asked, "What do we do with the self-imposed obligation to help Israel?"

Matters in Israel, he said, are as important to Jews in the diaspora as events happening on the next street. But as residents of the diaspora, "Do we have the right or duty to take a position on Israel's policies?"

Cautiously Optimistic About Soviet Jewry

Wiesel spoke also about Soviet Jews, who are united in the Soviet Union against a common oppression, "united with a solidarity that is inspiring."

He expressed cautious optimism about the situation of Soviet Jews, but did not refrain from criticizing the Soviet regime. "True," he said, "the Kremlin has harshened its position, but some refuseniks have been freed." Soviet Jews now know, he said, that "they are not abandoned They are not in danger of disappearing," he said. We know "how to touch them, to reach them."

He was optimistic about several aspects of the plight of Soviet Jewry, including the fact that there are now reportedly only a dozen Prisoners of Zion, and that the anti-Zionist propaganda machine has lost much of its clout. "If it's not heartwarming," he said, "at least it's not so terrible."

He spoke less of the Holocaust than expected, noting, however, that "the subject that was once taboo for so many years" is now a focal point. He mentioned "the new wave" in Germany "not to deny the tragedy but to normalize it--the philosophy of (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl and the new historians."

War And Terrorism

Wiesel warned against the evils of war for the world and especially for Jews, because "Whenever there is conflict between two nations, the Jews are their first victims."

In an era of terrorism, he said, Jews are singled out as hostages just because they are Jews. Citing the killings of Jews in Lebanon in the past year only because they happened to be Jewish, Wiesel read out the names of eight Jews murdered. "They should be remembered," he said.

Presented With An Award

Wiesel's concern for issues of justice beyond the Jewish garnered him an award Thursday morning, when he was presented with the Freedom Award of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) by IRC international vice president actress Liv Ullmann, "for his lifelong commitment to refugee assistance."

The IRC provides emergency medical health, education and relocation assistance to refugees in Pakistan, the Sudan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Central America and Europe.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
AN OLD MAN CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN
By Murray Zuckoff**

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- An old man who was the practicing Chief Rabbi of Lodz from the late 1940's to about 1979 wants to return for occasional visits to his home, but the Polish government won't let him.

Rabbi Zev Moreino, who now lives in Brooklyn and has a small congregation, says he doesn't know why the Polish government will not allow him and his wife to return. Friends and sympathetic legislators who have intervened on his behalf have not been able to get a straightforward answer from Polish officials, and, on the face of it, even Polish officials no longer seem to remember why he won't be allowed to return.

Moreino's and his wife's Polish passports have expired and the Polish government refuses to renew them. Both retain their Polish citizenship and a huge apartment in Lodz with hundreds of books that are moldering.

'To Fulfill My Holy Obligations'

The Polish-born rabbi, described by some as an outstanding intellectual, with an acerbic wit, a prolific writer who is prone to disputations and vitriolic prose when attacking enemies, and a champion of lost Polish Jewish causes, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he wants to return to Lodz occasionally "to fulfill my holy obligations" to the roughly 350-member congregation he left behind some 15 years ago when he came to the U.S. after strikes of the Gdansk port workers toppled the autocratic leader of the Polish Communist Party, Wladyslaw Gomulka.

The tall, gaunt, intense, white-bearded rabbi who is well into his 70's, said that until five years ago he was able to visit Lodz for a few weeks each year to meet with his congregation but that his passport has since expired. He said that as Chief Rabbi of Lodz he was also the president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland and claimed that as the only ordained Orthodox rabbi he was also, by extension, the Chief Rabbi of Poland.

Since he can no longer return, there is neither a Chief Rabbi nor a community religious leader. "I am being persecuted without having been tried," he said, "nor is there any seeming motivation for being deprived of the opportunity to return," he said in Yiddish, Hebrew and in faltering English.

Dispute With Polish Authorities

But there does seem to be a reason, albeit unofficial and unspoken, for the Polish government's refusal to renew his passport. A student of the Lodz Jewish community who met the Chief Rabbi in Lodz and in New York and spent considerable time talking with him, said that Moreino and Polish authorities had been in dispute over a number of issues.

According to the student, Moreino has been involved over the years in a campaign to have the Polish government pay compensation to the Jewish community for hundreds of buildings which were owned by Jews before World War II but which were declared "heirless" after the war. Moreino feels that compensation for these properties--former schools, hospitals, communal buildings Talmud Torahs -- should be paid to its rightful

owner to be used as needed to revitalize Jewish education and culture.

According to the student, Moreino has also criticized the Polish government for its insensitivity to Jewish needs, not only for its attitude toward the former Jewish properties but also for its neglect of Jewish cemeteries, many of which are in a state of disrepair. Moreino also crossed swords with government bureaucrats. The student cited one small incident:

An official of the state-owned telephone company came to Moreino's home one morning to tell the rabbi that he would not install a long-awaited phone. Moreino, dressed in the traditional garb of an Orthodox rabbi, stood his ground. He argued with the man in fluent Polish for a few minutes and convinced him to install a phone right there and then.

Appeals On Behalf Of The Rabbi

Earlier this month, New York City Councilman Noach Dear urged Mayor Edward Koch to look into the rabbi's situation while visiting Poland this week where his parents were born. Dear wrote to Koch pointing out that the refusal of the Polish government to renew Moreino's passport "is an intolerable discrimination not only in regard to the Chief Rabbi and his Rebbetzin, but also in respect to the entire Jewish population in Poland, deprived of the services of their one and only rabbi in that country."

New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind also appealed to Koch to intercede, noting that the rabbi's plight might be construed by some "as an effort to liquidate the only rabbinic office in Poland."

Moreino and his supporters in the U.S. have pointed out that the rabbi is asking no more for the Polish Jewish community than that accorded in other East European countries where Jewish communities have their own leaders and spokespersons. Moreino cited Rumania specifically where the Jewish community has a Chief Rabbi and spokesperson in the government, Moses Rosen. After all, Moreino reflected, it's not too much to ask for.

**2 SENIOR IDF OFFICERS
DISCIPLINED IN CONNECTION
WITH THE DEATH OF A UNIFIL SOLDIER**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Two senior officers of the Israel Defense Force have been disciplined as a result of the death of an Irish UNIFIL soldier by Israeli tank fire in the south Lebanon security zone on January 10, the IDF announced Wednesday. The officers were not identified.

In addition to the disciplinary measures, the nature of which was not stated, the IDF has reportedly issued new operational instructions to its units based on lessons learned from the incident and is examining new methods of identifying and safeguarding positions and personnel of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Irish soldier, Dermot McLaughlin, 33, was killed when an Israeli tank squad opened fire on suspected terrorist positions in Barashit village where a UNIFIL command post is located. Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy called the incident a "shameful mistake." Meanwhile, McLaughlin's widow angrily rejected an Israeli offer of 60,000 Pounds in compensation. She called it "arrogant, insensitive and ill-timed." McLaughlin was the father of five children.

KOHL SAYS THE HOLOCAUST SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED NOR BELITTLED BY THE GERMAN PEOPLE

By David Kantor

BONN, April 8 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in his strongest public statement on the Nazi era, called the crime of genocide against the Jews a crime "unprecedented in history," declaring "we should keep alive the memory of the full extent of that terrible past" and "will oppose any attempts to dismiss them from our thoughts or belittle them."

The Chancellor's remarks, at a luncheon Tuesday in honor of the visiting President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was seen as a warning against attempts by some West German scholars to equate the Nazi extermination of Jews with other crimes in modern history and by neo-Nazis to rewrite history by claiming the Holocaust never occurred.

"The period of genocide is the darkest chapter in German history," Kohl said. "We Germans have to live with the terrible truth that in the days of National Socialism the Jews were subjected to unspeakable suffering at the hands of the Germans . . . It is part of our self-image that we keep alive the memory . . ."

Kohl ended his speech with a toast "to Israel's future in peace and self-determination." But he made clear that West Germany and Israel differ on approaches to Middle East peace.

Bonn strongly supports an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Chancellor said. "We welcome the fact that the idea of an international negotiating forum is gaining increasing acceptance in Israel. The positions are still far apart, but there are encouraging signs," he said.

He also reiterated Bonn's long-standing support for the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

Herzog, responding, said Israel's realities were all too often poorly perceived. He cited the participation of Israeli Arabs in the political process, the daily contacts between Israelis and Egyptians and the heavy traffic between Jordan and Israel over the Jordan River bridges.

Alluding to possible West German softness on international terrorism, Herzog warned: "Terrorists are united. Their victims are not. Terrorists know no boundaries nor do they respect sovereignty. Israel will not compromise with terrorists and will hit at the sources of international terrorism, of which the Palestine Liberation Organization is a major element."

Herzog and Kohl met privately before the luncheon. Their meeting was described by both Israeli and German sources as "very constructive," though differences remain on the peace issue--and on possible West German arms sales to Arab countries still technically in a state of war with Israel.

PERES HAS 90-MINUTE PRIVATE MEETING WITH TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS

ROME, April 8 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had a 90-minute private

meeting with two senior Soviet officials here Tuesday night. An aide to Peres, Israel Gat, said the meeting was "very important" but declined to give details, saying it was premature to talk about results or progress.

The Soviet officials are Karel Bruten and Alexander Zutov, both close aides to Anatoly Dobrynin in the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's international affairs department. Bruten has been described as the Soviet Politburo's top expert on the Middle East.

According to Gat, Peres told the Russian officials that diplomatic relations must be restored between the Soviet Union and Israel to pave the way for an international conference on Middle East peace.

Bruten and Zutov were invited as observers to the conference of the Socialist International which opened here Wednesday. On Tuesday they, along with Peres, attended a close meeting of the International's Middle Eastern affairs committee which discussed prospects for an international peace conference.

That meeting was also attended by two Palestinian observers, Hanna Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr, and Abu Rahme, a lawyer from Gaza.

Peres met with the Soviet officials shortly after arriving here from Madrid following a two-day official visit to Spain.

EBAN DEFENDS U.S. JEWS AGAINST CHARGES IN ISRAEL THAT THEY REACTED FEARFULLY TO THE POLLARD SPY CASE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 8 (JTA) -- MK Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, sharply criticized Tuesday night charges made recently in Israel that American Jewish leaders reacted fearfully to the case of Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for Israel.

He said that American Jews are entitled to differ with Israel, charging that the critics of American Jewry hurled "condescending platitudes" without really knowing or understanding the American Jewish community.

Eban, who is also the chairman of the special intelligence subcommittee investigating Israel's role in the Pollard affair, spoke at the Pierre Hotel where he was awarded the 1987 International Shazar Prize of the Israel Historical Society.

In his speech, Eban did not mention the Pollard affair. But his remarks were clearly aimed at Shlomo Avineri, a distinguished Israeli scholar and academician, who triggered controversy last month when he charged that American Jewish leaders displayed a "galut" mentality in their reaction to the Pollard case. Furthermore, Avineri accused the American Jewish leaders of "cringing" for fear of charges of dual loyalty, thereby belying "the conventional wisdom of American Jewry feeling free, secure and unmolested in an open pluralistic society."

"Do not believe anything of it," Eban told the more than 300 guests attending the affair. "Everybody knows it is not true . . ." he ex-

claimed. To begin with, Eban said, the analogy between American Jewry and any other "galut" is wrong, because there is no same Jewry around the globe. "There is American Jewry, French Jewry, or Moroccan Jewry, and each is different," he observed.

Claiming that "American Jewry deserves the dignity of being studied" by its Israeli accusers, the veteran diplomat, who served as Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. and the UN, said that Israel and the American Jewish community "are the two superpowers of world Jewry."

American Jews "have the right to their opinions" and they do not have to be "docile" toward the Israelis, Eban said. "We ought not say to you, give us your money and don't worry us with your thoughts."

Turning briefly to other issues, Eban said that Israel, entering the fifth decade of its independent life, no longer faces the danger of physical destruction. But he said Israelis should be "inspired by history," not "bewitched" by it, as many were in the wake of the military victory in the Six-Day War in 1967. He called for a sense of "proportion and restraint" to reach a realistic view of Israel's position and alternatives in the Mideast.

Eban received the International Shazar Prize, named after the late Israeli President Zalman Shazar, for his acclaimed book and television series, "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews." The award was presented to him by Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel, and Prof. Salo Baron, the distinguished Jewish scholar and historian.

History Deals Justice To Jews

In his remarks before presenting Eban with the award, Wiesel noted that history has a way of dealing justice to the Jews. "Look," he said, "all the people who were involved in the Bitburg affair are no longer in the White House, except for one. But our President is never really involved in anything." Wiesel was referring to the controversial trip of President Reagan to a German military cemetery in Bitburg where Nazi SS troops are buried.

The event Tuesday night was sponsored and organized by the American Association for the Shazar Center.

SLEPAKS, ON 13TH DAY OF HUNGER STRIKE IN MOSCOW, SAY THEY ARE ACHIEVING THEIR PURPOSE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 8 (JTA) -- Vladimir Slepak and his wife, Maria (Masha), were in the 13th day of their 17-day hunger strike in Moscow Wednesday--one day for every year they have been denied exit visas. Slepak told Israel Radio in a telephone interview that they are achieving their purpose to focus world attention on the plight of refuseniks.

They are not being harassed, he said, but they have been forced to move further and further away from the Supreme Soviet building where they have been holding a half-hour vigil each day.

Tractors driven on the sidewalk edged them away from the spot. "They told us to move further away, to the corner, two buildings away," Slepak said. "But there we had no obstacles. We stood with our slogans." He said on Tuesday "there were many correspondents and television

cameramen and there were also many of our refusenik friends. Today (Wednesday) there were fewer people, apart from the refuseniks supporting us." He said he and his wife would end their hunger strike on April 12, the eve of Passover, "because the next day will be the seder."

Slepak, who has been denied an exit permit on grounds that he was once privy to state secrets, said, "I may be going to the U.S. Embassy for the seder with (U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz. I was told I may be invited to the American Embassy (for the seder). I was told Shultz wants to come and sit at the seder table."

In Washington, where the Slepaks' son Alexander is also on a 17-day hunger strike on Capitol Hill, it was confirmed Tuesday that Slepak is one of the refuseniks invited to the seder at the Embassy and that Shultz, who will be in Moscow at the time, will attend.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEDER

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 8 (JTA) -- A huge communal Passover seder was held Tuesday night here for the hundreds of Soviet Jews who will not be permitted to openly observe the holiday.

More than 300 individuals, including a host of members of Congress, former refuseniks and White House officials, gathered for the meal. Many assisted in reading portions of the special Haggadah that interposed portions of the traditional text dealing with the exodus of the Jews with references to the plight of Soviet Jews.

The guests, symbolically invited in the Kiddush to "come and dine," included refuseniks Yakov Levin, Yuli and Tanya Edelshtein, Vladimir and Maria (Masha) Slepak and Ida Nudel. A chair was left empty at each table and everyone was given a card and bracelet with the name of a refusenik.

"Our task on this seder night is to recount the story of the exodus from Egypt," said Rabbi Yitzhak Greenberg of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership who led the seder. "Had God not redeemed us, we would still be enslaved. Others have not yet been redeemed. Our task is to do God's work."

The Four Questions asked during the seder were followed by former refuseniks Leon Charney, David Goldfarb and Leonid Slepak, Vladimir and Maria's son, asking why it is forbidden in the Soviet Union to study Hebrew, emigrate or celebrate Jewish holidays.

Four drops of wine spilled for the ten plagues of Egypt were followed by more drops spilled for the suffering of Jews in the Soviet Union brought on by the loss of freedom, education, speech, identity, religious expression and emigration to Israel.

Cantor Misha Raitzin, a former refusenik, said when he was a teenager in Siberia he conduct a seder in private by taking four pounds of potatoes and dividing them into portions to represent the different courses of the meal.

"No one could know about this, it was very forbidden," Raitzin said. "I'm sure there are many Jews who are conducting a Passover seder secretly. Hopefully their dream will come true and they can conduct the seder as we do in freedom."

The special seder, chaired by Richard Ravitch, concluded with the traditional plea for "next year in Jerusalem."

**ISRAEL LOOKS FORWARD
SETTLE HERE, SETTLE HERE**
By Murray Zuckoff
(Part Three Of A Five-Part Series)

JERUSALEM, April 8 (JTA) -- On a clear day one can see forever. And forever is the vast expanses of the Galilee in the north, with its sloping valleys and hills, kibbutzim and moshavim, border towns and development towns.

Forever is also the Negev in the south, with sand dunes and deserts areas, the salt-laden Dead Sea, Bedouins who continue to live in tents and shacks tending their flocks of goats and sheep as they graze on whatever edibles there are, and other Bedouins who have resettled in urban environments like Beersheba and Rahat where they strive for a new future while holding on to old traditions.

Many areas in the Galilee and Negev are forlorn and desolate, waiting for the human element to complete them. Highways, roads and byways run through both regions like veins, seeking to become part of an organic whole. Motorists drive through the areas but, unless they are local residents, they are usually on the way from nowhere to the excitement of the big cities. Both regions are in desperate need of more people.

Where The Future Is

But for all that, a visitor to the Negev and Galilee is immediately told by the natives that the future of Israel is in both regions. "It's not jut a place to visit, it's a place to settle," is the effusive affirmation. The same enthusiasts agree that both regions have been largely neglected by Israelis, new immigrants to the country, and the government which is more intent on having the West Bank populated than the Galilee and Negev.

Ben Carmel, Secretary of the Histadrut Labor Council in Beersheba, the capital of the Negev which has recorded an amazing growth in the last 20 years, told a group of visitors, "If Israel is to offer new opportunities, it's here in the Negev and the Galil. This is the future and it needs to be worked at." But, he added, "We are failing. We lack the vision and ardor to populate the Negev and the Galil. It's much more attractive and exciting to live in big cities. But Israel is not just Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa."

Menachem Perlmutter, head of the Jewish Agency's rural settlement department, engineering division in the Negev, pointed out some problems involved in settling the area.

"It is more than reclaiming land and building houses. It requires a great deal of work both in terms of the structure and superstructure: electricity, roads, pipeline for water, transportation facilities, educational and health facilities, diversified crops, and investment to build up related industries. There is not enough industry to provide jobs for settlers. We're getting some industry, but not enough."

Shlomo Drori, head of the information department of the Dead Sea Works, noted that "Unfortunately, sending people to the Negev was stopped during the last 10 years because of the government's Judaea and Samaria policy. We want more people in the Negev, but to get more people we also need more employment opportunities, more industry, more high-tech industry, textile, clothing, electronics. We have natural resources, but we lack the human resources." Orly Gilat, head of planning and implementation of the Galilee for

the Jewish Agency's settlement department, stated that there are two settlement priorities: the central Galil and the Negev. "Unless we do something urgent in the Galil it won't exist for us anymore," she said. "It is more important to assure a beachhead in the Galil against the Arabs than settlements in the West Bank which only aggravate Arab-Israeli tensions."

Anger Over Neglect And Indifference

People in the Negev and Galil are angry over what they perceive to be the attitudes of indifference and neglect regarding the two regions in favor of the West Bank. There is also anger over the neglect by the government of the development towns which were populated haphazardly by dumping mostly Sephardic Jews, and more recently Ethiopian Jews, in a process that became known as "reluctant pioneering."

Industry failed to be attracted to the areas because a requisite labor force was lacking. Investment capital remained in the larger cities, far from the Negev and Galilee. David Ben Gurion's dream to see the Negev settled has remained a dream. This year the call to settle the Negev is little more than a gimmicky slogan with which to commemorate the centennial of Ben Gurion's birth.

Despite the problems, Negev and Galil officials and residents emphasized the same message: we need more settlers, more industry, more capital. We are not the end of the world. The Negev and the Galil are the foundries in which the future links of Israel will be forged. And people in both regions pointed out that in spite of everything, there are exciting developments in both regions

Far-Reaching Region 2000 Plan.

One of the more ambitious and far-reaching undertakings designed to attract settlers to the Galilee is Region 2000 (Hevel Alpa'im). It began several years ago when Prof. Ephraim Katzir, the fourth President of Israel and a renowned scientist, was appointed the head of a government commission to bring 100,000 Jews to the region and to develop one of the world's most sophisticated science-based industrial parks.

Katzir called the program "something of a dream." But he added that it was "a vision of such extraordinary appeal, that it compels us to give it our most serious attention. It envisages life in tomorrow's society in which man will be able to draw upon the limitless possibilities generated by a post-industrial technology in order to shape a better world.

"For those of us who love this land, there is an added dimension...We see the unspoiled beauty of the Galilee and the chance to enhance its potential by attracting to it the cream of Jewish youth from Israel and the diaspora."

Region 2000 is planned for the Western Galilee and covers an area of about 12,500 acres. The region, according to Gilat, will be a thoroughly integrated system of commerce, industry and social organization. In addition, a comprehensive communication system will be established to ensure efficient highway links to work and community facilities such as hospitals, schools and shopping districts.

"The geographic pattern of the existing settlement system is heterogeneous and haphazard," Gilat said. "The area includes some 45 Jewish settlements with a population of 28,000 people, and 24 Arab settlements with a population

of 150,000. These settlements are dispersed throughout the entire region, and vary considerably in their physical layout, their demographic characteristics, their economic base and their organizational structure."

One of the planning objectives, she said, "is to establish a framework within which the various elements of the region will function as an integrated unit." The responsibility for the project's planning was assumed by the Jewish Agency's settlement department.

Importance To Israel's Security

Gilat and others stressed the importance of the Galilee to Israel's security. Demographic changes in the region are one of the most serious problems facing Israel.

While the ratio of Jews and Arabs in Israel is 5 to 1, in central Galilee it is 1 to 6 in reverse. In some regions, such as the mountains around Sfad, Arabs outnumber Jews 2 to 1.

There is, therefore, concern that a national minority gaining a clear numerical majority in one region could form the basis for a separatist movement.

A great deal of Arab expansion in the Galilee is illegal, according to Thalma Duchan, chief of the Jewish Agency's planning team for the Galilee. Jews and Arabs alike must have building permits and build according to a master plan under Israeli law. "Nevertheless, there are today about 10,000 illegal Arab dwelling units in the Galilee. Demolition of illegal structures is not being carried out, as it would be in other areas and municipalities, because in the Galilee it becomes a national problem with strong political implications."

Region 2000 is a plan whose time has come. Vision now has to be converted into reality.

Harnessing The Resources Of The Negev

Meanwhile, the natural resources of the Negev are being harnessed. Scientists, researchers and agronomists have responded to the challenge of developing the region which comprises two-thirds of the State of Israel. They have developed techniques and agricultural practices that have been adopted in the world's most advanced countries as well as in developing nations. These technique and practices have helped California farmers to optimize their high vegetable crops through drip irrigation and have aided Kenyans to adapt newly modified methods of run-off farming.

The Negev, with its natural assets of abundant solar radiation, warm temperatures, large tracts of land suitable for grazing, and the availability of brackish and saline water, potash, chloride, bromine and phosphates, has become a miniature laboratory in the conquest of the desert.

Major enterprises and scientists at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, the Desert Meteorology Unit of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, and the Sde Boker Midrasha (college) are directing research efforts to finding ways by which the arid and semi-arid Negev, and all arid zones throughout the world, may be populated.

There is experimentation in agricultural chemicals, in commercial uses of potash, bromine and bromine compounds -- raw materials required for the production of chemical fertilizers needed by advanced agriculture -- and in solar paneling to generate electrical energy. The Dead Sea, for

example, has an estimated billion tons of recoverable chloride and bromine, enough for 3,000 years at the world's current rate of consumption.

Scientists are also experimenting with salt-tolerant crops that help desert farmers to irrigate with saline water sources below the surface of the Negev. Other research is exploring the development of a water carrier that would channel the Negev's underground water supply, thus utilizing about 300 million cubic meters of water annually. Off-season vegetables are a big industry in the Negev and there are experiments with tomatoes that will have a longer shelf life and with square tomatoes that can be boxed easier.

A joint project between the Department of Atmospheric Sciences of the Hebrew University and the Blaustein Institute has begun to experiment in cloud seeding. Another area of investigation is that of the microclimate of the desert, necessary for determining conditions for desert agriculture, human comfort and the siting of desert buildings. In order to promote the settlement of the Negev, the Jewish Agency's rural settlement department has prepared a five year plan to help develop agro-industry and the economic climate of the region.

The developments in science and technology, in politics and social relations in the country tend to pale, however, in comparison to an undertaking that has already radically altered cities and people.

(Tomorrow: Part Four)

HASIDIC LEADERS MEET WITH REAGAN

NEW YORK, April 8 (JTA) -- Leaders of a Hasidic community in Brooklyn who met with President Reagan at the White House, said the President pledged that the United States will continue to welcome Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and extend refugee status to them.

According to Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum who participated in the meeting last week, Reagan was responding to Rabbi Hertz Frankel who, in a message on behalf of the Grand Rabbi of Satmar, said the Jewish community was grateful to the President for "reaffirming the basic human rights of Jewish immigrants to be given a free choice to settle in the country of their desire when leaving the Soviet Union."

Expressions Of Appreciation

Frankel said, "We hope that the American government will continue to extend refugee status to all Jewish immigrants leaving the Soviet Union." Kestenbaum, who is executive director of the Opportunity Development Association (ODA) in Brooklyn, also thanked the President for supporting the recognition of Hasidim as a disadvantaged minority. He said this helps them to participate actively in the American economic mainstream.

Kestenbaum expressed appreciation for the establishment by the President of a Commission to Preserve America's Heritage Abroad of which he is an appointed member. He said the group is helping to protect and preserve the remnants of pre-war Jewish life in Eastern European countries.

Rabbi Zalman Leib Teitelbaum, son of the Grand Rabbi of Satmar, delivered the invocation which opened the meeting and recited special prayers for the President and the welfare of the nation.

**DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY PERES MAY MEET WITH SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS IN ROME WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS**

By Edwin Eytan

MADRID, April 7 (JTA) -- Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres may meet with two senior Soviet officials within the next 24 hours in Rome where Peres flew Tuesday afternoon to attend the conference of the Socialist International.

The sources said the meeting, Tuesday night or Wednesday, would be held under the auspices of the Socialist International's special committee on Middle Eastern affairs. The Soviet officials were identified as Karel Bruten and Alexander Zutov, both close aides to Anatoly Dobrinin in the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's foreign affairs department. Bruten was described as the man in charge of Middle East affairs in the Central Committee.

According to the sources, the meeting was arranged by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, a close friend of Peres and fellow-member of the Socialist International. Peres himself declined to comment prior to his departure at the end of a two-day official visit to Spain.

"If and when such a meeting takes place it will not be kept secret. Any such meeting will be announced," he said in reply to reporters' questions. Peres met here Monday with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. According to Israeli sources, the King promised to do what he can to advance Middle East peace and Gonzalez said Spain would use its contacts in the Arab world to try to advance the process.

Peres urged the Spanish leaders to support an international conference for Middle East peace, an issue that has sharply divided the Israeli government.

The Israeli Foreign Minister spent his final day in Spain touring Jewish landmarks in Toledo, a cradle of Spanish-Jewish culture 500 years ago. In pouring rain, he visited the city's two oldest synagogues, El Retreto, built in the 14th century and now a national monument, and Santa Maria de la Blanca, which dates from the 12 century and was converted to a Catholic church after Spain expelled its Jews in 1492.

VIOLENCE IN EAST JERUSALEM, W. BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Two Arabs were wounded in East Jerusalem and an Israeli was injured in Hebron as demonstrations in support of several thousand hunger-striking Arab security prisoners erupted into violence Monday. Thirteen arrests were reported as police used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators.

The hunger strike was called in the prisons to protest an alleged deterioration of conditions since a new prisons commissioner, David Maimon, took office. Arab sources said the strike was spreading. Israeli sources said it was sporadic. Maimon declared he would not give in to prisoners' demands.

The sympathy demonstrations were well organized. In East Jerusalem, Arab women rela-

tives of prisoners held a rally outside the Red Cross offices and later staged a sit-in. Another group of women marched from the U.S. Consulate to Damascus Gate. Eight were arrested. Police charged they stoned a police car, smashing its windshield.

A stone also smashed the windshield of an Israeli civilian car. The driver, who was armed, fired at the crowd wounding one Arab in the stomach and another in the arm. Police would not say whether he was apprehended.

Students from Bir Zeit University demonstrated outside the British consulate in the Sheik Jarrah quarter of East Jerusalem. Police dispersed them with tear gas and arrested five for alleged stone-throwing.

Security forces used tear gas to break up a demonstration at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus. In Hebron, an Israeli was injured by stones hurled at several cars.

ROSENNE; U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS 'HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER' DESPITE THE TENSIONS OVER POLLARD CASE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA) -- Meir Rosenne, who in June will return to Israel after four years as Ambassador to the United States, maintained Monday that relations between Israel and the U.S. "have never been closer" despite the Pollard spy case.

The discovery that Jonathan Pollard, a civilian Navy intelligence analyst, was spying for Israel will not have a "long-lasting effect" on relations, Rosenne said in response to questions at a luncheon of the Overseas Writers, an organization of diplomatic reporters.

However, he stressed this will be so only if those involved in the espionage operation are uncovered and the U.S. is convinced that the operation was unauthorized.

Rosenne noted that 15 months ago, when Pollard was arrested, many were not convinced that it was unauthorized, but now everyone knows that "unauthorized operations may take place sometimes." This was an apparent reference to the Iran-Contra affair.

The Ambassador said that Israel's cooperation with the U.S. in the Pollard case has been "unprecedented." In discussing the close relations between the U.S. and Israel, Rosenne said it was a two-way street. He noted that while Israel receives a great deal of financial aid from the U.S. -- \$3 billion in grants for economic and military aid this year -- the U.S. knows Israel is a reliable ally which has provided it with much technical information from captured Soviet equipment over the years.

At the same time, "there can be no identity of views on foreign policy between Israel and the United States," Rosenne stressed. He explained that the U.S. is a global power while Israel is a small country that since its existence has been surrounded by countries that want to destroy it as well as constant acts of terrorism against Israelis at home and abroad.

The envoy, who plans to return to Jerusalem for another post with the Foreign Ministry, also

discussed the peace process, Soviet Jewry and relations with the USSR, South Africa and Israel's relations with American Jews.

"We are very much interested to sign a peace treaty with all the Arab countries," Rosenne said. "We are ready to start negotiations with any Arab country that is ready to do likewise." He added that anytime Jordan is ready to negotiate, so is Israel "without any preconditions."

Issue Of International Conference

But when he was asked about Jordan's demands for an international conference, Rosenne said he could not discuss this since the Israeli unity government is divided about this issue.

Asked about President Carter's statement after his recent meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad that Syria is ready to negotiate with Israel through an international conference, Rosenne pointed to the memoirs of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

He noted that Kissinger reported that he had a long discussion with Assad in 1974 in which they agreed about everything for a Geneva conference. But when Kissinger asked Assad what date he preferred, Assad said it did not matter since he would not attend.

Rosenne also reiterated the Israeli position that the Palestine Liberation Organization cannot participate in any peace negotiations.

On The Camp David Accords

Asked for his personal views, Rosenne said the Camp David Accords, signed in 1978, "can be the basis" for advancing the peace process because it provides for negotiations between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Palestinians to negotiate "the future status of the territories."

He said if the accords had not been condemned by all the Arab countries the five-year autonomy period for the West Bank and Gaza would now be over, as well as the period, three-years after autonomy started in which the negotiations were to have begun.

Rosenne, who was Ambassador to France before coming to Washington, said part of the blame for this failure is due to the West European countries which condemned the Camp David Accords.

The Ambassador praised the U.S. for its efforts in the peace process but stressed that "the United States cannot replace any Arab state in the peace process." He said "any attempt to replace the parties will be counterproductive."

He noted that the major differences between Israel and the U.S. have arisen when there has been a peace proposal that did not include the Arabs as one of the negotiators.

Rosenne stressed that Israel wants the U.S. to have good relations with the Arab countries, but not to supply them with weapons. "Israel is opposed to any sale of weapons to any country that is in a state of war with Israel," he said.

Relations With The Soviet Union

On Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, Rosenne would only say that a Soviet delegation is expected in Israel soon and "we hope that an Israeli delegation will be able to go to the Soviet Union in the future."

He said that it was still unclear whether there has been any change in Soviet emigration policies. He said there are 380,000 Jews, including 11,000 multiple refuseniks, who have applied to leave the USSR.

On South Africa, Rosenne stressed that Israel has always opposed apartheid. He said Israel accepted the 1977 UN Security Council resolution barring any arms sales to South Africa, but like other countries interpreted this to mean existing contracts would be honored.

He added that Israel has a special obligation to the 120,000 Jews in South Africa, who have always supported Israel. He noted that many South African Jews have been jailed in the struggle against apartheid.

Rosenne said that the "link" between Israel and Jews in the U.S. and elsewhere is firm. He said American Jews have a right to criticize Israel, but only Israel is responsible for its own security.

ANGRY ARGUMENTS BETWEEN LIKUD AND LABOR OVER ISSUE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 7 (JTA) -- Labor and Likud leaders argued angrily Tuesday over whether their unity coalition government should be broken up because of sharply divergent views on an international conference for Middle East peace.

Much of the controversy centered on Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who is on a two-day official visit to Spain where, among other things, he is seeking support for an international conference. Premier Yitzhak Shamir told reporters here that Peres had exaggerated the importance of his trip and maintained that an international conference would bring "no salvation and certainly no peace."

Peres discussed that approach to Middle East peace with King Juan Carlos of Spain and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Monday. But Shamir noted that "Spain will not even participate in such a conference should it take place, nor does it depend on Spain if such a conference is convened or not."

Shamir added that "There is great exaggeration in presenting the entire trip (by Peres) as if it were intended for this issue." Last Saturday night, before Peres' departure for Madrid, Shamir startled observers here by stating publicly that he hoped the Foreign Minister would "not succeed" in his mission. Likud Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens accused Peres Tuesday of making his own foreign policy. "He should realize that under our system of government, ministers must act in accordance with government policies," Arens said.

Laborite Minister Ezer Weizman, who is acting Foreign Minister in Peres' absence, said the unity government should dissolve itself immediately because of irreconcilable differences between its partners and seek a new mandate from the electorate.

"How much longer should we go on with the main parties following divergent paths on the question of peace in the Middle East?" Weizman asked at a meeting with reporters in Nazareth Tuesday. But Finance Minister Moshe Nissim of Likud told Israel Radio that the differences over an international conference were not sufficient reason to break up the government.

Shamir, stressing that he is "opposed to the entire initiative" for an international forum, said he would not initiate a Cabinet debate on the issue because "its impossible to reach a decision given the present composition of the Cabinet." He added, "If Mr. Peres is interested, he can bring the issue before the Cabinet."

**ISRAEL LOOKS AHEAD
MISSIONS POSSIBLE**

By Murray Zuckoff

(Part Two Of A Five-Part Series)

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Israel is high-tech country. In 1974 it exported one percent (\$800 million) of its high-tech products. Within a decade it was exporting 30 percent (\$2 billion) annually. By 1990 that proportion is expected to leap by two-thirds.

In 1970 there were 3,000 engineers and applied scientists. By last year there were 12,000. Israel is producing the most advanced concepts in technology and software. Sophisticated science-based industries like Elscint, Tadiran, Scitex, Iscar and Elbit have become household words. These "Silicon Valley" companies are generating and regenerating communities around them and putting Israel on the world map of technology and science.

At Israel's present rate of technological and scientific development, there is a shortage of technological people to maintain the momentum. In the next 10 years, Israel will need 1,800 engineers but there will be a shortfall of 400 to 500 annually. But Israel is not standing still in the meantime.

New words and concepts are emerging more rapidly than they can become part of the Hebrew lexicon. There is a constant introduction of high-tech and scientific terminology such as microchips, fiberoptic high speed data transmission and distribution, computer-based diagnostic medical imaging, computerized electro-optical systems, genetic engineering, nuclear cardiology, and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) scanning.

Inter-Linked Uses Of High-Tech Products

A great deal of high-tech products in industry, science and medicine are manufactured with defense technology know-how. Civilian and military technical developments are by-products of each other's needs. These are interlinked and applied in both sectors.

For example, industrial, medical and print lasers, thermal imaging and image-intensification technologies are targeted at both the medical and military sectors. An interlinked refinement of some of these processes is the NMR which gives remarkable three-dimensional images of what is happening inside the human body, far beyond what the X-ray and CAT scanner can accomplish. Although NMR has been around since the 1940's, it was first applied to medical imaging only five years ago.

A World Leader In Various Fields

Israel is also a world leader in factory automation and computerization. Sophisticated missile technology is successfully being converted into labor-saving robots that are finding application in American garment plants. The robot feeds pre-cut fabric bundles to semi-automatic sewing and fusing machines and assists in making garment production completely automatic.

Computer-based imaging systems were put to use in the textile industry. By automating the conversion of color designs to magnetic tapes for electronically controlled knitting machines, the elapsed time required for patterned knitted goods was slashed from several weeks to minutes.

In the field of thermal imaging, cameras are being developed that can display a TV picture of inanimate and animate objects in the darkness of

the night, thick haze, dust or fog. The cameras, tested in the field and battle, are beginning to be used for civilian application in surveillance, and ultimately may be used in cancer detection.

Along with these developments, Israel has also become a world leader in agricultural breakthroughs such as drip irrigation, breeding of new crop strains which thrive on brackish or saline water, crop cultivation under plastic sheets, and growing fruits and vegetables with longer shelf life.

Helping Developing Countries

These innovations, and solar ponds and solar-driven turbines and generators, water conservation, and desert research and development, have been introduced by Israel into more than 100 countries, including the United States.

Israeli methods of agriculture and farming organized along kibbutz lines were introduced by Israelis in such diverse countries as Japan, and in Cuba in the early 1960's. Special turbines combined with solar ponds to generate power in some of the world's most desolate regions was pioneered in Israel.

The process of "humanizing" the desert by tapping its mineral resources and underground springs, and the exploitation of Dead Sea minerals to manufacture fertilizers and pesticides has also brought Israel to the attention of many developing countries with large desert areas.

Among other countries, Egypt and the People's Republic of China have expressed great interest in studying the methods of desert research developed by Israeli scientists. In the near future, efforts to make deserts habitable will become more pressing as populations grow and have nowhere else to reside except for the deserts.

All these developments have enriched Israel's economy by introducing revolutionary techniques to increase productivity and to provide for expanding domestic needs. It is changing the nature of the labor force in both industry and agriculture by requiring more and more technicians and science-oriented workers. It is providing a military edge to the country's security forces. It is helping millions of people in developing nations. And it is creating a world market for Israeli products and techniques.

Revolt Against 'Lo Chashuv' Syndrome

Other changes are taking place in social relations that are equally profound and far-reaching. The most radical change taking place is the revolt against the long ingrained "lo chashuv" (so be it, it doesn't matter) syndrome which has been the earmark of Israeli bureaucrats (p'kidim) and the myriad bureaucratic fiefdoms that infest all levels of life.

The anti-bureaucratic attitude is expressed in a demand for "accountability," a concept introduced into the country by Project Renewal, the vast undertaking by the government and diaspora Jewry to eliminate poverty neighborhoods and to restore "hatikvah" (hope) in the lives of its residents.

The assault on Israel's systemized bureaucracy is being led primarily by new immigrants from the United States and the Soviet Union. American immigrants, used to corporate efficiency, are askance at the wastefulness of a bureaucratic system which demeans and stultifies life. Soviet Jews, who were entrapped by their own bureaucracies, rebel against the Israeli version.

Israelis, who for all these decades had accepted the existence of p'kidim as a necessary and unalterable way of life, are also demanding an end to an uncaring and insensitive system with its maze of paperwork and red tape which requires that almost all daily transactions be carried out in quadruplicate, quintuplicate and sextuplicate, and waiting in endless, sometimes never moving lines, to distribute the paperwork to another pakid who rules his or her own roost.

The anti-pakid attitude is beginning to change the social process in the country. No institution is immune to criticism. The demand for accountability is aimed at the government, the army, postal system, hospitals, industry, unions, political parties and Zionist organizations. The "lo chashuv" syndrome is slowly beginning to wither away or is being swept aside. The dam broke with the Bank Leumi scandal earlier this year. It lifted a veil on an entrenched bureaucracy which answered to no one but itself.

Israelis who decry advice from afar and what they sometimes refer to as "meddling" in their country's affairs by Jewish representatives from the United States, actually welcomed their decision to move against a moribund bureaucracy in the Jewish Agency.

The move, which focused on Agency chairman Leon Dulzin who was caught up in the Bank Leumi scandal, caught the imagination of many Israelis who have had to deal with the Agency's p'kidim. They watched the shakeup, smiled mischievously, shrugged their shoulders and said, "Lo chashuv," meaning, in this case, it couldn't have happened soon enough.

Seeking Encounters Of The 'Chalutzic' Kind

There are many Israelis, young and old, who want the country to return to its "chalutzic" (pioneering) spirit, who want Israel to end its decades-long policies of drifting and haphazard planning, that it should implement the Zionist principles that guided the country's founders, to return to its Jewish roots, values and ethos. There is a search for answers --not gimmicks-- about the kind of society Israel should be. They are seeking the *raison d'etre* of Israel's existence, as a Jewish State, not just a state.

"Israel has been created mainly for a Jew like me," said Menachem Perlmutter, head of the Jewish Agency's rural settlement department, engineering division, in the Negev, and a member of the Board of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev. "I am a survivor of the Holocaust. I have a number on my left arm. I can't look back. If I look back, what do I see? I see the shadow of the gas chamber. I see crematoriums. For me there is only one answer: Israel."

Perlmutter said he was 16 years old when he was taken to Auschwitz. "Of a family of 53 persons, two remained --my brother and myself," he said. "My dream was to be a free and independent Jew who would be able to build a family. My generation had a beautiful challenge, a chance to create a home, a State. But we made a mistake. We were trying so hard to be Israelis that we forgot that we were Jews. The new generation has little Jewish feeling."

This problem is haunting many Israelis: while they welcome the rapid pace of super-industrialization, they are concerned that it may produce a generation of technocrats who will be Israelis but not Jews. Israelis are searching for new vistas, for new encounters of the chalutzic kind, for a way to realize old hopes and old dreams and to

combine them with new needs and new realities. They are seeking a new national agenda and many point to the Negev and the Galilee as the places in which to renew the pioneering spirit.

(Tomorrow: Part Three)

JEWISH LEADER SAYS HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE USSR WAS AIMED AT SEEKING TO ALLEVIATE SOVIET JEWRY PROBLEMS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA) -- One of the two Jewish leaders who recently visited the Soviet Union said Tuesday their aim was to seek an alleviation of the problems suffered by Jews in the Soviet Union.

This included the rights of Jews to emigrate and "the right to live as Jews within the Soviet Union which has been denied them since the (Communist) revolution," Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, told reporters.

He spoke after he briefed Secretary of State George Shultz on the meetings he and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, had with Soviet officials. Abram, accompanied by several other Jewish leaders, met for 30 minutes with Shultz, who leaves next week for the Soviet Union.

Abram said that it was stressed to the Soviets that American Jewish leaders wanted to "help them take the Jewish problem off the table as a source of tension and discussion between the East and West."

But he stressed that they were not putting their faith in any promises made by the Soviets but "on their performance."

Abram said that conditions had not improved for Jews in the USSR except that emigration figures are "up slightly." But he said that the Soviet performance should not be judged by the fact that 900-1,000 Jews are allowed to leave in a month over the smaller number for the same month last year, but against the 4,000 a month that were allowed to emigrate in 1979.

He said that the American Jewish community was against allowing any concessions from the Jackson-Vanik amendment until the emigration problem was solved.

Abram also said that it was stressed to the Soviets that Hungary remains a "socialist" country even though it allows it Jews to emigrate or to live their lives in Hungary as Jews.

Abram was accompanied to the meeting with Shultz by Martin Stein, national president of the United Jewish Appeal; Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations; Max Fisher; Elan Steinberg, director of the WJC American Section; Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive director of the Presidents Conference; Jerry Goodman, executive director of the NCSJ, and Mark Levin, the NCSJ Washington representative.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Diamond Institute has reported that Israel's exports of polished diamonds rose 26 percent during the first three months of 1987 compared to the same period last year. Value was up to \$510 million from \$406 million. Diamond dealers forecast a record year with sales of \$2 billion compared to \$1.7 billion in 1986.

ISRAEL REACTING CAUTIOUSLY TO REPORTS THAT THE USSR MAY PERMIT SOME 12,000 JEWS TO EMIGRATE OVER THE NEXT 9-12 MONTHS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) -- Israeli officials and Kremlin-watchers reacted cautiously to reports that the Soviet Union may be prepared to permit the emigration of some 12,000 Jews over the next 9-12 months and that they will be able to fly from Moscow to Tel Aviv, via Rumania, bypassing the traditional transit point in Vienna.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office insisted Tuesday that nothing had been finalized and observed that the number of visas allegedly promised by the Soviet authorities was tiny compared to the 400,000 Jews who are reported to be seeking emigration.

At the Foreign Ministry, however, officials stressed that every Jew allowed to leave the Soviet Union is an achievement. While hopeful that changes in emigration policy may be on the way, the officials cautioned that the reports which surfaced in New York Sunday and Monday have not been confirmed.

President Chaim Herzog, who was to leave Tuesday on an official visit to Switzerland and West Germany, was optimistic. He said reports from Moscow, together with other indications, pointed to a real change in Soviet attitude for which Israel should be prepared.

A spokesman for Premier Yitzhak Shamir flatly rejected suggestions of a connection between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's apparent new policies and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' support for an international conference on Middle East peace in which the Soviet Union would participate. "Definitely not," the spokesman said, adding that the Premier remains unalterably opposed to an international conference.

Main Achievements Of The Talks

The Foreign Ministry said the main achievement of talks held in Moscow between Western Jewish leaders and ranking Soviet officials was the institution of flights to Israel via Rumania. Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, told the Jewish Telegraphic in New York Monday that he had negotiated the new procedure last month in Moscow and Bucharest.

The Foreign Ministry cited talks held in Moscow last week by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Morris Abram chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Abram told the JTA Sunday that they had a "candid discussion on the subject of Soviet Jews in all of its aspects" with Soviet officials and were optimistic. He added that "events of the next few months will tell whether the optimistic mood in which we returned is justified."

According to Schneier, the flight via Rumania will bring Soviet Jews to Israel in greater numbers. They will not be able to obtain U.S. visas as they have done in Vienna until now. An

estimated 80 percent of Jews leaving the USSR via Vienna have opted to go to the U.S. rather than Israel although they carry Israeli visas.

Ready To Deal With Newcomers

Some officials here expressed concern over how Israel's strained economy will be able to absorb large numbers of Jews arriving from the Soviet Union. But Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur sees no problem. He said his Ministry was "ready, willing and able" to deal with up to 50,000 newcomers a year. "Let them come, we won't regret it," Tsur said.

He added: "We are very happy to hear about changes of the policy of Russia toward the Jewish question and about Jewish life in Russia. Our main hope now is to bring about the release of Prisoner of Zion from their prisons and to prepare ourselves for the possibility of their absorption here in Israel."

Various groups here active on behalf of Soviet Jews, which keep close tabs on events in Moscow, adopted a wait-and-see attitude to the reports of a more liberal emigration policy. Some suggested that Gorbachev might be moving too fast for his more conservative Kremlin colleagues and that "his days could be numbered."

Israel Radio reporters who telephoned Moscow to confirm the reports were told by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Genadi Gerasimov that he had "no details."

Jewish Agency officials said that even though the reports are yet to be verified, they have begun preparations to receive large numbers of Soviet Jews here within a matter of weeks.

SOVIET JEWRY ACTIVISTS IN U.S. EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT REPORT FROM USSR ON SOVIET JEWRY STATUS
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry activists in the United States expressed reservations Tuesday that a report that the Soviet Union has agreed to an increase in Jewish emigration by way of Rumania and for easing of restrictions on Jewish religion and culture.

Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, said that she is "deeply concerned" over the figure of 11-12,000 exit visas the Soviet Union is reportedly willing to give Soviet Jews this year. "This is only the very tip of the iceberg," she asserted, claiming that "we know of some 400,000 Soviet Jews who have already taken the first steps in applications for a visa."

"What is the future for them?" she asked. "What will happen to those who are refused exit visas on the ground that they hold state secrets? The headlines in the newspapers shout that Soviet Jews will be free, but many cannot get exit visas. And what will happen next year, after the 11,000 Soviet Jews emigrate, how many will be permitted to leave later? This is the question."

Singer charged that the new transit procedure for Soviet Jews of direct flights to Israel through Rumania is in violation of the Helsinki Accords. She argued that future Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union will no longer be able to

claim refugee status once they arrive in Rumania -- as they have been doing for years once they arrived in Vienna from the Soviet Union. "This is in clear violation of the Helsinki Accords," which give refugees the right to settle in the country of their choice, she said.

Statements By Three Who Were In Moscow

Morris Abram, president of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who have just returned from Moscow where they met with top Soviet officials, issued a statement here late Monday night announcing that the Kremlin has agreed to a meaningful increase in Jewish emigration in the following months.

In addition, Abram and Bronfman said, they negotiated with the Soviet authorities a new transit procedure for future Jewish emigrants who will reach Israel through direct flights from Rumania, an arrangements that would eliminate the phenomenon of noshrim (dropouts) -- Jews who leave the Soviet Union with an Israeli visa, but when they arrive in Vienna choose to go elsewhere, mainly the United States. Abram and Bronfman also said the Soviets agreed to ease restrictions on the study of Hebrew and on religious Jewish life.

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJCongress, who participated in the meetings Bronfman and Abram held in Moscow, told the JTA Tuesday that the Soviet officials agreed that all Jewish religious books from any sources will be permitted to enter and be distributed to Jews in the Soviet Union.

"The Soviets asked the WJC to draw a list of all religious books they want to send into the Soviet Union and submit it to them. They did not place any limits on the quantity of the books. They only objected to books of a political nature," Steinberg said. He said the Soviets also agreed to the opening of new synagogues in Jewish communities across the country and even agreed that rabbinical training will be given in Moscow and that rabbinical students from the Soviet Union will come to study in the United States.

'Deal' Is Sharply Criticized

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, national director of the Center for Russian Jewry/Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, sharply criticized the "deal" between the Soviet authorities and the Jewish leaders. "Abram and Bronfman are stabbing Soviet Jewry in the back," Weiss charged.

"The slight increase of immigration this month -- which is 12 percent of what it was per month in 1979, when 51,000 Jews were allowed to emigrate from the USSR -- is a ploy, an attempt to change the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Once this occurs," Weiss warned, "emigration can be brought to a virtual standstill."

Weiss was referring to Abram's announcement that he told Soviet officials that if Jewish emigration increased meaningfully, American Jewish leaders would support abolition of the Jackson-Vanik amendment which links trade with the Soviet Union with emigration of Soviet Jews and others.

Responding to claims that the Soviets will allow the study of Hebrew in the USSR, bringing in Hebrew books from abroad, the establishment of a kosher restaurant in Moscow and the ordina-

tion of rabbis, perhaps in the U.S., Weiss said, simply, "The Soviets have made many promises in the past that they've never fulfilled."

'Wait And See' Policy

Alan Pesky, chairman of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, said that his organization has decided to adopt a policy of "wait and see" in regard to the reports of increased Soviet Jewish emigration.

"We are not prepared to give away the store until words are translated into deeds. Nor are we about to leap for joy because of Soviet promises," Pesky said.

"There have been too many instances where promises made by the Soviets on this issue were not fulfilled. We must deal in reality not in fantasy and the reality is that hundreds of thousands of Jews who want to emigrate are still waiting to do so." Meanwhile, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry announced Tuesday that 470 Jews were given permission to leave the Soviet Union in March.

**U.S. VIEW ON SOVIET JEWRY DEVELOPMENT
By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA) --The Reagan Administration had no comment Tuesday about a reported agreement by Soviet officials to allow Jewish emigrants to fly directly to Israel through Rumania.

But Department deputy spokesperson Phyllis Oakley made clear that the United States was against any policy forcing Soviet Jewish emigrants to go to Israel. "It is long-standing United States policy that Soviet Jews should be able to immigrate to the country of their choice," Oakley said. "That remains our position."

The Administration rejected a request from Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, during his recent visit to Washington, that Soviet Jewish emigrants not be given refugee status which allows them to immigrate to the U.S.

Soviet Jews, all carrying visas to Israel, now emigrate from the USSR through Austria, where the majority decide to go to the U.S. and other countries rather than Israel.

Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, during a visit to Moscow last weekend reportedly were told that the Soviets would permit the direct flights to Israel via Rumania.

Oakley did not comment on assurances the two Jewish leaders received for increased Jewish emigration.

"We've noticed that on several occasions during the past few months, both in public and in private, Soviet officials have said that the emigration level would rise in 1987," she said. "By the end of March approximately 700 Jews will have arrived in the West this year. This is a good beginning, but there is still a long way to go. All who wish to leave the Soviet Union should be permitted to do so."

**LAVI SECOND PROTOTYPE HAS
SUCCESSFUL FIRST TEST FLIGHT
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) -- Prototype No. 2 of the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet

fighter-bomber, had its first test flight Tuesday. The manufacturer, Israel Aviation Industries (IAI), expressed satisfaction with the results but gave no indication of how the second prototype differs from the first model, which has undergone 23 test flights over the past two months.

Unlike previous Lavi flights, flown by IAI's chief test pilot, Menachem Shmul, the pilot Tuesday was an Israel Air Force combat veteran whose name was not disclosed. He put the second prototype through easy paces, cruising over central Israel at subsonic speeds of 150-350 mph. at an altitude of no more than 20,000 feet.

The Lavi development program calls for 1,800 test flights of five prototype models over the next three years. But the program is in deep trouble regarding costs. The U.S. Defense Department has urged Israel to abandon the Lavi because of estimated high costs in favor of an American-built plane such as the advanced F-16C. Many in the Israeli defense establishment agree.

IAI, meanwhile, is not relying on military orders. Its American representatives, Atlantic Aviation, announced Monday the sale of four more of its Westwind executive jets in the U.S. So, far 250 Westwinds have been sold in North America.

SOME 80,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON STRIKE TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RAISE TUITION FEES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) -- About 80,000 university students went on strike Tuesday to protest government plans to raise tuition fees. Several thousand massed outside the Prime Minister's Office Tuesday evening in what began as a peaceful demonstration and ended in a violent clash with police.

The students said they are prepared to pay the equivalent of \$800 a year. Education Minister Yitzhak Navon has proposed tuition slightly in excess of that amount. But the Finance Ministry insists that students will have to pay up to \$2,000 a year because the Treasury can no longer cover the costs of higher education at a lesser fee. University authorities warned that if the strike continues beyond April 10, when classes recess for the Passover holidays, the rest of the spring semester may have to be cancelled. Nevertheless, students at teacher training colleges announced they would join the strike Wednesday.

Thousands of students gathered outside the Knesset late Tuesday and began a torchlight procession to the Prime Minister's Office. They were blocked by police who became the targets of flaming torches and rocks. Two students were arrested. One was identified as Uri Ben-Hur, chairman of the Jerusalem Students Association.

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER SEES A 'BRIGHT FUTURE' FOR BLACKS AND JEWS WORKING TOGETHER IN AMERICA

ATLANTA, March 31 (JTA) -- Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., told a gathering of Conservative rabbis and Black leaders here Monday night that she saw "a bright future for Blacks working with Jews in America, despite what tensions might arise from time to time."

The gathering at Ebenezer Baptist Church, part of the 87th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, also heard calls for a revival of the Black-Jewish coalition which battled for civil

rights under the leadership of Dr. King more than 20 years ago.

Coretta Scott King acknowledged differences which have arisen since then between Jews and Blacks. "We disagree on affirmative action and Israel's policy toward South Africa," she said. She added, however, that Israel's recent decision to halt arms shipments to South Africa was a "step in the right direction."

"I will always champion the right for Israel to exist and live in peace. I see Israel as a great outpost for democracy," Mrs. King said. "We can agree to disagree by talking together and understanding each other's position . . . Even on the question of affirmative action, our goals are employment opportunities and ample education for all Americans," she said.

Proposes A New 'Coalition Of Conscience'

Rabbi Jordan Ofseyer, of Dallas, who shared the platform with King and with Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta, called for a new "Coalition of Conscience" in which Blacks and Jews would join together to fight such major concerns of the day as drug abuse, alcoholism, teen-age pregnancy, AIDS, poverty and homelessness.

"Let us carry on the dream of Dr. King so that we Jews who brought our brethren, Black Jews out of privation and suffering in Ethiopia, to freedom and dignity in Israel, will join hands with all of Black America so that together in a new alliance we can address the agenda confronting our modern society," Ofseyer said.

He proposed the initiation of a bilateral coalition between the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded by Dr. King, and the Rabbinical Assembly as a first step. He urged that the rebuilding and restoration of the Black-Jewish coalition should move forward by developing a mutual agreement on agenda priorities, establishing working groups dealing with specific problems, and reaching out to other Black and Jewish organizations both nationally and locally.

A resolution introduced at the Rabbinical Assembly convention proposes the immediate initiation of a grassroots activist outreach program between the Conservative synagogues and their members in the U.S. and Canada and Black churches. The proposed program includes guest exchanges between pulpit rabbis and ministers of Black churches, exchange visits between churches and synagogues for youths and adults, Black-Jewish model seders emphasizing themes of freedom, pluralism, anti-discrimination and concerned action against prejudice, and work in coalitions whenever possible for shared legislation.

In a demonstration of cooperation on common issues, King and other Black leaders joined with rabbis in an indoor rally on behalf of Soviet Jews. Afterward, the overflow crowd at the Ebenezer Baptist Church sang "We Shall Overcome" in Hebrew and about 100 rabbis held a brief memorial service at Dr. King's gravesite.

The Rabbinical Assembly, which represents 850 synagogues and 1.5 million members in the U.S. and Canada, is holding its convention through Thursday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The United States has responded to Col. Aviem Sella's resignation as commander of the Tel Nof air base by lifting its restrictions against the base, the State Department announced Monday.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
BRAZILIAN CATHOLIC LEADER IS ON
ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE IN ISRAEL
By Rochelle Saidel**

SAO PAULO, March 31 (JTA) -- Bishop Dom Ivo Lorscheiter, president of the National Bishops Conference of Brazil, is this week spending three days in Israel on an ecumenical pilgrimage, accompanied by Rabbi Henry Sobel of Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, the largest synagogue in Latin America.

The highest Brazilian Catholic Church official to visit Israel's holy places on an ecumenical trip, Lorscheiter is the guest of the Jewish community of Brazil. The trip is a token of gratitude for the bishop's extraordinary personal support for Catholic-Jewish relations in Brazil, Sobel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Lorscheiter will visit the holy places of Christianity and Judaism, but will not be meeting with official representatives of the Israeli government, Sobel said. "With regard to international policy, the National Bishops' Conference of Brazil is subject to the authority of the Holy See, and the Vatican does not recognize the State of Israel," Sobel explained.

'Tremendous Sensitivity' By Brazilian Bishops

"The Brazilian bishops have already acknowledged the reality of the State of Israel, which is the most they can do," Sobel said. "The Bishops' Conference does not have the power to recognize or not recognize a nation. Such recognition can only come from the Vatican."

But, Sobel added, "The Brazilian bishops showed tremendous sensitivity by including in their guidelines 'the right of Jews to a peaceful political existence in their land or origin, a right that becomes real in the State of Israel.' And the mere fact that the president of the Bishops' Conference wants to go to Israel speaks for itself."

The "guidelines" to which Sobel referred is a 187-page "Guide for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue in Brazil," distributed in the fall of 1986 to Brazil's 229 Catholic archdioceses and dioceses. The guide covers such subjects as Israel, Jewish history, the Holocaust, roots of anti-Semitism, Judaism in Brazil, and interfaith cooperation.

"I personally feel that the ecumenical cause is valid independent of the recognition of the State of Israel by the Vatican, important as that may be," Sobel told the JTA. "Recognition of the State of Israel by the Vatican is a top priority for Jews all over the world, and we will strive relentlessly toward this goal. The issue of Israel is at the very center of Catholic-Jewish understanding."

"However, even if the Vatican does not recognize Israel in the immediate future, Catholic-Jewish dialogue must continue. Recognition will be a consequence of dialogue; it cannot be a prerequisite. If we make it a sine qua non condition, we will be creating an impasse to further progress in Catholic-Jewish relations. Our impatience with the Vatican's position on Israel cannot lead us to intransigence with regard to interfaith dialogue and action."

A More Important Step

For the Jews living in Brazil, "the support given by the Brazilian Catholic leadership to our community and to Israel is even more important than is recognition of Israel by the Vatican,"

Sobel continued. "In Brazil, where Jews are such a small minority, the National Bishops' Conference is reaching out to us with open arms and hearts. We cannot belittle their concrete manifestation of solidarity."

There are only about 150,000 Jews in Brazil, with the largest community of some 70,000 in Sao Paulo. Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world, with Catholics comprising 90 percent of its population of 140 million.

"Under such circumstances, the good will of the Brazilian bishops toward the Jewish community takes on an even greater meaning," Sobel said. "They certainly don't need us. We need them. Israel does not depend on relations with the Vatican, in order to exist. But the way in which hundreds of millions of Brazilian Catholics are taught to think about Jews now and in the future will be critical to the future of our Jewish children."

BENJAMIN HORNSTEIN DEAD AT 95

PALM BEACH, March 31 (JTA) -- Benjamin Hornstein, a long-time fellow of Brandeis University and founder of the university's Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service, has died at age 95.

Hornstein's many civic and philanthropic activities have "left behind an extensive legacy of Jewish educational and welfare services and an extensive legacy of friends who loved and respected him," said Bernard Reisman, professor of American Jewish communal studies at Brandeis, who delivered a eulogy at Hornstein's funeral service in New York March 23.

Reisman, director of the university's Hornstein program, which trains graduate level students for leadership positions in the Jewish community, said Hornstein's involvement with Brandeis was intense.

He was a frequent visitor with students in the program that bears his name. He was an overseer of the university's Lown School of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and, from a hospital bed this past winter, he called Brandeis president Evelyn Handler to make a contribution at the university's Palm Beach fundraising luncheon. This was the first of the 24 annual fundraising luncheons that he had missed.

Many Touched By His Generosity

"His kindness and generosity touched many," Handler said. "Ben Hornstein financed programs that provide opportunity and hope for countless people whose future would be immeasurably less, were it not for him."

Hornstein, who retired in 1960 as president of Charles Stores Company, Inc., was born and raised in New York City and lived in recent years in Palm Beach, where he funded a Jewish day school that bears his name.

He was a founder and overseer of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and a founder of the United Jewish Appeal of New York. His many other civic and philanthropic associations included the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York University, the American Jewish Committee and the Lexington School for the deaf in New York.

Hornstein's last visit to Brandeis was this past fall, when he received the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters on Founders' Day in recognition of his service to others.

**Aftermath Of Reports On Soviet Jewry:
HOPE AND CAUTION IS PREVAILING
MOOD IN ISRAEL; SOVIET CONSULAR
DELEGATION EXPECTED SOON IN ISRAEL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- Hope tempered by caution was the continuing prevailing mood in Israel Wednesday following reports that the Soviet Union may soon permit substantial numbers of Jews leave for Israel.

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that relations between the two countries will warm very soon. This was reinforced by the scheduled visit of a Consular delegation from Moscow. But it was not known whether the Soviets have agreed to Israel's condition that an Israeli delegation of a similar nature would return the visit. The visit by the Soviet delegation was arranged during the brief meeting between Israeli and Soviet representatives in Helsinki last August.

(According to an Israel Radio report from Washington, Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne said that the Soviet group could arrive in Israel in two weeks. "There is certainly a Soviet interest in renewing relations with Israel, but Israel also has an interest that the Israeli flag be planted soon in Moscow. When this will happen, we cannot say," Rosenne was quoted as telling Israel Radio. There was no immediate comment from Soviet officials in Moscow.)

Thousands Of Jews Expected

The Foreign Ministry estimated Wednesday that thousands of Soviet Jews will be getting exit visas in the next few months. That prediction was bolstered by reports that 470 Jews left the USSR last month, the largest number to leave in a single month in more than five years. Only 126 of them came to Israel, however.

But reports of recent talks in Moscow between Western Jewish leaders and ranking Soviet officials spoke of a new procedure whereby Jewish emigrants would be flown directly to Israel via Rumania.

Israel Is Able To Absorb Newcomers

Peres said Tuesday he was sure Israel could absorb thousand of immigrants from Russia. The Absorption Ministry said it plans to accommodate them initially at hotels rather than at absorption centers and will provide them with permanent housing in short order.

There are an estimated 60,000 vacant flats in Israel, though only half of them are in the three large cities. These are considered sufficient for the next three years on the basis of a projected influx of 10,000 immigrants per year. According to the Absorption Ministry, the cost of absorbing them will amount to \$220 million a year.

Although housing seems to pose no problem, the Ministry is concerned about employment opportunities. A high proportion of the immigrants expected from the Soviet Union are university graduates and they may not be able to find jobs corresponding to those they had in the USSR.

Yitzhak Welber, secretary of the teachers' union, sent a telegram to Education Minister

Yitzhak Navon Wednesday asking him to establish a team of experts to plan the absorption of hundreds of teachers and students from the Soviet Union. He said the educational challenge is to create strong motivation among the immigrants so they will be less likely to leave Israel.

**TWO U.S. JEWISH LEADERS WHO MET WITH
SOVIET LEADERS IN MOSCOW DISCLOSE
THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET ASSURANCES**

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- Two Jewish leaders who met with Soviet officials in Moscow last week said here Wednesday that they were assured that all refuseniks and their families will be allowed to emigrate to Israel within a one year period and that all Soviet Jews with exit visas for Israel will travel there via Rumania on flights to be established.

Those were two of the nine points listed by Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who concluded their talks in Moscow last Friday.

They said, at a meeting convened by the NCSJ here, attended by 150 Jewish communal leaders, that while there appeared to be a changing atmosphere in the Soviet Union, genuine progress would be measured in terms of Soviet performance on the range of issues discussed in Moscow.

With respect to refuseniks, the only limitation they said would be for legitimate national security cases. A procedure will be established, however, to review previous visa denials on national security grounds and this procedure may involve officials on a level as high as the Supreme Soviet, Abram and Bronfman said in a statement released at the meeting.

Seven More Points

The remaining seven points on which they said they were reassured are:

* First-degree relatives may emigrate for family reunification within an established time frame. There may be flexibility within the framework of the current narrow interpretation of "first-degree relative."

* Cases of those refuseniks recently placed in a "never allowed to emigrate" category will be reviewed.

* All Jewish religious books may be imported into the USSR, and a recommended list of books will be submitted.

* Synagogues will be opened at all sites where there is a demonstrated need.

* Soviet Jews will be allowed greater access to rabbinical training. Some may even be allowed to study in the United States.

* The teaching of Hebrew in school or synagogue settings will be considered together with similar restrictions applied to other religious groups.

* A kosher restaurant will be opened in Moscow, and liberal provisions will be made for ritual slaughter. Abram and Bronfman said they would consult further with the Jewish community

and with members of Congress and government leaders and would be prepared to suggest incremental responses based on measured progress on these points. Under consideration would be support for a change in the Stevenson Amendment as well as annual waivers of the trade restrictions in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, based on very substantial and sustained emigration. They stressed that only annual waivers will be considered until the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration has been completely resolved.

RABIN CONCERNED OVER ISRAELI SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin is unhappy with the sanctions Israel has announced against South Africa which he fears may serve as a precedent for similar embargoes by many countries against Israel. He is also concerned over the impact Israel's action may have on the South African Jewish community of 115-120,000.

Rabin expressed his views to a visiting Israel Bond Organization delegation here Tuesday night. Referring to the government's recent announcement that it would enter into no new arms sales contracts with the Pretoria government -- though it would honor existing ones -- Rabin said he disliked embargoes and sanctions. He recalled that Israel was the victim of boycotts by the U.S. and Europe in 1948 and 1967.

South Africa, Rabin said, was the only country to send Israel badly needed spare parts for its French-built Mirage jets after the 1967 Six-Day War when France and other Western European countries imposed an arms embargo against Israel.

Israel has always expressed abhorrence for apartheid, despite its friendly relations with South Africa. But it never let the domestic policies of any regime influence its diplomatic relations with that country, Rabin said.

He noted that Israel maintained diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1953 when Stalin was engineering the "doctors plot" which fueled anti-Semitism. It was Moscow which broke relations with Israel, not the other way around, he said.

CARTER: INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE A DEVIATION FROM CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter, who ended a five-day visit to Israel Tuesday, said some Israelis have misconceptions about a proposed international conference for Middle East peace. He said such a conference would be no deviation from the Camp David accords, but rather a step forward within their framework and spirit.

Carter spoke to reporters Monday after receiving an honorary Ph.D. degree from Haifa University, presented by its president, Ephraim Evron, a former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. He said the fears expressed by "some Israelis" over the portents of an international conference were the result of "inadequate analysis of the opportunities."

The issue has not been sufficiently debated in Israel, Carter said. Therefore many believe an international conference would force Israel to

return to its 1967 borders. According to Carter, each participating state would be guaranteed the right to make its own decisions and not have them imposed.

The conference should lead to bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab states. If those talks break down, the issues could be referred back to the full forum, Carter said.

The former President was accompanied to Ben Gurion Airport Tuesday by Ezer Weizman, who, as Israel's Defense Minister in 1978, participated in the Camp David negotiations.

U.S. LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT BY HUSSEIN LATER THIS YEAR

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- The United States is "looking forward to a visit later this year" by Jordan's King Hussein, who is sending two of his top advisors to Washington next week, the State Department announced Monday.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Masri will meet with Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. They will be in Washington April 6-7.

"The Prime Minister is not a substitute for the King. It's simply another opportunity to exchange views with our close friends," said State Department spokesperson Phyllis Oakley.

Hussein turned down an invitation to visit the U.S. early this year reportedly because of anger over of the Reagan Administration's sale of arms to Iran. Jordan is a supporter of Iraq in the Gulf war.

The Iranian arms disclosure came at a time when the Reagan Administration has dropped plans to push for the sale of mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan because of continued congressional opposition. Supporters of Israel in Congress argue that the missiles would greatly weaken Israel's air superiority.

Anticipated Jordanian Position

But the Reagan Administration is proposing a 29 percent increase in military aid for Jordan next year, which was cut sharply this year because of budgetary constraints. The Jordanian officials are likely to push for American support for an international peace conference. The conference has been rejected by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir because it would include participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Soviet Union.

"We are willing to explore all possibilities, including an international conference, that may lead to the immediate objectives of direct negotiations," said Oakley. She reiterated the U.S. position is that its "goal is a just and lasting peace through direct face-to-face negotiations." The State Department said it expects a visit by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak soon, who had also turned down an invitation to visit Washington because of anger over the Iranian arms sales. Mubarak is also a supporter of an international peace conference.

DEMJANJUK'S TRIAL CONTINUES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- The trial of alleged war criminal John Demjanjuk continued in Jerusalem district Court Wednesday with the cross-examination of Helge Grabitz, a member of

the district attorney's office in Hamburg who specializes in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor, is seeking to demonstrate that his client was a prisoner of war of the Germans and not the sadistic Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

All of his questions are aimed at disproving the prosecution's contention that Demjanjuk was trained at the Trawniki SS camp for his duties at Treblinka. He has dismissed as a forgery Demjanjuk's identification card, signed by the Trawniki commandant, which Israel obtained from Soviet sources. Grabitz, who authenticated the signature on the card, said Tuesday that she had never come across the name Demjanjuk in the Trawniki documents she studied, but noted that she examined only a small portion of the documents, the rest being missing.

On Wednesday, O'Connor wanted to know whether non-German but Aryan-looking POWs were conscripted for guard duty at the death camp. He apparently sought to cast doubt that the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk was one of them.

Demjanjuk was not in court Wednesday. He complained he was ill and watched the proceedings on closed circuit television from a cot in a makeshift cell adjacent to the courtroom.

HERZOG ON STATE VISIT TO SWITZERLAND **First Such Visit By An Israeli President** **By Tamar Levy**

GENEVA, April 1 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog's state visit to Switzerland coincides with the 90th anniversary of the first World Zionist Congress, convened in Basel in 1897 by Theodor Herzl, who predicted with amazing accuracy that within 50 years there would be a Jewish State.

Herzog, accompanied by his wife Aura and aides, landed at Zurich Airport Wednesday morning, where he was greeted by his host, President Pierre Auber, who is also the country's Foreign Minister.

Immediately after airport ceremonies, Herzog went to Basel, where he received a warm welcome from the Canton authorities at the City Hall. He will remain in Switzerland over the weekend and then go to visit Germany (related story P. 4).

Herzog is the first President of Israel to visit Switzerland officially and his arrival has stirred the country's 18,000 Jews. He returned to Zurich Wednesday evening for a reception given by the Federation, of Jewish Communities in Switzerland. George Brunshweitz, president of the Federation held a dinner in his honor at the Baur Au Lac hotel.

Excellent Israeli-Swiss Relations

Israel and Switzerland have excellent relations. The Swiss Defense Ministry is a customer of Israel's arms industry. A majority of the Swiss are pro-Israel, though certain banks and manufacturers have been wary of business ties because of the Arab boycott.

The Herzogs will be guests of president Auber and his wife Anne-Lise at their home in Neuchatel Friday and the two heads of state are expected to discuss trade and cultural relations. Another subject will be Israel's relations with the International Red Cross, which is headquartered in Switzerland. Those relation have deteriorated of

late. The Red Cross maintains that Israel does not adhere to the 4th Geneva Convention with respect to the Arab population of the administered territories.

The Red Cross moreover has refused to recognize its Israeli equivalent, the Magen David Adom, though earlier this year it incorporated the Moslem Red Crescent organization.

U.S. AND ISRAEL TO EXPAND EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA AND PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- The United States and Israel are exploring ways to expand existing agreements between their governments on the exchange of information and personnel in the fields of science, medical care and social welfare programs, according to Undersecretary of Health and Human Services Don Newman.

Newman, who recently returned from Israel where he represented Human Services Secretary Otis Bowen, held talks with Israeli officials on the expansion of two memoranda of agreement which provide for cooperation between Israel and the U.S. on issues of health care and human welfare services.

The agreement on medical care, now four years old, "identifies several areas of mutual interest" between the U.S. and Israel, Newman said, including health manpower and services, health services research, information systems, public health, biomedical research and related areas such as food and drugs.

Broad Spectrum Of Cooperative Activities

The Undersecretary said the second memorandum of agreement, approved in 1985, "covers areas of cooperative activities and interest" in a broad spectrum of social welfare programs ranging from community in-home services for the physically impaired and research on social indicators to housing for the aged and juvenile delinquency.

"These agreements reflect a close relationship of 20 years' standing," Newman said, "and we are eager to maintain and to strengthen that relationship."

Newman said a recent tour of the Medical Center and meetings with Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Samuel Penchas and other key members of the medical staff "gave impetus to our desire to see these agreements expanded."

Newman indicated the U.S. has a special interest in the youth project -- called "Youth 2000" -- which encompasses government programs dealing with teenage pregnancies, drug abuse, fetal alcohol syndrome, underweight newborn babies and AIDS.

He also cited an innovative program in Israel in which developmentally disabled children and adults are trained to work on kibbutzim. He said he was impressed with the results achieved by encouraging the developmentally disabled to work in, and develop a relationship with, the soil.

Newman, who met with Israel Minister of Health Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino during his recent visit, said the U.S. is interested in enlarging the scope of health care statistics and methodology currently exchanged by the two countries and in expanding cooperative activities in areas such as medical technology, a drug reaction registry, laboratory practices and biomedical research.

**CONSERVATIVE RABBIS OPPOSE
REQUEST FOR U.S. TO CHANGE REFUGEE
STATUS OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES**

ATLANTA, April 1 (JTA) -- Conservative rabbis here went on record opposing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's request that the United States change the refugee status of Soviet Jewish emigres since unlike other emigres they have Israel to go to as a homeland.

Members of the Rabbinical Assembly, holding their 87th annual convention here, adopted a strong resolution calling for no further cultural exchanges, continued enforcement of the Jackson-Vanik trade restriction amendment and no expansion of trade with the USSR "unless there is a substantial improvement in the Soviet human rights position, especially the levels of Jewish emigration."

The rabbis hoped that changes announced this week by some Jewish leaders that 11,000 Soviet Jews would soon be granted visas and that others would be allowed to teach Hebrew and Jewish cultural subjects as promised by Soviet authorities would "become a reality."

"This would constitute an important breakthrough in U.S.-Soviet relations," commented Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Rabbinical Assembly executive vice president.

"If these reports are carried out we should recognize and acknowledge that an important change had occurred in Soviet policy," said Kelman. "I hope that this will lead to full normalization of relations between the great powers, Israel and the Soviet Union and, most important, a Soviet Jewish community relating to the world Jewish community."

Kelman stated that "I would like to see Soviet Jews and American Jews who want to go to Israel and help build and strengthen Israel do so by their own choice and not by coercion."

**KAHANE ASSAILS ISRAEL FOR
NOT STANDING BEHIND POLLARD**
By Judith Colp

SILVER SPRING, Md., April 1 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane excoriated Israel Tuesday night for not standing behind convicted American spy Jonathan Pollard and for "forcing" the resignation of his Israeli contact, Col. Aviem Sella, from his new position as commander of Tel Nof air base.

"Israel owes Pollard loyalty," Kahane told an enthusiastic audience of some 100 persons at the Silver Spring Jewish Center. "We have not only left behind Pollard, we have thrown him and Sella to the dogs."

"The Israeli government has an obligation to have the American government expel the Pollards and let them live in Israel. Israel has an obligation to say we did it (we spied), and he's not going to pay for it," he added.

Kahane said his concern about the Pollard affair prompted the quick visit to the U.S. during the final week of the winter session of the Knesset where he represents the Kach Party.

Kahane said Pollard's sentence of life imprisonment by a federal district court here was particularly harsh and evidence of "vicious anti-Semitism in United States." Pollard, he added, never meant to hurt America and should have been expelled to Israel. Kahane said he also believed reports that the United States spied on Israel, first suggested by Sen. David Durenberger (R. Minn.). "Everybody spies against everyone

else. The United States Embassy in Tel Aviv bristles with antennas. Twenty percent of all workers in embassies are spies," he said adding that there is "nothing immoral or illegal about spying."

Kahane, speaking the day before the State Department was scheduled to release a report on countries illegally selling arms with South Africa, criticized Israel for bowing to American pressure in this area.

"No decent Jew will ever defend apartheid, but what will take its place? Oliver Tambo (leader of the African National Congress) defends the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Jewish people have interests and their major interest is to survive and the Third World doesn't want Jews to survive," he said.

LAWSUIT BY HOLOCAUST DENIER DISMISSED

LOS ANGELES, April 1 (JTA) -- The U.S. District Court here has dismissed a lawsuit brought by David McCalden, a distributor of printed matter alleging the Holocaust never occurred, who claimed his civil rights were violated.

McCalden headed the Institute for Historical Review, which publishes and circulates material denying the Holocaust and currently runs an organization known as "Truth Missions," which makes the same allegations.

His suit charged the Simon Weisenthal Center, the American Jewish Committee, the California Library Association and the Bonaventure Hotel with breach of contract and violation of civil rights after the Library Association cancelled McCalden's scheduled appearance at its 1984 annual conference at the Bonaventure Hotel.

Judge Consuelo Marshall of the U.S. District Court dismissed the case against all of the defendants, except the City of Los Angeles. McCalden was given 10 days to show cause in writing why the remaining action against the municipality should not be dismissed.

Marshall ruled that the complainant was unable to demonstrate he was the victim of discrimination within the meaning of the Federal and State Civil Rights Acts.

HERZOG ON HIS WAY TO WEST GERMANY

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog said Tuesday night that he was not embarking on a "journey of forgiving and forgetting" but on a trip "symbolic of the victory of the victims of the Holocaust over its perpetrators."

Herzog, addressing Cabinet Ministers and senior officials in Jerusalem hours before his departure early Wednesday morning on an official 10-day visit to Switzerland and West Germany, was referring to the controversial portion of his trip -- the five days he will spend in Germany, beginning next Monday. He will be the first President of Israel to set foot on German soil in official capacity.

His first stop will be the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, which the Irish-born Herzog, as an officer in the British army, helped liberate in the final stages of World War II. That is expected to blunt some of the criticism directed at the President by rightwing and nationalist elements in Israel who object to his going to Germany.

**KNESSET UNIT PROBING ISRAEL'S ROLE IN U.S. ARMS SALES TO IRAN SAYS IT IS SATISFIED WITH OFFICIAL VERSION**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee stated Wednesday that there is no reason to doubt the official version of Israel's role in the U.S.-Iran arms deal.

The statement was issued after two days of closed hearings by the Committee's Intelligence Subcommittee. Details of Israel's cooperation with the U.S. in the arms sales to Iran were provided by David Kimche, former Director General of the Foreign Ministry, and Amiram Nir, the Prime Minister's adviser on counter-terrorism.

Both officials appeared before the subcommittee by special permission of Premier Yitzhak Shamir. Kimche and Nir testified on Tuesday and Nir again on Wednesday. Their testimony apparently satisfied the Knesset members that Israel acted in the Iran arms sale as a loyal ally of the United States and at its specific request.

The Committee's statement made no mention of Israel's alleged involvement in transferring proceeds of the arms sale to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras. But apparently it was satisfied that there is no truth to the allegations. Nevertheless, the Committee has not yet concluded its deliberations on the issue.

The hearings were necessary, according to Committee chairman Abba Eban, to clarify Israel's role in view of reports published in the American media implying that Israel was the prime mover in the entire Iran-Contra affair.

PERES TO HOLD TALKS WITH MUBARAK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will visit Cairo later this month for talks with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, it was announced Wednesday. The talks will be a continuation of their meeting in Alexandria five months ago when the principal topic was an international conference for Middle East peace and the conditions under which it could be convened.

Meanwhile, Peres told reporters Wednesday that while Israel has not been asked by the U.S. to help in any military operation to free American hostages held by extremist groups in Lebanon, "If we are, we shall be ready to consider it." He said, however, "I do not believe we shall receive such a request."

The subject was raised when Peres, on a visit to Kiryat Gat, observed that the U.S. Sixth Fleet operating off the Lebanese coast was sending a strong message to the Lebanese people. He said the latter have deteriorated to an unprecedented level of lawlessness, unhindered by anyone so far. He said he could not "guess exactly" what American intentions are toward Lebanon.

KNESSET POSTPONES VOTE ON NATIONAL BUDGET TO AVOID COALITION CRISIS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The Knesset postponed voting on the national budget until Thursday to avoid a possible coalition crisis arising from a dispute between Labor and Likud over how to manage the 266 million Shekel debt of the Labor-affiliated United Kibbutz Movement (Takam).

The vote, scheduled for Wednesday's session, was delayed to give the coalition partners more time to reach an understanding on the matter. Labor made it clear it would not vote for the Cabinet-approved budget unless Likud members of the Knesset's Finance Committee agreed to spread the kibbutz debt over several years, at a reduced rate of interest. The Treasury has already approved the scheme.

But the Likud Knesset faction demanded that the concession be "enlarged" to include the debts of development towns and of Jewish settlements in the administered territories. There were reports Wednesday night that Labor and Likud leaders had reached an agreement that will ensure that the budget is approved.

A vote against the budget by the Labor Party would be tantamount to a vote of non-confidence in the government.

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY CHURCH MAY BE MOVING INTO KANSAS CITY AREA

By Elizabeth Kaplan

Staff Writer, Kansas City Jewish Chronicle

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Jewish communal leaders are keeping watch for further developments in the proposed formation here of a church affiliated with the Christian Identity movement, a melange of right-wing, white supremacist, anti-Semitic groups and individuals active nationally under the guise of a "church."

The church conducted its first meeting last month in Grandview, Mo., a suburb, and plans to meet again in the future. Between 50 and 75 people, most of them white males, attended the private gathering at Grandview's Heritage Inn on January 17. A second meeting the following day attracted 25 person.

The event was publicized in fliers mailed to a broad cross-section of area residents ranging from members of the John Birch Society to Jews, according to Carol Smith, farm crisis worker with the Jewish Community Relations Bureau of Greater Kansas City. The JCRB has been monitoring extremist groups through its farm crisis project.

The flier announcing the program made no mention of the Christian Identity movement, but invited individuals to attend a "Christian Church Formational Meeting."

Speakers on the program included pastors Pete Peters, Jarah Crawford and Ted Wieland, all of whom were identified by Smith as Christian

Identity ministers. "They are absolutely as anti-Semitic as you could possibly believe," Smith said.

A native of Tennessee, Crawford is the author of a pamphlet titled "The Jewish Problem," which was passed out at the meeting. Smith said the publication contains anti-Semitic references in "literally every paragraph."

In one excerpt from the pamphlet, for example, Crawford responds to an article by Daniel Lehmann, who wrote in the Chicago Sun-Times last year that extremist right-wing groups were taking advantage of the farmers' plight.

'Jews Are A Menace To Mankind'

"By the Power of Almighty God and Spirit of our Savior Jesus Christ, Christian America declares war on you and your kind throughout the earth," the pamphlet reads. "We call upon all nations to join us in this Holy cause. You Jews are a menace to mankind; the earth can no longer accept you."

Peters, a native of LaPorte, Colo., served as minister to David Lane, a convicted member of The Order, a Christian Identity group whose members have carried out violent acts in the past. Wieland, also from Colorado, has been proposed as pastor for the local Identity church, according to Smith.

Not Much Response

Reports conflict as to the response the ministers received at the gathering. Two individuals sent to the meeting by the JCRB reported that some of those in the audience seemed very sympathetic but that others were less than stirred by the anti-Semitic words.

In fact, Smith said, the two JCRB observers told her that Peters mustered little response when he asked those present to echo his statements with "amen."

"They said that a lot of people were skeptical," Smith stated. "They weren't already deeply into what was being said."

She added that after the event, the JCRB received a call from one woman who wanted to voice her disgust with the whole affair. "She said she felt she had been tricked," Smith said. "She had been really shocked at the anti-Semitism. She thought she was just going to a meeting for a Christian church."

However, another observer at the meeting told The Chronicle that the anti-Semitic rhetoric voiced at the event, with the exception of a statement that violence against Jews could be necessary, received much support.

The observers said that overwhelming cries of "amen" were heard in agreement to statements such as Jews are "Satan's children" and that Jews are the source of many problems in the United States.

Motel Warned About The Meeting

Randy Gould, a member of the steering committee of RUAH/New Jewish Agenda here, went to the motel to protest the event along with three other individuals. They eventually were requested to leave the premises by the Grandview police.

Gould maintained he called the motel upon first hearing of the event and said he warned a motel worker about the Christian Identity movement. He suggested the motel management "find out who these people are and what they stand for," he said. A spokeswoman for the Heritage Inn acknowledged that two calls had come in concern-

ing the meeting. She claimed the callers "asked if the meeting was being held here and, when they were told yes, they made some threats about what would happen -- that there would be protesters and picketers. Then they hung up."

"When we book a room, we have no idea what those people do in their meetings," she added. "What they do there is their own business."

EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS PROTESTED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- About 2,500 teachers and student teachers demonstrated outside the Knesset Wednesday to protest cuts in the education budget. Some 35,000 elementary school pupils were sent home in mid-morning because there were no teachers in the classrooms. A number of Knesset members joined the demonstration in a gesture of solidarity.

Yehuda Eshel, head of the student teachers union, said: "We came to protest the intention to turn the people of the book into children of the streets. We came here to protest against a situation which would turn people who should be a light unto nations into a darkness to the nations."

DETERMINATION TO PREVENT HOLOCAUSTS UNITES ALL JEWS, ROSENNE DECLARES

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- "If there is one thing that unites Jews, whether they are Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox, or Sephardim or Ashkenazim, or belong to the right, left, or center, it is that they are first and foremost Jews determined to make sure there will be no more Holocausts."

The statement, by Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne, was made to note the efforts and achievements of B'nai B'rith throughout the post-World War II period on behalf of Jews everywhere.

Addressing B'nai B'rith's Board of Governors in New York, Rosenne cited the efforts of the Soviet Union to deprive B'nai B'rith of its standing as a non-governmental organization in the United Nations.

The Soviets were defeated, he said, "because they did not understand then -- and probably don't understand now -- that all the achievements of the Free World in general, and of the U.S. and Israel in particular, are the results of the work and dedication of individuals and voluntary organizations."

Rosenne reviewed Israel's efforts to gain peace with its Arab neighbors. Citing Israel's yielding of the oil-rich Sinai, the Straits of Tiran, and the towns of Yamit and Ophra as a means of persuading Egypt to sign a treaty with the Jewish nation, he said, "We did it because for the Jewish people, the life of one person is more weighty than billions of dollars."

Message To The Younger Generation

Rosenne offered a message to the young generation of world Jews:

"Be proud of being a Jew and of the achievements of Jewish people and the Jewish state.

"Remember the unique privilege you have of living in a country that not only permits but encourages you to study your history and heritage. Take advantage of Jewish education, for without it there will be no Jewish people a century from now. Remember that the doors of Israel are wide open to you; come live with us

and contribute to the development and progress of the Jewish Homeland. Never try to be 'objective' or have any sense of guilt when you defend the Jewish people or the State of Israel. Never forget that while we breathe the free air of democracy, our brethren still suffer in the land of the Gulag and in the Arab lands of oppression.

"And finally, when contemplating what is done in and by Israel, never consider yourselves distant spectators, as though before a television screen; think of yourselves as part of us."

Action Against War Criminals In Canada Urged

Earlier in the three-day semi-annual meeting of the Board of Governors which representatives of 13 countries attended, Elizabeth Holtzman, District Attorney of Brooklyn, NY, called on the Canadian government to bring Nazi war criminals living in Canada to justice.

"In light of the recent report of the Deschenes Commission, and the fact that as many as 3,000 Nazi war criminals live in Canada, the Canadian government should establish a permanent unit, similar to the one in the United States, to prosecute and deport them," she said.

As a member of Congress several years ago, Holtzman created the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations that probes and deports Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

"The presence of Nazi war criminals in Canada is an affront to decent people everywhere," she declared. Holtzman added that "once forces of hatred and prejudice are unleashed, no one is safe. Our responsibility is to do something about it."

ERRANT MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO ASTRONAUT RESNIK TO BE REPLACED AFTER ALL

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- To replace a plaque because the letter c was added to the last name of Judith Resnik, the first Jewish woman astronaut, would have cost the city of Titusville, Fla., 15 "C notes" and time it didn't have.

So the city allowed the 3-by-5 foot bronze plaque to be installed last June in its memorial to the 10 American astronauts who died on duty. But on January 28, an astronaut noticed the error during a ceremony in memory of the seven Challenger space shuttle astronauts.

The mistake soon was reported in the national press, and early this week officials of Titusville, a community of 39,000 across the Indian River from the Kennedy Space Center, answered 30 phone calls offering to pay for a new plaque or to actually make it.

"We've been so blessed with it, I tell you. It has really been heart-warming to know people have cared that much," Jean Seiffert, administrative assistant to the Titusville city manager, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Seiffert, who also chairs the city's Flag and Memorial Committee that oversaw design and construction of the memorial, decided to accept the first offer of help. She said Robert Neel of Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Orlando, Fla., will send the plaque to a foundry in Pittsburgh to be either repaired or recast, and will pay for it.

Citizens donated \$12,000 and the city paid \$24,000 for construction of the memorial, which Seiffert said is located in the city plaza. She described the memorial as octagonal, 40 feet in diameter with 11 plaques set in the ground.

Ten of the plaques memorialize an individual astronaut from either the Challenger or Apollo I, which burned on the launching pad. The final large and errant plaque lists all of them. At the center is a six-foot-tall stone that resembles the nose cone of a space vehicle, from which a 60-foot flag pole extends.

The administrative assistant said she knew of one offer of help from a Jewish source. Rabbi Bernhard Rosenberg of Midchester Jewish Center, Yonkers, NY, told JTA that after reading the news report of the error, "I was sick to my stomach." He found a Yonkers monument company to do the work for free.

U.S. JUSTIFIES ITS SALE OF AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The State Department maintained Wednesday that the sale to Saudi Arabia in 1981 of five AWACS radar planes was based entirely on United States concern for the security of the Persian Gulf.

But Department spokesman Charles Redman refused to deny directly a published report that Saudi support for anti-Communist groups around the world, including the Contras who oppose the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, was part of the deal.

"The AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia was based on U.S. vital interests in the security of the Gulf, the free flow of oil and the security of Saudi Arabia," Redman said. "These reasons for the sale stand on their own merits," he said. "I have no indication of anything beyond those reasons."

But when Redman was asked if he was denying the report published in The New York Times, he would go no further than his statement.

The Times quoted an unnamed businessman who said he refused a request by King Fahd and other Saudi officials to funnel \$15 million to the Contras through retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

The two have been identified by Congressional investigators as having been involved in the secret effort to provide funds for the Contras during the time Congress had forbidden any military aid to the rebel groups. Secord participated in the AWACS sale before his retirement.

The businessman told the Times that shortly after the Senate approved the \$8.5 billion sale of AWACS and other material to the Saudis, he met with Fahd at the king's home outside Riyadh. The businessman said Fahd told him that in return for a reduction of the number of Americans who were to operate some of the AWACS most secret equipment, the Saudis agreed to a U.S. request that they "fund movements to fight Communists." Fahd told the businessman that the U.S. was to select the groups to be funded, according to the Times.

The newspaper said the businessman said the requests for his participation was made from late 1983 through 1986 by Fahd; Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador in Washington; and other Saudi officials. Bandar told the businessman, who has had extensive dealings in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, that the proposal had the Reagan Administration's approval since "we've had similar arrangements with the U.S. for a long time, since I was involved in the AWACS sale," the Times reported.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW
THE THREAT FROM WITHIN**

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The major challenge facing the Jewish people today is to unite its ranks, a prominent Jewish leader asserted.

"The Jewish community today is torn by strife," Seymour Reich, the new president of B'nai B'rith International (BBI), observed in an interview here. "There is controversy and there are incidents in Israel and in Jewish communities elsewhere," he said, mentioning issues such as "Who is a Jew," "get" (religious divorce), intermarriage and assimilation.

The president of the largest Jewish organization in the world, consisting of 500,000 men, women, college students and teenagers, believes that the Jewish people must strengthen its unity in order to deal effectively with the dwindling Jewish population in the world, particularly in the United States.

"We are concerned. The Jewish population is dwindling due to intermarriage and assimilation. The major danger to the Jewish community today is from within. We have been losing our youth. American Jews constitute now only 2.6 percent of the general population, while in the past we constituted three percent of the population," he said.

On a recent visit to Israel, Reich called on the Jewish State to create "a body made up of representatives of all Jewish religious groups, in Israel and throughout the world, whose purpose would be to foster a healthier climate among Jews." Furthermore, Reich, who is a lawyer by profession, called on the Knesset to strengthen criminal sanctions against unlawful acts performed against the background of religious intolerance. "Individuals inclined toward that kind of violence must understand the harsh consequences that will result from them," he said.

Legitimacy Of Differences

The 53-year old leader said that his organization recognizes the legitimacy of different interpretations and outlooks of Judaism and Jewish identity. "We will encourage members of every group in Israeli society that believes in dignified co-existence," he stated. BBI, he said, makes itself available to all Jews -- Conservative, Orthodox or Reform. "We offer ourselves as a vehicle to accommodate the different views in the Jewish community and to serve as a meeting ground," Reich said.

Asked to list the other priorities on the agenda of the BBI, Reich, who spends two days a week at the organization's headquarters in Washington and the rest of the time in New York where he is a senior partner in the law firm of Dreyer & Traub, started with the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Soviet Jewry Issue

"We are campaigning very hard on behalf of Soviet Jews," he said. "We are trying to focus world attention on the Soviet Union's inhuman treatment of its Jewish citizens." He said that the highlight of BBI campaign for Soviet Jews will culminate between noon and 2 p.m. on February 26, when B'nai B'rith will stage rallies in 43 cities across the nation during which well known personalities will read the names of 12,000 Soviet refuseniks at city halls, state capitals, and college

campuses. The rallies, he noted, will be coordinated jointly by BBI and B'nai B'rith Women, in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Hillel and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

Another issue of priority with BBI is the State of Israel. "We are continuously alert and concerned on the need to educate the American public and Congress of Israel's strategic partnership with the United States," he said, adding that efforts are also made from time to time to correct the image of Israel in the media when the media "misunderstands certain action of Israel."

Israel Is Not Being Scapegoated

In Reich's view, the American people "have not scapegoated Israel" in the Iran arms sales affair. He noted, however, that some American officials made some statements "in an attempt to blame Israel," but their attempts failed. "When the Iran arms sales scandal broke out I was in Israel, where I met with Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. All three told me that Israel did not have prior knowledge or involvement in the diversion of funds from the arms sale to Iran to the Contras," he stressed.

Reich said that he and other BBI leaders have a direct access not only to the Administration in Washington, but to government officials in other countries around the world.

He said that American Jews thrive in America, because "Jews thrive best in democracy." He observed that anti-Semitism is no longer a major threat to American Jews. "Anti-Semitism is no longer respectable here," he pointed out, noting that anti-Semitism today is associated with extreme right-wing groups such as the KKK or the Posse Comitatus, whom he described as "fringe elements on the far right who have embarked on a mission of hatred against Jews."

**FORMER ISRAEL AIR FORCE COMMANDER
APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF IAI BOARD
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. (Res.) Mordechai Hod, former commander of the Israel Air Force, has been appointed chairman of the Board of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), it was announced Monday. The appointment was approved by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in consultation with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens.

Arens, a former Defense Minister and an aeronautical engineer by training, had blocked Hod's appointment on grounds of conflict of interest. The general was, until recently, the Israeli representative of Northrop, a major American manufacturer of military aircraft, and was as such opposed to the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet combat plane which is manufactured by IAI.

Arens, a vigorous backer of the Lavi project, withdrew his objections after Hod informed him last week that he no longer represented Northrop and was determined to produce the Lavi as head of IAI.

The appointment has political as well as military ramifications. Hod is a protege of Ezer Weizman, another former Air Force Commander. One of Weizman's conditions for agreeing to merge his Yahad Party with the Labor Party was that Hod be named chairman of IAI.

**SHIRMAN RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL;
DOCTORS GUARDED ON RECOVERY**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Soviet immigrant Michael Shirman, whose battle against leukemia captured headlines worldwide, has been released from the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center after receiving a bone marrow transplant.

Doctors at the Medical Center were guarded in assessing Shirman's chances for total recovery after he received bone marrow donated by his sister, Inessa Fleurova, in a complex transplant operation January 3, although they described his initial response to the procedure as "amazing" and said that his white blood cell count is normal.

But Dr. Shimon Slavin, head of the Medical center's Bone Marrow Transplant Department, cautioned that in difficult cases such as Shirman's the disease is likely to return. It will be at least six months, Slavin said, before doctors can accurately predict his chances for a full recovery.

Shirman, a cancer researcher, attracted world attention when Soviet authorities denied his sister permission to immigrate to Israel to attempt to save her brother's life. Doctors feared her arrival in November was too late to help Shirman, whose condition had deteriorated over the intervening months.

Medical Center specialists will keep Shirman under close watch over the coming months, they said. The Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center is Israel's official bone marrow transplant center, and its physicians and researchers have won international recognition for their advances in matching donors and recipients and in preventing rejection and post-operative infections.

**JTS Breaks Another Tradition:
CANTORIAL DIPLOMAS WILL BE GRANTED
TO WOMEN IN ITS 1987 COMMENCEMENT**
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish Theological Seminary of America will begin granting the diploma of Hazzan (cantor) to women in its 1987 commencement, a certificate JTS reserved only for men until now.

The announcement by JTS Chancellor Ismar Schorsch at a press conference here Thursday is viewed as an historical break with the tradition, but one which Schorsch contended followed suit with JTS' 1983 controversial decision to ordain women as rabbis.

Critics of the new decision said it is even a more serious breach of halacha than the earlier one because they will be obligated to serve a function halacha forbids women from doing.

Schorsch called the decision a logical extension of the ordination of women. "Implicit within the decision (to ordain women) was obviously a step towards awarding women the diploma of Hazzan," Schorsch said.

Two women now studying in the Cantorial Institute/Seminary College of Jewish Music are expected to be the first recipients of the diploma of Hazzan in the 1987 JTS commencement. Erica Lippitz and Marla Rosenfeld-Barugel, both expecting to receive their diplomas in 1987, agreed the

decision was a victory and a profound joy for themselves and other women who want to receive the diploma. They called the decision "a new chapter in Jewish history."

Justification For The Decision

Schorsch defended his decision as in accordance with Jewish law, saying he had based it on the same justification on which he based the decision to ordain women.

He reasoned that women can change their status under Jewish law by accepting the time-bound obligations traditionally reserved for men. If a woman chooses to honor those obligations, which include praying three times daily, putting on tefillin and other time-oriented rituals, they may serve as rabbis or cantors.

But Schorsch acknowledged that although he feels his decision abides by halacha, others would interpret the law differently and oppose him.

'A Slap In The Face'

The decision opened up old wounds within the Conservative movement, where the more traditional elements viewed it as a "slap in the face."

Rabbi Ronald Price, executive director of the Union for Traditional Conservative Judaism, said the new policy is far more radical than the ordination of women rabbis.

Price said the decision is tantamount to obliging women to violate Jewish law. He contended that cantors traditionally lead the prayer services and fulfill the obligations of their congregants to recite some mandatory prayers. But, Price said, "women cannot fulfill the man's prayer obligation, which is the major function of a cantor."

Price said JTS has taken the egalitarian principle too far. "The bottom line of those at JTS who are making the decision is that they are taking a secular approach towards religion. They take secular attitudes towards life, like men and women should have equal roles, and they project this onto religious rituals," he said.

Price claimed JTS is overly concerned with feminist issues because they are popular and attract attention when it should be more concerned with education, assimilation and religious observance within the lay membership of the movement.

"It is an extremely divisive action which sends a message to traditionalists within the movement -- it doesn't take their views into account," Price said. It also adds credence to the Orthodox Jewish view which sees Conservative Judaism as a "movement of shortcuts," he said.

Schorsch said egalitarianism is "the popular will of the movement." He also said the women cantors will help remedy the shortage of cantors throughout the United States.

**WIFE OF POC BEGUN URGES AMERICANS
TO HELP HER HUSBAND WHO IS NOW ON
A HUNGER STRIKE IN CHISTOPOL PRISON**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Inna Begun urged Americans Thursday to help her husband,

Iosif, who is now on a hunger strike in the Soviet Union's Chistopol prison.

"I am very afraid for my husband's life," she said over the telephone from Moscow to some 100 Jewish leaders gathered on Capitol Hill for a Capitol Hill Action Day for Soviet Jewry, sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). They were in a room in a Senate office building dominated by photographs of Begun and other Jewish Prisoners of Conscience.

Begun, 54, was sentenced in 1983 to seven years in a labor camp and five years internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for teaching Hebrew. He had served two previous terms of internal exile. He and his wife have been seeking to emigrate to Israel since 1971.

Inna Begun said she had last seen her husband in August 1985 and his last letter to her was in December 1986. She said he has been on a hunger strike for three months.

Noting that some political prisoners have been freed, Inna Begun said she did not believe her husband would be released, as he will never agree to the demand that he admit that he is guilty of the charges.

She said she and her son, Boris, accompanied by other long-time refuseniks, would begin picketing Monday for two hours a day to demand that her husband be set free and that they be allowed to immigrate to Israel.

U.S. To Raise Begun's Plight

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D. Md.), co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe which monitors compliance with the Helsinki Accords, told Inna Begun that "The Congress of the United States is very very aware of the plight of your husband. We are raising that plight in every possible forum that we can."

Hoyer said he would raise the issue of Begun and other Soviet Jewish refuseniks with Soviet officials again when he returns to Vienna next week for the third review conference on the Helsinki Accords, known as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Morris Abram, the NCSJ's chairman, told Inna Begun that the people participating in the action day would "fan out" over Capitol Hill to describe Begun's plight to members of the House and Senate. He expressed "outrage" that the Soviet Union arrests people for teaching Hebrew.

Hoyer later told the Jewish leaders that never before have so many Western nations taken on the Soviet Union over human rights. He said the Soviets are trying to isolate the human rights movement by playing on the "hunger for change" in East-West relations by many in the West.

Jackson-Vanik Measure Won't Be Rescinded

Earlier, R. Spenser Oliver, counsel for the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that at Vienna the Soviet Union is trying to split the talks on arms control and trade from human rights. But he stressed that the Helsinki review conferences has been the one forum where the Soviets have had to pay attention to human rights.

Oliver and Dr. John Hardt, associate director for research coordination at the Congressional Research Service, urged the participants to watch the new foreign trade bill being worked on by Congress. While both said that there is no chance that the Jackson-Vanik Amendment would be rescinded, efforts will be made by some to decrease restrictions on trade with the USSR.

There should be no change in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment "until we see real numbers go up" in emigration, Oliver stressed.

PLAY DEPICTING ZIONISTS AS NAZI COLLABORATORS ANGERS IRELAND'S JEWRY

LONDON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- An attempt to stage a play in Dublin depicting Zionists as Nazi collaborators during World War II has aroused the wrath of Ireland's 2,000-member Jewish community.

The play, "Perdition," by Jim Allen, was to have opened at London's Royal Court Theatre but was cancelled last week after protests by British Jews and by leading scholars and historians who, on reading the script, branded it a travesty.

Allen has since been negotiating with the Olympia Theater in Dublin to present his work, which purports to be based on events in Hungary in 1944 where local Jewish leaders tried desperately to barter trucks and money to the Nazis for Jewish lives.

Joe Briscoe, head of the Jewish Representative Council in Dublin, said the play consisted of "downright lies" and was harmful to Jews. He noted that Allen has been peddling his play around Europe. "It is no great compliment to Dublin that it is the last city in which they are trying to stage it," he said.

CANADIAN P.M. 'SITTING' ON A REPORT ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN CANADA By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is continuing to "sit" on the Deschenes Commission's report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, more than a month after it was submitted to him.

The Prime Minister reportedly said he was studying the report and would present it to Parliament at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, he has cautioned all parties concerned not to discuss the contents of the report.

The Commission, headed by Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes, handed the report to Mulroney on December 30. It represents 20 months of investigatory work and an expenditure of some \$3 million (Canadian).

Some observers believe the Prime Minister is holding back the report because of repercussions from Canada's large Ukrainian population. Many alleged war criminals are believed to be of Ukrainian origin or Nazi collaborators from the Baltic states.

Sources close to the Prime Minister's Office said, however, that only 12 names of suspected war criminals are contained in the report, none of them Ukrainian.

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS INDICATE PERVASIVE DISSATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN ISRAEL AND A DECLINE IN ESTEEM FOR THE NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Opinion polls conducted in December and January on a wide variety of subjects indicate a pervasive dissatisfaction with life in Israel among the 1,200 respondents and a decline in esteem for the unity coalition government, according to an analysis of the results published in Davar Thursday by the pollsters, Hanoach and Rafi Smith.

The father-and-son team of researchers, whose polls command wide respect in Israel, found that large majorities perceived the government to be doing a better job handling foreign policy than dealing with social problems at home. There was sharp division over Israel's involvement in the U.S. arms shipments to Iran.

Large majorities disapproved of Arabs living under Israel's governance. Ultra-Orthodox Jews were also widely disapproved. But Orthodox Jews as such enjoyed a high approval rating while there seemed to be unfamiliarity and/or indifference toward the Conservative and Reform trends in Judaism.

Asked whether the unity government was better or worse since the rotation of power between Labor and Likud last October, 18 percent of the respondents thought it was better, 29 percent said "not as good" and 37 percent saw no change.

The respondents were divided almost evenly when asked if they would favor a similar unity coalition after the next elections. The answers were 46 percent "yes," 45 percent "no."

Attitude Toward Iran Arms Sales Affair

There was a similar split with respect to the Iran arms sales affair. Thirty nine percent believed that "Israel got unnecessarily entangled" in the U.S. arms shipments to Iran and 40 percent thought it did not. With respect to Israel's sale of arms to Iran, 37 percent were in favor, 41 percent opposed and 22 percent had no opinion.

On arms sales to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras, 33 percent approved and 33 percent were opposed while 34 percent had no opinion. The Smiths saw the responses as indicating public confusion on the issue of arms sales.

The government's handling of foreign policy received a 59 percent approval rating, down six percent from September, 1986. But only 31 percent approved the government's handling of social issues while two-thirds of the respondents disapproved. About 63 percent agreed with the statement that "the attitude toward the elderly in Israel has deteriorated in recent years."

The pollsters found most significant the responses to their question "Has your satisfaction with life in Israel recently grown or declined." Only 13 percent said it had "grown" while 24 percent indicated "decline" and 60 percent registered "no change." According to the Smiths, the responses indicate that "public morale is on the whole slightly on the decline."

A majority of 49-46 percent indicated they would not criticize young Israelis who emigrate to find better economic and social conditions abroad. Fifty-one percent agreed that the lack of appropriate social conditions to absorb new immigrants in Israel was responsible for the decline of immigration in recent years.

Attitudes Toward Various Population Groups

With respect to attitudes toward various population groups, Israeli Arabs were approved by 19 percent of the respondents against a disapproval rating of 45 percent. Arabs in the West Bank were approved by only eight percent and disapproved by 61 percent. But Israeli Arabs had a higher rating than ultra-Orthodox Jews, who were approved by 14 percent and disapproved by 66 percent of the respondents.

Orthodox Jews who are not "ultras" were approved by 54-17 percent. Conservative and Reform Jews received a 28-21 percent approval

rating with 51 percent expressing no opinion. Neither the Gush Emunim nor the Peace Now movement was accorded high approval ratings, though the former was somewhat more popular. The Gush Emunim were disapproved by a 48-26 percent margin while disapproval of Peace Now was 58-17 percent.

According to the pollsters, "The main finding (is) a feeling of dissatisfaction as pertains to both the economic sphere and other aspects of life in Israel." But they found that "To date, this atmosphere has had little affect on Israel's political map. Support for the (Labor) Alignment bloc has increased slightly, though not to the extent of consolidating a Knesset majority."

RABBI DENIES BANNING WOMEN FROM ATTENDING FUNERALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Ashkenazie Chief Rabbi of Migdal Haemek, Yitzhak David Grossman, denied that he banned women from attending funerals on grounds that their presence together with men could "cause disaster." Israeli women protested furiously.

He complained, in full page advertisements in several newspapers Wednesday, that he had been a victim of media misrepresentation.

Grossman and his Sephardic counterpart, Rabbi Avraham Menahem, were reported to have issued the ban because of an abnormally high number of deaths in the town recently. At the funeral of a local woman last week, her daughters, granddaughters and sisters were not permitted to approach the grave until the men had left.

Grossman said he never issued an halachic injunction but was merely conforming with the wishes of the deceased. He was quoted in the media as saying "The public demanded that we do something about all these disasters (the recent high death rate) 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 he has no intention of banning women from funerals. There was no comment from Rabbi Menahem.

RABIN REJECTS SENATE REPORT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday night that the report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence investigating the Iran arms sales scandal was "highly inaccurate" and "reached the wrong conclusions regarding Israel's role" in the arms sales to Iran and the transfer of its proceeds to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras. He said he had personally categorically rejected an appeal by a ranking White House aide for Israel to become involved with the Contras in any way.

"A report was issued by the Senate Intelligence Subcommittee. I think this is a highly inaccurate report, faulty, and hence it arrives at erroneous conclusions, both with respect to Israel's part in the actual idea of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in supplying arms to Iran in order to attain the goals we wanted, and with respect to the attribution, even minimally, of some sort of Israeli monetary profit from all the deals that were made, and certainly concerning the initiatives, which I supposedly launched, to give arms to the Contras, when the actual situation was the very opposite."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES
ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR STRATEGY
By David Twersky**

(Editor's note: David Twersky has written widely on Israeli affairs.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The strategic issues raised in the Jerusalem trial of Mordechai Vanunu, charged with leaking Israel's atomic secrets to a foreign newspaper, have been largely lost in the shuffle.

According to Vanunu's information as published in London's Sunday Times, Israel now ranks as the world's sixth largest nuclear power -- just after (in descending order) Great Britain, France, and The People's Republic of China.

According to the report, Israel has stockpiled at least 100 nuclear weapons, and has the "components and ability to build atomic, neutron or hydrogen bombs" of both the "suburb-busting" nuclear and "city-busting" thermo-nuclear types.

At the outset, observers expressed doubt that Vanunu's nuclear story was on the level, reading it as an intentional leak in order to warn off the Syrians, whose chemical weapons build-up was recently discussed in the media.

In fact, quite the opposite may be true: to the "sudden" appearance of information on the Syrians' chemical warfare capabilities was probably introduced to provide part of the strategic context for the discussion of Israel's nuclear force which the Vanunu revelations have thrust upon us.

Division Among Israeli Strategic Planners

Israel's nuclear strategy is at the heart of one of the critical debates dividing Israeli strategic planners and leading politicians. The key question is to what extent Israel should employ, and rely on, a nuclear umbrella to balance out what is ultimately an insurmountable Arab conventional edge.

This division cuts across other issues, like the dove/hawk territorial one. Both the annexationists and the doves are divided among pro-nuclear and pro-conventional lines.

Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, an internationally recognized expert on nuclear physics who heads the far-right Tehiya Party, is pro-nuclear. Ariel Sharon, no less a committed annexationist, sees Israel's future wars in conventional, non-nuclear terms.

The nuclear/conventional strategic debate also divides Israeli moderates. There are doves who see a nuclear umbrella as a substitute for strategic depth. Others doubt that Israel could live safely within the old 1967 borders.

This debate was the secret text animating supporters of Shimon Peres (Israel's foremost champion of nuclear thinking) and Yitzhak Rabin in the years when the two struggled for leadership of the Labor Party. It also explains why Rabin briefly took Sharon on as an adviser, while Peres appointed Ne'eman, during the last Labor government in the mid-1970's.

Important Questions Left Unanswered

Now this internal Israeli discussion, suppressed by a tradition of self-imposed silence on national security matters, has come out into the open. But the new disclosures still leave the most important questions unanswered.

What are the geographical and situational--not to mention the ethical -- limitations on the

use of Israel's nuclear weapons? What governs the "when" and the "where" of their use?

Presumably, nuclear weapons could only be employed in a "Samson"-type scenario, with Arab armies breaking through and threatening the heartland. How could Israel justify their use in a limited conflict, like a conventional Syrian offensive aimed at re-capturing parts of the Golan Heights, or an anti-PLO foray into Lebanon? Doesn't that leave Israel without recourse to its nuclear arsenal in the overwhelming majority of possible military confrontations?

Moreover, just where could Israel use a thermo-nuclear "city-buster"? Or even the small "suburb-busting" variety? On bellicose Damascus?

A Major Problem

There is a major problem with this scenario even if one discounts the unpredictable Soviet response to an Israeli first-use of nuclear weapons against Syria, Moscow's regional ally. With a sudden gust of wind, the radioactive material released over Damascus could boomerang back and cover Israel within a few hours.

According to the new information, however, Israel can produce neutron weapons which can kill the people and leave the buildings standing -- and which would not pose a boomerang threat to Israel proper.

These severe restrictions on the use of nuclear weapons bolster the arguments of the anti-nuclear strategists whose thinking remains dominated by traditional conventional categories, like territorial depth.

But there is no escaping a confrontation with the necessity for a nuclear counter-weight to growing Arab power.

The Gulf War won't go on forever. Israeli planners must imagine the possibility of conflict not only with Syria, armed to the teeth by the Soviets, but with an "eastern front" including Iraq, Jordan and Iran. Even given today's political reality, they cannot rule out the possibility that Egypt will return to the war front against Israel.

Dispelling Arab Illusions

This scenario overwhelms with sheer numbers and weight the traditional military doctrine which balanced the Arab advantage in men and weapons systems with Israeli quality and sophistication, and since 1967 with some territorial depth.

No wonder someone began to make nuclear contingency plans. And if nuclear weapons cannot do everything, they do act to dispel any lingering Arab illusions about wiping Israel off the map. They also serve notice on the Syrians that chemical weapons or no, Israel retains the strategic upper hand.

Of course, the possible Arab conventional advantage and the introduction into Arab arsenals of longer-range missiles capable of hitting Israeli air bases and mobilization centers raises another possibility. And that is that the most hard boiled conception of Israel's strategic interest is to work for the reduction of tensions and for peace.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Two terrorists were killed by an Israel Defense Force unit in an encounter near Tibnin village in the south Lebanon security zone, a military spokesman reported Thursday. There were no IDF casualties. According to the report, the IDF fired on the terrorists as they fled from the zone.