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**KNESSET DEFEATS CONVERSION, 'WHO IS A JEW?' AMENDMENTS, PARDON BILL; LIKUD-SHAS ACCORD ON THIN ICE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The Knesset Wednesday defeated two controversial bills which would have given the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate exclusive right to approve conversions performed abroad.

A measure introduced by the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party would have amended religious regulations dating from the British Mandate in Palestine by requiring that all converts to Judaism procure the Israeli Chief Rabbinate's endorsement in order to be fully recognized as Jews in Israel.

Despite support from Premier Yitzhak Shamir, it was defeated by a vote of 60-56 with four MKs absent.

A proposed amendment to the Law of Return, sponsored by the National Religious Party, would have had the same effect -- invalidating conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis in cases of Jews-by-choice seeking Israeli citizenship as Jews.

It was defeated 62-53 with two abstentions and three absences. This bill has been defeated each of the many times it has been brought before the Knesset in past years.

Shamir had pledged to the Shas Party two months ago that Likud would "do all in its power" to gain passage of the Shas measure. He made no secret that this was to be in exchange for Shas support of Likud efforts to prevent the Labor Party from dissolving the Knesset and calling early elections.

Alliance Shaken

Defeat of the Shas measure threatens to undo the Shas-Likud alliance, and there were recriminations on both sides. Shas leaders said Likud's "check has bounced." Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, insisted his party had fulfilled its pledge to try to pass the amendment and saw no reason why the Orthodox faction should withdraw its support of Likud.

Kaufman pointed to the narrow margin of defeat as proof that the Likud Knesset whips "did their job." He blamed Likud-Liberal MK Sarah Doron, who crossed party lines to vote against the bill. But other Likud figures noted the deliberate absence of Likud-Herut MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar and the defection of Likud allies such as Rafael Eitan of the opposition Tehiya Party, who voted against the measure, and Ometz MK Yigael Hurwitz, who was absent.

Supporters of the bill also claimed it was Arab MKs who invariably voted against Orthodox-inspired laws dealing with conversions.

The U.S. Jewish Factor

But the main factor thwarting the religious-rightwing bloc may have been the fierce opposition of American Jewish leaders who made it clear that Israel's relationship with Diaspora Jewry was at stake. Only hours before the voting, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith leadership sent a message to the government and Knesset. It urged that "The government of Israel should not

underestimate the extent of opposition to these bills among American Jews" and warned that "passage would have a serious impact on American efforts to help Israel."

Ruth Popkin, president of Hadassah, urged rejection of the bills in a message to Shamir which noted that she spoke "as head of the largest Zionist organization" in the U.S.

Robert Asher of Chicago, chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a Washington-based pro-Israel lobby, warned of the consequences in an Israel Radio interview Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, said Tuesday that if the religious measures were passed, Labor would leave the unity coalition government. He said the legislation "endangers the unity of the Jewish people."

Pardons Rejected

The Knesset also defeated, by an overwhelming 69-40 majority, a motion sponsored by the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel and Poale Agudat Israel parties to grant immediate pardons to seven members of a Jewish terrorist underground still serving prison sentences for violent crimes against Arabs in the West Bank.

Shamir supported the measure, but it was opposed on the Knesset floor by Likud Justice Minister Avraham Sharir, who demanded that it be withdrawn from the agenda. He called it an unworthy legislative precedent.

Other Likud Ministers, including David Levy and Moshe Arens, absented themselves from the chamber. Two Likud MKs who are close to Shamir, Ehud Olmert and Dan Meridor, voted against the pardon bill.

NORTH SAYS ISRAEL MAY HAVE HATCHED IDEA TO CHANNEL PROFITS TO CONTRAS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- Lt. Col. Oliver North said Wednesday that he believed Israel may have originated the idea of using the profits from the sale of arms to Iran to support the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Testifying for the second day before the Senate-House committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair, North said Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar first made the proposal to him. North said the late William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and other CIA officials had told him that "they believe Mr. Ghorbanifar to be an Israeli intelligence agent."

Ghorbanifar made the suggestion "point blank and he made it, by my understanding, with the full knowledge and acquiescence of the Israeli intelligence services, if not the Israeli government," North said.

The Israeli government has always maintained that it had no part in the diversion of funds to the Contras.

North said he met with Amiram Nir, a counterterrorism specialist for the Israeli government, and Ghorbanifar in Europe in January 1986, and expressed his concern about the Iran initiative, since he noted he was President Reagan's

"point man" on the policy against making any deals with terrorists or those that support terrorism.

The former National Security Council aide said that Ghorbanifar took him aside into a bathroom and suggested the profits -- or "residuals," as North called it -- be used to help the Contras. He said Ghorbanifar knew of his involvement in the U.S. effort to support the Contras.

For the first time, "the whole idea was made more palatable," North said. "I must confess to you that I thought using the Ayatollah's money to support the Nicaraguan resistance was a right idea." He added that he still believes that it was not wrong to do so.

North said the money was used for the Contras in February, May and October 1986. However, he noted he was surprised to learn during the Congressional hearings that the Contras received only \$4 million of the \$12 million available to them.

Said Nir Made Suggestion

North added that when Nir met with him in Washington in late December 1985 or early January 1986 to urge continuation of the Iranian initiative, the Israeli suggested that profits from any arms sale to Iran could be used in "supporting other activities."

It was not made clear what these activities were, but North noted that Israel was concerned with having the United States replenish the 503 TOW anti-tank missiles it sold to Iran in 1985.

In addition to aiding the Contras, North said the profits were used to fund the Iranian initiative, pay for the replacement of TOWs to Israel and "to continue other activities which the Israelis very clearly wanted and so did we."

He did not explain what these "activities" were, since the information is classified.

Said He Had Approval From Above

North said that while he supported structuring the arms sale to provide funds for these objectives, he had received approval from his superiors. But he has maintained that President Reagan did not know about it.

He stressed that before it became public, the Iranian initiative was successful in seeking "an opening to a more moderate regime in Iran," stopping Iranian Shiite terrorism against Americans and achieving the release of three Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

He noted that when the initiative was revealed he was working with the Israelis to open a "second channel" to Iran to bypass Ghorbanifar, who had been the middle man up to then.

PARTIES ESPOUSING RELIGIOUS PLURALISM GAIN IN ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- Results of the American elections to the World Zionist Congress indicate a substantial victory for Zionist parties promoting religious pluralism in Israel and losses for all traditional parties except Friends of Labor Israel.

Two parties running on the platform of religious pluralism -- MERCAZ, the newly formed organization for Conservative Judaism; and ARZA, the Association for Reform Zionists of America-- made the largest gains of seats in the American delegation to the December 1987 quadrennial Congress. MERCAZ, running for the first time,

received 20 seats. ARZA won 33 seats, 19 more than it had in the previous Congress.

Hadassah made the strongest showing in the election, with 48 seats, but that represented a loss of 21. Friends of Labor Israel gained two seats to win 15. The Zionist Organization of America garnered 12 seats, a loss of 10, and Herut Zionists of America won nine, a loss of four.

Religious issues in general seemed to dominate the voting, as more than half of the seats before imposition of penalties on the Orthodox Zionist slate went to the religious parties. The Religious Zionist Movement (Orthodox) had 56 percent of its ballots disqualified for penalties, leaving it with 14 seats, a loss of five.

Only one of the nine slates, the newly created Students for Israel list, failed to gain any seats, which are granted based on the percentage won of the total vote. The students were assessed heavy penalties for irregularities, and 93 percent of their votes were disqualified. The other seven percent of its votes did not meet the 1,387 vote minimum needed to gain a seat.

The Progressive Zionist List was also assessed heavy penalties. About 74 percent of its votes were disqualified, resulting in only one seat, a loss of one from the previous Congress. Penalties for all other parties were minimal.

Random Samples

Karen Rubinstein, executive director of the American Zionist Federation (AZF) which administered the U.S. Zionist elections, explained that penalties were assessed for many voting and membership irregularities. Some ballots were disqualified for technical errors such as improper markings and codings.

To check for compliance with the election guidelines, two percent of the membership lists of each organization on all slates (many of the slates are comprised of more than one organization) were randomly sampled by a computer. Under these guidelines, all eligible voters must be at least age 18, have signed the Jerusalem Program expressing commitment to Israel and Jewish values, and be paid members of a Zionist organization.

Penalties were imposed for "padding" the membership lists, multiple ballots cast by one person or failure to meet any one of the membership requirements.

In the case of the student slate, Rubinstein said every ballot checked in the random sample of each student organization's membership was found faulty and thus disqualified.

The Progressive Zionist and Religious Zionist lists have both informed the AZF that they intend to appeal the penalties imposed. Each slate is allowed two appeals.

About 28 percent of the all eligible voters who are members of American Zionist organizations voted in this year's election. The total number of valid ballots cast was 210,957, and about 8,500 were disqualified. American Zionist organizations comprise 29 percent of the delegates at the Zionist Congress, or 152 seats.

SHAS LEADER TO ASK FRANCE TO WAIVE EXTRADITION ORDER OF NAKASH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Shas Party leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, determined to prevent the extradition of William Nakash to France,

is preparing to go to Paris to urge the French authorities to waive their extradition request.

Nakash, 25, an Algerian-born French Jew, was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by a French court for the 1983 murder of an Arab in Besancon, a city in northeastern France. Justice Minister Avraham Sharir signed the extradition order a week ago after the Supreme Court rejected Nakash's final appeal.

Attorney General Yosef Harish has urged that it be implemented without delay. The Cabinet discussed the matter last Sunday, but postponed a decision until this Sunday's session.

Peretz had planned to go to Paris this week, but postponed his trip to try to persuade Harish not to carry out the extradition order. His intention to make a direct appeal to the French drew negative reactions from the Justice and Foreign ministries. But the ultra-Orthodox Minister said he will seek meetings with France's Premier and Justice Minister.

He said he would point out to them the many occasions in which France has refused extradition requests from other countries.

Meanwhile, the Rabbinical Court here has refused to rescind its order prohibiting Nakash from leaving the country because his pregnant wife would be abandoned.

PERES SAYS SOVIETS WOULD JOIN MIDEAST CONFERENCE WITHOUT PLO

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday that the Soviet Union will try to involve the Palestine Liberation Organization in an international conference for Middle East peace, but would be ready to join such a conference itself without PLO participation. Peres, appearing before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, indicated that Israel's condition for Soviet participation--resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel--would be no problem.

He quoted a statement Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made to Italian leaders that if this was the only obstacle, "then it will be no obstacle."

Peres said Moscow would prefer to delay a Middle East peace conference until 1988, an election year in the U.S., which would give it time to maneuver the PLO into the process. However, he said Israel must agree now to an international conference.

"If we persist with our opposition, in two years the U.S. will be without a peace policy for the Middle East," he said.

Laborite Minister Ezer Weizman, a strong advocate of an international conference, said one must be convened "sooner or later" because it is the only way to reach a peace settlement with Jordan and the Palestinians. According to Weizman, who spoke at a meeting of the International Peace Center Tuesday, the purpose of a conference would be to "pave the road" to return the administered territories to Arab sovereignty, implicit in the Camp David accords.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY STICK TO POSITION ON MIDEAST CONFERENCE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 8 (JTA) -- Sources close to the United States Mission to the United Nations here said Wednesday that the Soviet Union had nothing new to offer regarding resumption of

diplomatic relations with Israel, broken off by Moscow 20 years ago.

They were referring to the talks Tuesday between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the Reagan Administration's top expert on the Middle East, and his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov.

The sources confirmed that the pair discussed prospects for an international conference for Middle East peace as well as the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

Sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Soviet view is that relations with Israel can be reestablished only within the context of global changes, meaning an overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

No new elements regarding Soviet Jews were raised by the Soviet diplomat, the sources said.

Syrian Presence Requested

They said Murphy was told that the USSR wants Syria to participate in a Middle East peace conference. The Soviet Union itself wants to be present at the opening, but would not apply pressure nor interfere in any way with the talks between the parties.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is due here Thursday, is expected to meet with Murphy, who is Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. Murphy will report on his talks with Polyakov. According to sources here, Peres also will meet with a Soviet diplomat, either Polyakov or Yuli Voronov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister.

In addition, Peres will have discussions with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, who is due here Wednesday. Both will meet Thursday with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Mubarak will meet with Murphy and with French President Francois Mitterrand.

The diplomats are gathering here for the opening of the conference of the United Nations Trade and Development Agency July 9-31.

Murphy and Polyakov met for the third annual U.S.-Soviet discussions on the Middle East, an exchange of views decided on during the 1985 summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

SEMINARY, PART OF INTERRELIGIOUS TV GROUP, MAKING SHOW ON U.S. & JEWISH LAW

By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- The Jewish Theological Seminary of America will produce a television program that parallels the Jewish and American attitudes toward law. It will be part of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission's four-part presentation linking America's major religious groups, to be aired this fall.

In a one-hour segment molded around the theme "The Promise of America," the JTS show will compare the Jewish legal system with the United States Constitution and amendments. The premise is that these are "two legal systems that have endured because of their flexibility and constant reinterpretation," according to Marjorie Wyler, executive producer of radio and television at the Seminary. "The conclusion is that both legal systems evolve constantly because original intent is not a possible thing to determine," Wyler added. Stephan Chodorov produced the show on behalf of JTS. Funds for the newly-formed IBC, a non-profit organization were provided by a grant from the National Broadcasting Company.

FOREIGN PRESS GROUP PROTESTS ISRAELI QUESTIONING OF GERMAN PHOTOGRAPHER

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- The Foreign Press Association has lodged a strong protest over the police questioning of West German freelance photographer Andre Brutman, who shot photos of a meeting of Israeli leftists with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Budapest last month on assignment for Time magazine.

Brutman holds temporary residence status in Israel, which allows him to work here. On his return from Hungary, police demanded that he hand over his film for "evidence" in legal proceedings. A newly passed law forbids Israelis from meeting with PLO representatives.

Brutman produced a document proving his film was air-freighted from Budapest to New York. He was nevertheless ordered to report to the police Thursday for questioning.

The Foreign Press Association called the police action a "flagrant violation of freedom of the press and an unwarranted attempt to compel a journalist to participate in a police investigation." Such practices "cannot be condoned in a democratic society such as Israel," the statement said.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS SET ON COMPENSATING MURDER VICTIMS' KIN

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian jurists are scheduled to meet in Cairo next week in an attempt to reach agreement on the long-standing controversy over compensation to the families of Israelis murdered by a berserk Egyptian soldier on the beach at Ras Burka in eastern Sinai in October 1985.

The compensation issue was raised when the Cabinet agreed two years ago to submit the Israeli-Egyptian border dispute over Taba to international arbitration. But the Egyptians have been dragging their feet, Israeli officials say.

They expressed hope that the talks in Cairo will speed up the process. The families of the victims will be represented by former Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir. Meir Gabai, former director General of the Justice Ministry, will represent the government.

UNAUTHORIZED AGAM PIECE DISPUTED

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The municipality took legal action this week to remove a controversial Holocaust memorial sculpture from its location at the Western Wall, triggering a personal attack on Mayor Teddy Kollek by former Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, who placed the work on top of his Adra Yeshiva.

Goren charged that the Mayor's hatred of Orthodoxy was behind the legal action. Kollek rejected Goren's charge as spurious and insulting. He said his record proved his sensitivity to the needs of the city's Orthodox population.

But the sculpture was erected without the requisite municipal licenses. It has been criticized for aesthetic reasons. Artist Yaakov Agam defended his work. It may be an "illegitimate child" but "even when a bastard is born, you don't kill him," Agam said.

ISRAELI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES STAGE STOPPAGE; STRIKE SET FOR SUNDAY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Thousands of public employees staged a two-hour work stoppage Wednesday morning called by Histadrut because it said bargaining with the government over wage increases was deadlocked.

Histadrut has called for a day-long work stoppage this Sunday, and a general strike is in the offing if no new Labor contract is reached. Histadrut did not label Wednesday's action a "strike" but rather a two-hour break for discussions between workers and trade union officials. Most of the civil servants who did not report to their jobs at 8 a.m. took a two-hour "holiday" instead.

The stoppage affected the railroad system, courts, hospitals, the post offices and other public sectors. It followed a tense meeting Tuesday night between Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim.

Nissim had declared earlier there would be no across-the-board wage increases or a shorter work week, demanded by Histadrut. Hillel Dudai, the Treasury's chief negotiator, told reporters that Nissim would make no new offers and totally rejects Histadrut's demands.

Kessar said he attended the meeting only out of respect for the Finance Minister. He said Histadrut would withdraw from negotiations if no progress is made, leaving the Treasury to negotiate separately with each of more than a dozen public employees unions.

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION HAILS MILESTONE IN BOOKS FOR HUNGARIAN JEWISH YOUTH

BUDAPEST, July 8 (JTA) -- Publication of the first three books in the Hungarian language since the Holocaust for Jewish youth was celebrated at the opening here recently of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture's executive committee meeting.

The books, the first in a series, were initiated and funded by the Foundation in cooperation with the Hungarian Jewish community and with the Hungarian government's approval.

Rabbi Tomas Raj, editor of the books, and Dr. Jerry Hochbaum, executive director of the foundation, described the publications. An illustrated book on the Bible, beginning with Creation and ending with the death of Joseph, is for children aged 3-8. It was authored by Miriam Papaki and illustrated by Orsolya Madarffy.

"Shma Yisroel," a handbook describing the principles and practices of Jewish families from birth to death, written by nine Hungarian rabbis, is intended for ages 8-12. It discusses the synagogue and Jewish holidays.

A book on Jewish history from Creation to the end of the Talmudic period was written for 12 to 18-year-olds. Hochbaum said future publications for different age groups and for Jewish families will include a book on the Jewish religion, a Bible reader, a book of biblical and Talmudic stories and a Hungarian translation of the Mishna.

There are also plans for video material in Hungarian dealing with Jewish holidays.



ISRAELI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES STRIKE SUNDAY OVER STATUS OF BARGAINING
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- More than 450,000 government and municipal employees were on a day-long strike Sunday affecting most of the public sector. Finance Minister Moshe Nissim shrugged off the widespread work stoppage as a familiar tactic employed by Histadrut whenever new wage contracts were about to be negotiated.

Histadrut leaders said negotiations began three months ago with no progress made. The trade union federation is seeking higher pay, especially for public employees at the lowest end of the wage scale. Histadrut said the government refused to consider demands for an across-the-board agreement or to negotiate separately with individual unions.

Although the strike affected all government offices and agencies and local authorities, including the postal services and telephone exchanges, Nissim reported only briefly to the Cabinet at its Sunday meeting on the status of negotiations.

The public was not entirely inconvenienced. Bus and taxi services were normal. Electricity and water supplies were not affected by the strike nor were health care institutions for the elderly, the handicapped and children. General hospitals and emergency rooms were run by skeleton staffs.

Railroad service was halted except for shipments of potash from the Dead Sea to the Ashdod port. Ben Gurion Airport was shut down from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Television was blacked out, but the strikers allowed a camera crew to film the arrival of prominent Soviet refusenik Yuri Edelshtein and his family on a 6:15 p.m. flight from Vienna. This was at the request of Soviet Jewry groups.

University students were allowed to take final exams scheduled for Sunday, but the schools themselves were closed. Fire-brigades and other emergency services were operated on a restricted Sabbath schedule.

Israel Radio was off the air except for the Arabic language service and foreign language news broadcasts beamed abroad.

DEMJANJUK FIRES TOP COUNSEL BEFORE DEFENSE PRESENTED AT 'IVAN' TRIAL
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk has fired his chief defense lawyer, American attorney Mark O'Connor. O'Connor said he would appeal the firing at a special court session Sunday on grounds that his client may not have been aware of the consequences of the dismissal he signed on June 30.

The trial, which opened in Jerusalem district court last February, is presently recessed. It is scheduled to resume at the end of July to hear the case for the defense.

There has been tension and open disagreement between O'Connor and the other two members of the defense team, one an Israeli, the other an American. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk is accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." The defense claims he is a victim of mistaken identity.

PENALIZED GROUPS COMPLAIN OF BIAS, INCONSISTENCY IN ZIONIST ELECTIONS
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA) -- Several American Zionist organizations have accused the American Zionist Federation (AZF) of bias and inconsistency in the penalties it levelled against their slates in the recently concluded elections to the 31st World Zionist Congress.

Penalties were a direct result of the findings of Equifax, an independent auditing firm hired by AZF, which administered the American elections. Veteran Zionists said the Equifax audits of the 14 Zionist organizations' membership in this election were the strictest they could remember.

Equifax took a random sample of two percent of each organization's membership list and checked that:

- * Membership could be verified with appropriate documentation.
- * Total dues received matched the number of members on lists submitted to the AZF and corresponded to the amount of dues reportedly paid.
- * The "member" joined willingly and knowingly and with individual applications, especially in the case of group memberships.
- * Membership applications complied with other election rules including each member's documented acceptance of the Jerusalem Program.

On 10 percent of each two percent sample, Equifax ran a more thorough check, actually tracing dues payments directly to an individual member.

Rationale Revealed

The penalties translated into some substantial losses of mandates for the slates of three organizations, the Zionist Student Movement (ZSM), Religious Zionists of America (RZA) and Americans for Progressive Israel (API). The Equifax report, distributed to each organization involved after the election results were announced last week, provided the rationale behind the increasingly controversial penalties.

The newly formed Zionist Student Movement would have received one seat, but lost it after a 100 percent penalty because it had no financial records, according to the Equifax report.

RZA, which ran on the Religious Zionist Movement slate with Emunah and Amit women, suffered heavy losses, with a 100 percent penalty. Its slate lost 13 of 27 mandates.

According to the Equifax report, the audit covered 3,438 RZA members, or two percent of RZA's declared 169,484 members.

In every case, Equifax found discrepancies. "The number of discrepancies is a result of the fact that only 2,159 membership cards were presented for examination and we were unable to line specific dues payments deposits to membership financial records," the report said.

Equifax also checked RZA's bank records and found that its deposits fell short of the amount of money that would verify its 169,484 members, each paying \$18 in dues.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, RZA chairman, called the election a "sham" and said RZA "expects to go to (a U.S.) court to fight it." Bernstein said he believed the penalties were aimed at excluding

religious Zionists from the Congress. Bernstein also charged that the AZF ran the election improperly by disqualifying votes after the election was finished. "The parties should have been penalized before the voting. The lists should have been invalidated before ballots were sent out," Bernstein said.

The methods used to penalize slates had effectively disenfranchised the voters who cast the disqualified votes, he said. RZA's slate lost about 18,840 votes to penalties.

RZA also protested the redistribution of its votes to boost other slates, especially the Reform and Conservative slates, which made impressive showings in the election.

Also Charges Disenfranchisement

The API slate lost three of its four mandates due to an 81 percent penalty. Similarly, API complained that about 75 percent of its supporters were disenfranchised.

The Equifax report said API was penalized because its director "was unable to produce membership applications or other appropriate documentation for 80 percent of total membership."

Equifax found that these members were "gift members" and that there was no evidence that they were aware of their membership. The director of API told Equifax the gift memberships had been financed by a number of private donors, the report said.

Stephie Kirschner, API director, said she is "not sure uniform procedures were used in the audit." She claimed that no other organizations were examined or penalized for gift memberships.

There was no prohibition in the election rules against gift memberships. But one of the rules for eligibility to vote stated that a member's dues must be current.

API has filed an appeal which will be heard before an arbitration board called the Zionist Tribunal. The tribunal is comprised of one lawyer or representative selected by each organization which participated in the election.

Incomplete Records Blamed

Ray Patt, chairman of the Area Election Committee formed by the AZF to run the election, said most of the organizations were penalized because they did not have sufficient records to back up their membership claims.

Patt discounted the Orthodox party's claims of bias. "The Orthodox were treated in exactly the same fashion as every other faction. They approved the verification process," he said. "No one wants Orthodox Zionists out of the movement."

He added that all of the organizations agreed to abide by the findings of the Equifax report before it was released.

The issue of gift memberships will be decided in the tribunal, Patt said. He refused to elaborate on the committee's position on this issue. All appeals will be heard within a month of filing the complaint under the AZF election rules. RZA has not yet made a formal appeal.

KAHANE FILES COUNTERSUIT AGAINST KANSAS MAN OVER SCUFFLE LAST YEAR

KANSAS CITY, Kan., July 12 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane, wanted by Johnson County, Kan. police to answer disorderly conduct charges, has filed a countersuit for "assault, battery and

outrageous conduct" arising from a scuffle with a Palestinian Arab, Mousa Shukair, during an appearance by Kahane at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kan., last November 18.

Kahane, leader of the Kach Party in Israel, is a member of the Knesset. His attorney, Michael Clayman, responded last month to a civil lawsuit brought against Kahane in May in Johnson County District Court. He filed the countersuit at the same time. The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle reported.

Clayman told The Chronicle that the counterclaim was identical to the assault charges brought against Kahane by Shukair, a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Coalition, who is seeking damages in excess of \$10,000.

According to Clayman, the next step in the civil suit involves pre-trial discovery that may include taking depositions from Kahane and others. This could necessitate Kahane's return to the U.S. If he enters Johnson County he would face penalties of up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine for failure to appear in Overland Park Municipal Court in May on a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct stemming from the November 18 incident.

Karen Arnold-Burger, assistant city attorney for Overland Park, said if Kahane appeared a municipal warrant would be served on him and he would be taken to the county jail and held on \$750 bail. Clayman, whose fees are being paid by Kach International, Kahane's political organization, said he would proceed with the countersuit unless the case is settled out of court. He said there was no indication at this time of a settlement, The Chronicle reported.

ISRAELIS RELEASE PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST, WHO VOWS FIGHT WITHIN THE LAW
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Faisal Hussein, a militant Palestinian nationalist, was released Thursday from three months of administrative detention in Ramla prison on suspicion of subversive activities on behalf of El Fatah, the terrorist wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Husseini, who officially runs the Arab Studies Center in East Jerusalem, heads The Committee to Confront the Iron Fist, an organization of Arabs and Israeli Jews supportive of the Palestinian cause. He told a press conference here that he will continue to be active against the Israeli occupation of the administered territories.

He said his release from prison was a vindication. He was originally to be held for six months. The Supreme Court, acting on appeal, reduced the term by half. Hussein said this gave him an opportunity to defend himself in court. He said he used some of the evidence presented by the authorities against him to prove his innocence.

Administrative detention, a holdover from the British Mandate regime in Palestine, allows incarceration of persons on suspicion for a specific term without trial or formal charges. No charges were brought against Hussein. But security forces say he is a key PLO activist in the administered territories who relays orders from PLO headquarters abroad to local Arabs.

"I am going to fight for my people," Hussein said. "It is my job to do what any other human being would do who is under occupation." But he stressed he would work within the law.

JEWISH LEADERS TO SHULTZ: TELL SOVIETS 'GLASNOST' A SHAM FOR JEWS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders Thursday urged Secretary of State George Shultz to tell his Soviet counterpart that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost," or openness, is not being applied to the Jews of the USSR.

"Glasnost, as far as the Jewish population is concerned, doesn't exist at the best and is a fraud at the worst," Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), told reporters after the meeting with Shultz at the State Department. He said the situation for Jews under Gorbachev is more "oppressive" than under previous regimes.

Shultz asked for the meeting to receive a report from the NCSJ on the situation of Soviet Jewry during the first six months of the year, according to Abram. The Secretary said that a chart prepared by the NCSJ for the U.S.-Soviet summit in Finland last year was useful in illustrating the situation of Soviet Jews, and he wanted another one for his upcoming meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. No date has been announced for the meeting.

Abram, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that Shultz was urged to tell Shevardnadze that glasnost was "deceiving nobody" and that until Soviet "conduct with respect to the Jewish population is redressed and until Jews are permitted to leave in accordance with the Helsinki Accords, there will not be that degree of credibility and trust" needed to improve relations between the two superpowers.

Shultz was praised by those attending the meeting for his continuing support for the struggle of Soviet Jewry.

U.S. Reiterates Policy

Earlier in the day, State Department spokesman Charles Redman reiterated the U.S. policy that "all those who wish to leave the Soviet Union or emigrate abroad should be able to do so." He also said that Jews and others "should be free to practice their religion."

Abram noted he had met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London earlier in the week and she, too, said that Britain is telling the Soviets that "if they can't be trusted on human rights, they can't be trusted on other issues."

The situation has reached a "crucial stage because Mr. Gorbachev is hard at work trying to deceive the American people and also the Jewish people," Abram said.

He conceded that emigration figures have risen for the first six months of 1987, with 3,092 Jews being allowed to leave as compared to only 790 for all of 1986. But this is "insignificant" when compared to the some 51,000 allowed to emigrate in 1979, Abram stressed.

He called the release of a few well-known figures a "public relations exercise" while noting that emigration has been made harder for some long-term refuseniks on security grounds. He said that it "is an absurdity and a fraud" that refuseniks such as Vladimir Slepak, who has not been allowed to work for 17 years, or Ida Nudel, who has been denied work for 16 years, could not emigrate because they were privy to secrets.

Abram said that more important than the monthly emigration figures is the new policy of refusing new applications for emigration. He said the Soviets may be planning to allow most refuseniks to leave and then cut off all emigration.

Seeks Continued Talks

Abram, who visited the Soviet Union in March with Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said he would like to go back and "continue the conversations" they had with Soviet officials. He said at the time no agreements were made, but that the Soviets sought to leave "impressions" on improving conditions for Soviet Jews as well as emigration.

At the time, Abram and Bronfman said they were given assurances that the 11,000 long-term refuseniks would be allowed to emigrate within a year; that emigres would be allowed to go to Israel through Rumania, rather than Vienna; and that conditions would be improved for the practice of Judaism within the USSR. "The impressions they sought to leave with us have not proven to be substantial," he said.

Also attending the meeting with Shultz were: Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations; Theodore Ellenoff, president of the American Jewish Committee; Jerry Goodman, NCSJ executive director; Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the President's Conference; Mark Levin, NCSJ Washington representative; Michael Pelavin, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International; Constance Smukler, vice chairperson of NCSJ; and Sandra Weiner, chairperson of the NCSJ's National Advisory Council.

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS WELCOME KNESSET DEFEAT OF JEWISH IDENTITY BILLS

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders are congratulating the Knesset for **upholding religious pluralism and avoiding a possible rupture between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.**

The messages, on behalf of major organizations, refer to the Knesset's votes Wednesday defeating two controversial bills which would have given the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate exclusive right to approve conversions performed abroad. The practical effects of those measures would have been to invalidate conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis and, by implication, question the legitimacy of the non-Orthodox branches of Judaism in Israel.

Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, said: "We are gratified that the Knesset has defeated the latest effort of extremist religious parties in Israel to amend the Law of Return so that Jews converted by non-Orthodox rabbis would no longer receive recognition in the Jewish State. The latest rejection of this pernicious and offensive proposal, which has been introduced repeatedly in the Knesset, is an affirmation of the historic unity of the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora."

Theodore Ellenoff, national president of the American Jewish Committee, also hailed the Knesset's action. "By firmly rejecting these measures, the Knesset of Israel has reaffirmed the pluralistic character of Jewish life and has strengthened the unity and solidarity of support for Israel among Jews of the United States and other Diaspora communities," he said. Franklin

Kreutzer, international president of the United Synagogue of America, the association of Conservative congregations in North America and Mexico, said his movement is "grateful to the Knesset for supporting Diaspora Jewry's legitimacy and upholding the current Law of Return."

Kreutzer added, "Conservative Jews love Israel and want to be given first-class religious and secular citizenship...Conservative Jews will interpret this favorable vote of the Knesset as a sign of acceptance and welcome and we will attend the World Zionist Congress (in Jerusalem next December) with renewed zeal and commitment."

Simon Schwartz, president of Mercaz, the Zionist movement of Conservative Jews in the U.S., said the vote "reflected an understanding in the Knesset that these matters do affect Diaspora Jewry. It would be unconscionable to deprive Jews of the Diaspora, particularly non-Orthodox Jews, of their rights in Israel and outside," Schwartz said.

Evelyn Auerbach, president of the Womens League of Conservative Judaism, said: "We are heartened that the Knesset saw fit to honor its commitment to the unity of the Jewish people, the welfare of Israel and the Diaspora. We will continue to monitor any attempts to erode the legitimacy of the Conservative Masorti movement as well as the principle of religious pluralism."

Rabbi Daniel Syme, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the congregational organization of Reform Judaism, said: "The Knesset has once again acted in the best interests of Israel and of the Jewish people as a whole in rejecting pieces of legislation that would have shattered Jewish unity."

"We call again upon Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist Jews throughout the world to join with us in the Reform movement in confronting common problems as one Jewish community. To do otherwise is to insure continued tension, growing bitterness and a diversion from the central agenda of the Jewish people."

NO MORE WAR, SAYS EGYPTIAN ENVOY

MONTEVIDEO, July 12 (JTA) -- The Egyptian Ambassador to Uruguay vowed here Friday that there will never be another war between Egypt and Israel. Ambassador Farouk Baraka was the keynote speaker at a meeting of B'nai B'rith District 28 in Uruguay.

He denied that relations between Egypt and Israel are a "cold peace," noting the large numbers of Israelis who visit Egypt. "Israelis are more frequent travellers than Egyptians. So many more of them visit Egypt than Egyptians visit Israel. We are happy that they come and we receive them warmly," the envoy said.

He observed that the fact he was the main speaker at the B'nai B'rith event was proof of friendship. "It is important to pray for peace, but we must pray together," Baraka said.

SPEEDBOAT KILLS ISRAELI SOCCER STAR

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- Avi Ran, 23, one of Israel's top soccer stars, was killed on Lake Kinnereth Saturday when a high powered speedboat struck the motorized water cycle he was riding. He was to be buried in Haifa Sunday after a memorial service at the Haifa Sports Stadium. Ran was a goalkeeper for the Haifa Maccabi soccer team.

Police have detained the operator of the speedboat and are collecting evidence from eyewitnesses to the accident. Vacationers in Tiberias have complained that speedboats fail to obey regulations that they stay at least 330 yards from the shoreline.

FOREIGN PRESS GROUP IRKED AFTER ISRAELI POLICE GRAB FILM OF MEETING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- The Foreign Press Association said Sunday it is considering legal action to force the police to return photographic film confiscated Friday from West German free-lance photographer Andre Brutmann. The FPA said it might boycott government-sponsored events in protest.

Brutmann, who has temporary residence status in Israel, was forced to hand over 12 rolls of color and black-and-white film he used in Budapest last month at a meeting of Israelis with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The police came to his home Friday night after a judge issued a confiscation order. Brutmann had been interrogated for three-and-a-half hours earlier Friday at the Ramle police station. He was met by police at Ben Gurion Airport Wednesday when he arrived from Hungary and was told the film was needed as evidence in legal proceedings. Israeli citizens are forbidden by law to have any contact with PLO representatives.

Brutmann refused to hand over his film at the airport.

The FPA protested the police action then and issued a second protest Sunday, accusing the authorities of singling out Brutmann "for harassment and interference in his professional work." He had been on assignment in Budapest for Time magazine and said he air-freighted his film from there to the magazine in New York.

The FPA said it is "dedicated to the principles of freedom of information and unhindered access to places where news is made." It "cannot accept such arbitrary and discriminatory behavior on the part of the Israeli law enforcement authorities," the statement said.

"The regrettable incident casts doubt on Israeli status as a democratic country in which journalists from all over the world can be based and in which they can fulfill their professional obligations," the statement added. "The FPA will not rest until this intolerable and undemocratic affair is resolved to its satisfaction."

It demanded that Brutmann's film be returned and not used against anyone.

LIVER TRANSPLANT A SUCCESS

LONDON, July 12 (JTA) -- Moran Kadosh, a four-year-old Israeli girl flown to England for a liver transplant in April, flew home Friday after recovering from the operation which saved her life. Moran's case hit the headlines when passengers on the El Al jet bringing her to Britain spontaneously donated 4,500 Pounds Sterling to help her parents meet the cost of her treatment.

Before leaving London, Moran's mother paid tribute to the doctors and nurses at the Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge and the generosity of the passengers who had accompanied them to Britain. "She looks so well, just like a normal little girl!" said Mrs. Kadosh.

**SOVIET CONSULAR DELEGATION ARRIVES
IN ISRAEL FOR TALKS ON PROPERTY;
NO POLITICAL CONSULTATION SCHEDULED**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- A three-man Soviet consular delegation arrived in Israel without fanfare Sunday night and is scheduled to meet with Israeli consular and legal officials at the Foreign Ministry here Tuesday.

They are the first official Soviet mission to visit Israel since Moscow broke diplomatic relations in 1967. Israeli officials stressed they were here for a specific purpose related to Soviet property and nationals in Israel, and there are no plans at present for political talks.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urged Monday that the visit "not be blown out of proportion." He said the delegation was relatively low-level. He would consider meeting with them if they requested it, but so far there has been no request, Peres said.

The Soviet officials are Yevgeny Antipov, head of the Consular Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; Alexei Chestiakov, an expert on Middle East affairs; and Genryk Flachin. They were accompanied by staff. Flachin attended a meeting with Israeli officials in Helsinki last August, which the Soviets broke off when the Israelis raised the issue of Soviet Jews.

But the idea of a Soviet consular mission emerged from that brief meeting. The Soviet officials spent Monday visiting with the heads of the Russian Orthodox Church in west Jerusalem.

The task of the delegation is to renew the passports of Soviet citizens here, most of them attached to the Church, and to review the status of Soviet property, most of it Church property.

Antipov, who spoke briefly to Israeli reporters, was non-committal about a possible Soviet role in an international conference for Middle East peace. He said that as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, "certainly our role should be taken into consideration." Asked if the conference should be able to "impose" solutions, Antipov replied, "I believe it is too early to talk about it."

The Soviet group is staying at a hotel in Tel Aviv.

**DEMJANJUK'S CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL,
O'CONNOR, CONTESTS HIS FIRING**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk's American lawyer, Mark O'Connor, said Sunday he would continue to serve as chief defense counsel for the suspected war criminal despite his dismissal by the Demjanjuk family last month.

"I am personally responsible for the life of this man," O'Connor said at a press conference here. He said he felt it was his "moral and personal responsibility" to defend Demjanjuk unless relieved of his duties by the court. He said the Ukrainian-born former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" was not fully aware of the consequences when he signed a

letter June 30 firing O'Connor on grounds of "incompetence." "He was a man who was totally crestfallen, a man who was confused," O'Connor said, indicating that the family is responsible for changing the defense team a month before the case for the defense is to be presented in Jerusalem district court. The trial is presently in recess.

The Demjanjuk family retained O'Connor's two associates, Israeli lawyer Yoram Sheftel and John Gill, an American. It added another attorney, John Broadley of Washington, D.C., to the defense team.

Criticizes Associates

O'Connor was sharply critical of his two assistants, particularly Sheftel, whom he accused of having "connections" with the prosecution. He said he would disclose the facts if his dismissal is upheld by the court. The court is expected to discuss the firing on Wednesday.

Tension and disagreement was evident among the defense lawyers since the trial opened last February 16. They appear to stem from personality clashes, how to use the limited defense budget and who would be featured in media coverage.

O'Connor claimed that Sheftel recently visited the U.S. and Belgium without informing him and concealed documents which O'Connor had assembled over the five years since he agreed to represent Demjanjuk. He said he had tried to fire Sheftel, but that the Demjanjuk family objected.

In the five months since the trial opened, Demjanjuk has been identified by more than a score of Treblinka survivors as the brutal guard who operated the gas chambers. He was also identified from photographs by former SS man Otto Horn, who gave testimony in West Berlin last month.

Nevertheless, the defense has succeeded in creating an element of doubt. It insists Demjanjuk was a German prisoner of war during the time he is alleged to have been at Treblinka. It has tried to discredit witnesses, questioning their memory of events more than 40 years ago, and has alleged that key prosecution documents are Soviet forgeries. "I am the one who cares for John Demjanjuk," O'Connor told the press conference. "Where are the other lawyers who claim to be leaders of the defense? Where is John Gill, whom I brought to the defense? Where is Yoram Sheftel, whose services I hired? Has any of them visited Demjanjuk in jail, has any of them shown any interest in the fate of this lonesome person?"

**RABIN, NISSIM REPORTEDLY TO URGE
SCRAPPING OF LAVI JET PROJECT**

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim have concluded that the Lavi fighterplane project must be abandoned for budgetary reasons and will present a joint proposal to scrap it, Israel Radio reported Monday.

The report said they have informed Premier Yitzhak Shamir they intend to submit their proposal to the Cabinet shortly. According to Israel Radio, they told Shamir that there was no way to increase the defense budget and without extra funds, Israel's second generation jet fighter could

not be produced. Shamir was reported to have replied that he wanted to continue examining the alternatives.

NATHAN PERLMUTTER, AUTHOR AND ADL DIRECTOR, DEAD AT 64

NEW YORK, July 13 (JTA) -- Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith who was widely cited for his fight against bigotry and discrimination and dedication to humanitarian causes, died Sunday of cancer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center here at age 64. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at Temple Emanu-El here.

Perlmutter was a recipient last month of the 1987 Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian award, for his public service. In making the presentation at the White House, President Reagan said it was "his life work to champion human dignity. He is a hero indeed."

Mayor Edward Koch of New York presented Perlmutter with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award last May "for extraordinary courage, enduring humanity, unshakable faith in a world without prejudice." In March he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Perlmutter was an author, lecturer, lawyer and former Marine infantry officer. His 38-year career in the human relations field began when he joined the ADL in 1949. He served through 1964 as director of the three of the human rights agency's regional offices -- in Detroit, Miami and New York. From 1965-69 he was associate national director of the American Jewish Committee.

He returned to the ADL in 1973 as assistant national director and became its national director in 1979. He was a vice president of Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., from 1969 to 1973.

The son of immigrant parents from Poland, Perlmutter grew up in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, NY. He entered the civil service at age 19 and worked as a clerk/typist at the Pentagon. He enrolled at the Georgetown University School of Diplomatic and Consular Practice and also studied at Villanova College. He obtained his law degree from New York University Law School. Perlmutter was the author of "A Bias of Reflections" and co-author with his wife, Ruth Ann Perlmutter, of "The Real Anti-Semitism in America."

ISRAELIS EXPECT UN WAR CRIMES FILES TO BE OPEN TO PUBLIC SOON By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 13 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomats here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Monday that they expect all of the former members of the United Nations War Crimes Commission will soon support Israel's request for opening to the public the UN files on Nazi war criminals.

Only six countries out of the 17-member Commission still oppose the opening of the files. They are Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India and Poland. "We have reason to believe that these countries will soon announce that they have changed their position in favor of opening of the files," an Israeli diplomat said.

Asked how long "soon" meant, he said a matter of months.

Last week five nations -- Belgium, China, Luxembourg, New Zealand, and Norway -- informed Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that

they changed their initial position and would join six other nations that have already come out publicly in support of opening the files to public inspection. The five nations joined Australia, Denmark, Greece, Holland, the U.S. and Yugoslavia.

The announcement last week represented a victory for Israel and followed a major campaign on the part of the Israelis to win the support of the governments concerned on behalf of opening the files. When Israel started its campaign last year, only Australia supported its request to grant the public free access to the files.

The Israeli diplomats noted Monday that although there is a majority now among the former members of the War Crimes Commission for opening of the files, the final authority on opening the files to the public is in the hands of the UN Secretary General.

The UN files on Nazi war criminals are stored in an archive in Manhattan. The archive reportedly contains 40,000 files. Israel has already inspected several thousand files under the rule that permits governments who are members at the UN to inspect any file on a confidential basis.

EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS REAFFIRM PLEDGE TO MIDEAST PEACE CONFAB By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, July 13 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministers of the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) member states affirmed here Monday their support of an international conference for Middle East peace as the only formula at present to advance the peace process in the region.

The Ministers are attending the European Political Cooperation conference here. Denmark assumed the rotating presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers on July 1.

The Ministers recalled the positive response to their declaration of last February 23 endorsing the idea of an international conference. They expressed hope that conditions favorable to such a gathering can be established rapidly by agreement between the parties to it.

The EEC Ministers said they have closely followed developments in the region and decided to pursue, bilaterally and through the Council presidency, contacts on all levels and with all interested parties in search of a comprehensive, lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They reaffirmed that this included a settlement of the Palestinian problem, in accordance with the EEC's June 1980 Venice Declaration. That document stated that the Palestine Liberation Organization must be a participant in the peace process.

The 12 Ministers also recalled their commitment to the respect of human rights in the Israel-administered territories. They agreed that the deterioration of the economic and social situation in the territories and in the region as a whole, threatened to complicate the search for peace.

The EEC countries pledged to continue to contribute to economic and social development, with the understanding that it is no substitute for peace.

HUSSEIN, THATCHER AGREE ON CONFAB AS BEST WAY TO ADVANCE PEACE By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 13 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and King Hussein of Jordan

agreed here Monday that an international conference was the best way to advance the peace process in the Middle East.

Thatcher and Hussein discussed the matter at a two-hour luncheon meeting. Officials said they "stressed the importance of not missing the opportunity to take a major step forward in the peace process."

Their talks followed a visit here three weeks ago by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was soliciting the support of Western European leaders for an international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices. The Israeli government is divided on the issue. Premier Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud party consider an international conference a danger to Israel.

Thatcher is to report on the progress of her contacts with Hussein and Peres when she meets President Reagan in Washington later this week.

SOVIETS STILL SLOW WITH VISAS, SAYS EDELSHTEIN IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- Former refuse-nik Yuri Edelshtein said on his arrival in Israel Sunday night that while some Jews are getting exit visas to leave the Soviet Union, "even more" are not.

Edelshtein, 29, who spent nearly three years in a Siberian labor camp, landed at Ben Gurion Airport with his wife Tatyana and her 12-year-old daughter Yulia. They received an emotional reception from a large crowd of welcomers, mainly Orthodox Jews. The various groups in Israel working on behalf of Soviet Jews have been virtually taken over by religious activists in recent months.

Edelshtein, speaking fluent Hebrew and English, told an airport press conference: "What I want to ask is not to forget my friends who are still in the USSR. I want, as quickly as possible, to be greeting other Jews arriving here from the Soviet Union."

He said despite his delight at being in Israel, he was sad to have left behind "many who are perhaps more worthy than I to be here."

"What I want to stress is that there are even more people not getting permission" (to leave) he explained, "those prisoners of Zion who are longtime refuseniks, and new applicants -- a lot of people are still staying there and so we may be joyful that some families are coming. But we mustn't forget that there are still a lot" who are still waiting.

Edelshtein first applied for an exit visa in 1978. His persistence and the fact that he taught Hebrew clandestinely got him a three-year sentence to a Siberian labor camp in 1984 on drug charges.

He was released last May, four months before his official term expired.

LABOR ABSENT FROM KNESSET FOR NO-CONFIDENCE VOTES, BUT SHAMIR STILL SUPPORTS UNITY GOVERNMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- All but two members of the Labor Party Knesset faction absented themselves from the Knesset Monday evening to avoid voting on five no-confidence motions introduced by leftist parties.

The issue was Premier Yitzhak Shamir's vote last Wednesday in favor of a bill by the religious

parties to pardon the seven members of a Jewish underground still serving prison sentences for acts of violence against Arabs in the West Bank.

Many Laborites made it clear to the party leadership that they would not, under any circumstances, support the government on this matter. The party absented itself en-bloc to head off a possible move by Likud to oust Labor from the unity coalition government for failure to support the government against the five motions.

The two Laborites who participated in the voting were Haim Ramon, who supported the leftwing opposition parties, and Aharon Nahamias, who backed the government.

The motions were easily defeated. Shamir stressed that he did not intend to seek Labor's removal and hoped the unity government would remain in office. But the parliamentary breakdown of Likud and the religious parties on one side of the issue and Labor and the left on the other strengthened political speculation that the unity government would soon be replaced by a narrowly based coalition headed by one or the other of the two major parties.

Supporters of the no-confidence motions denounced Shamir for voting for and giving his moral support to the pardon bill, which Likud Justice Minister Avraham Sharir had rejected in his official statement for the government last week. Shamir maintained that the Justice Minister spoke for himself, not the government.

He said his vote in favor of pardons reflected his "views and feelings" about the underground members remaining in prison, but did not in any way imply acquiescence to their crimes.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETURN TO WORK, BUT FURTHER STRIKES THREATENED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- More than 450,000 public employees who staged a 24-hour strike Sunday were back at their jobs Monday. But longer work stoppages threatened even as Histadrut accepted Finance Minister Moshe Nissim's offer to negotiate a new labor contract immediately.

Nissim reportedly is prepared to grant pay increases to low-wage employees and pensionnaires, and even a shorter work week. But some unions wanted the strike to continue until some progress was made toward an overall contract.

The recalcitrant unions held off wildcat strikes only on the promise by Histadrut leadership that the trade union federation would take tough measures if negotiations with the Finance Ministry did not make speedy progress.

Chaim Haberfeld, who heads Histadrut's Trade Union Department, said he has not yet received a reported promise by Nissim that the Treasury would sign an agreement quickly on condition that a new contract would be of two years' duration with an undertaking that there would be no strikes in that period. Previous contracts have been for one year.

Haberfeld said Histadrut would consider the offer when it is received. But clerks at the Tel Aviv magistrates court declared a one-day strike Monday morning. They charged that Histadrut officials had ignored their particular demands, which they did not specify.

Meanwhile, public services shut down Sunday were operating. Radio and television broadcasts were resumed and garbage was being collected.

FACING INTERNAL STRIFE, HERUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE BLASTS PERES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir and other speakers at the Herut Party Central Committee meeting here delivered scathing attacks on the Labor Party and its leader, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Shamir barely stopped short of accusing the Labor bloc of giving comfort to Israel's enemies. He insisted he wanted the Labor-Likud unity government to continue. If it breaks up, Likud "will go to the people and ask its support in elections," Shamir said.

The central issue in the dispute between the coalition partners is an international conference for Middle East peace which Peres advocates and Shamir opposes. As long as Likud is in the government, there will be no international conference, Shamir declared to applause.

He described Labor as a "political camp within us which tells our enemies that we are sick and tired of Judaea and Samaria and we should return to the Green Line," a reference to the demarcation line between Israel and the administered territories.

Another speaker, Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon, demanded that Peres should be fired if he continues to press for an international peace conference.

But despite the fire-eating rhetoric of its leaders, all is not well within Herut ranks. Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy have emerged as rivals to Shamir for party leadership. Their differences have prevented the Herut Central Committee from electing an executive.

PERES ACCUSED OF SELL-OUT IN SETTLING LAND DISPUTE WITH DRUZE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA)--A land dispute with Druze villagers in Galilee that erupted in violence last Monday was settled to the villagers' satisfaction through the intervention of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The arrangement appears to have won the Labor Party the support of Israel's 75,000 Druze, at least for the time being. Peres was accused by Likud and some Laborites of selling out the Mt. Meron Nature Sanctuary for political advantage.

One Likud politician, Mayor Eli Landau of Herzliya, was so incensed that he created one of Israel's worst traffic jams Thursday as a gesture of protest. He ordered heavy trucks from his municipality to block the main Tel Aviv-Haifa highway, causing traffic to back up for several miles. It lasted 45 minutes.

"I blocked the road to protest against the shameful behavior of the Druze," Landau told police who came to try to unravel the jam. He also handed them flowers and insisted that he, not the truck drivers, was solely responsible.

The Association of Local Government Authorities and several mayors denounced Landau's action. The police said they were "looking into" it.

Residents of the Druze village of Beit Jahn claimed ownership of 3,000 acres of the nature preserve. Recently they illegally erected a tent

encampment there. Park rangers, escorted by police, dismantled the encampment July 6 and were attacked by hundreds of chain-and-club-wielding Druze. Six rangers, 23 policemen and six villagers were injured, and 20 vehicles belonging to the police and the Nature Reserves Authority were damaged. A forest ranger's hut was ransacked.

Police declared Thursday they would prosecute the Druze responsible for the attack. But most of the villagers' demands were met. Peres, Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and Ezer Weizman, all Laborites, told Druze leaders at a meeting at the Knesset that the villagers may now cultivate land in the nature reserve previously barred to them.

Sheikh Amin Tarif, leader of the Druze community, praised Peres as a great leader who is fit to head any Israeli government. "This statement by the Sheikh is worth at least one mandate in the elections," a Druze journalist commented afterwards.

But others thought the price was too high. Uri Baidatz, head of the Nature Reserves Authority, said, "This is a dark day for nature lovers, a victory for violence and deceit." He said the Authority would do whatever it could to nullify the agreement.

Likud politicians denounced it. So did Laborite Nissim Zvilli, head of the Jewish Agency's Settlements Department. He urged both Labor and Likud to stop trying to make political gains at the expense of the State.

Likud Minister Moshe Arens, who is in charge of the affairs of minority groups in Israel, has also been wooing the Druze. He visited Beit Jahn recently with a promise to try to return more of the disputed land. Peres apparently outbid him. But apart from the issue of political gain, many Israelis feared that the dispute with the Beit Jahn villagers could spread to the 18 other Druze villages in Galilee.

SING FOR INTERFAITH UNITY, SCHOLAR TELLS CANTORS' GROUP

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- Liturgical music was proposed by a Dominican monk this week as a means to promote unity, understanding and peace between the different faiths in Jerusalem.

Father Marcel DuBois, head of the Philosophy Department of the Hebrew University, spoke at the 40th annual convention of the Cantors Assembly here. DuBois, a member of the Vatican's Commission on Jews, said every person of good faith, whether Jewish, Christian or Moslem, listens to music. "Every one of us sings according to our own melody, but when we sing together, it is not a cacophony. We are singing the same music to Jerusalem," DuBois said.

He described Jerusalem as "a laboratory of tolerance" where Jews, Christians and Moslems of every denomination are trying to live together. He thought the division of the churches between the eastern and western parts of the city was a "scandal."

DuBois, a Jerusalem resident since 1962, said more Christians than ever were coming to Jerusalem to read the Bible with Jewish friends to "discover the significance of Jewish history."

**SOVIET CONSULAR TEAM INSISTS
ISRAEL VISIT NOT POLITICAL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- A Soviet consular delegation met briefly with Foreign Ministry officials here Tuesday, insisting the visit to Israel, the first in 20 years by an official Soviet group, was technical and without political significance.

Yaacov Aviad, head of the Foreign Ministry's consular division, the senior Israeli to meet with the visitors from Moscow, described their discussion as "extremely positive" and "a good beginning."

Aviad declined to respond to suggestions by reporters that the three-man Soviet mission, accompanied by staff, seemed too large for the stated purpose of their visit -- to review the status of Soviet nationals and Soviet property in Israel.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, Yevgeny Antipov, who heads the consular department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, showed no disinclination to speak to Israeli reporters and was in fact interviewed on the Army Radio Tuesday morning.

The Army Radio opens its daily news program with greetings by a prominent personality. On Tuesday morning it was Antipov who delivered a cheerful "Good morning, Israel" in Hebrew.

No Reciprocal Visit Now

After his meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Antipov told reporters a reciprocal visit to Moscow by an Israeli delegation was precluded because there are no Israeli nationals or Israeli property in the USSR.

Antipov scolded Israel for extending citizenship to Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate. He said it was a violation of Soviet law, which does not permit dual citizenship.

The Soviet group was scheduled to call at the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv Tuesday afternoon. The Embassy has represented Soviet interests in Israel since Moscow broke diplomatic relations in 1967.

Later the team will meet with Soviet nationals who are permanent residents of Israel. In addition to functionaries of the Russian Orthodox Church, they are mainly Russian women who married Israeli Arabs who studied in the USSR.

A group of Soviet immigrants demonstrated outside the Foreign Ministry while the meeting with the Soviet delegation was taking place. Among them was Ilana Friedman, sister of long-time refusenik Ida Nudel, and Yosef Mendelevich, chairman of the Jerusalem-based Soviet Jewry Information Center.

**ISRAELIS CHECKING RUMORS OF
REFUSENIK FLIGHTS VIA RUMANIA;
ISRAELI VISIT TO USSR ANTICIPATED**

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- Israeli officials were checking reports Tuesday that Soviet authorities will henceforth allow Jewish emigrants to fly directly to Israel via Rumania, bypassing Vienna, the usual transfer site.

Israeli media were speculating meanwhile that the current visit by a three-man Soviet

consular mission to examine the status of Soviet nationals and Soviet property in Israel was in fact a test by the Kremlin of Arab reaction to a possible improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations and had far greater political significance than officially stated by both countries.

Haim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency's Aliya Department, said Tuesday that the Rumanian government has agreed to allow Soviet Jews to travel to Israel via Bucharest. But it is not yet known whether Moscow is ready to change its policy on direct flights, Aharon told Voice of Israel Radio.

There has been a flurry of rumors that a group of Jews would arrive this week or early next week from Odessa via Bucharest. Both El Al and the Rumanian airline Tarom maintain regular flights to Tel Aviv.

Rumors Of Prominent Refuseniks

Aharon said he heard that two prominent refuseniks had received permission to fly to Israel via Bucharest. But this was less a breakthrough than a Soviet "public relations ploy," he said.

Officials here said if reports of direct flights are true, it remained unclear whether all Jews leaving the Soviet Union would be allowed to use them or only Jewish emigrants from the Ukraine, the Caucasus and Soviet Georgia which are closer to Bucharest than to Vienna.

Israel has been pressing for direct flights because the great majority of Soviet Jews travelling via Vienna do not come to Israel.

Haaretz quoted the Foreign Ministry's Political Director General, Yossi Beilin, Tuesday that "Only a blind man can ignore the numerous signs indicating an important improvement in the Soviet attitude toward Israel, whether in the rise in the number of immigrants from the Soviet Union since January, the release of all 'Prisoners of Zion,' contacts for the establishment of interests sections in other Eastern European countries, and so forth."

"However," Beilin said, "we are not prepared to accept these signs as a response to our central demands." He added that it is possible that by dispatching a delegation to Israel, "the Soviets want to study the reaction in the Arab world. If they see that they can live with this reaction it is conceivable that they will try to institutionalize the delegation and leave it permanently in Israel, perhaps as a base for a future embassy," Beilin said.

Expects Reciprocal Trip

Beilin disclosed that Israel granted the Soviet delegation visas "with the understanding that a similar Israeli delegation would reach the Soviet Union within a reasonable period of time," Haaretz reported. He said he expected that "We will soon receive a green light from the Russians to dispatch an Israeli consular delegation."

Hadashot reported Tuesday that the Soviet delegation might serve as a base for a diplomatic delegation in Israel. It quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying they might request an extension of their visas and turn their temporary office in Ramat Gan into a permanent legation.

Al Hamishmar reported Tuesday that Israel will soon approach the Soviet Union through the

Dutch Embassy in Moscow -- which handles Israeli interests there -- to request visas for an Israeli consular delegation.

The Soviets meanwhile have stopped jamming Hebrew language broadcasts of Voice of Israel Radio. Broadcasts in Russian, Georgian and Bukharan are still being jammed. Officials here are not certain whether the halt in jamming reflects a new policy or is an isolated incident. Victor Grajewski, director of Voice of Israel's foreign services, said Monday that it was not the first time the Soviets stopped jamming Hebrew broadcasts. In the past they renewed it after three or four days, he said.

Earlier this year, the Soviets ended their long-standing jamming of Voice of America and BBC radio broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

**SHAMIR ASKS FOR CABINET CALM,
AS ECONOMIC ISSUES PRESSING**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir moved Tuesday to avert a breakdown of the Labor-Likud unity coalition government, telling a meeting of leaders of the coalition Knesset factions that the government must be preserved to deal with urgent economic matters.

The latest rift occurred Monday when all but two Labor Party MKs absented themselves from the Knesset because they could not, as a matter of principle, support the government against five no-confidence motions introduced by leftist opposition parties.

The issue was Shamir's vote last Wednesday in favor of a bill by the religious parties to pardon seven members of a Jewish terrorist underground still serving prison terms for crimes of violence against West Bank Arabs.

The no-confidence motions were easily defeated. Of the two Labor MKs who voted, one of them, Haim Ramon, opposed the government. Rafi Edri, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, told Shamir that disciplinary action would be taken against him.

While Labor has been careful to avoid a coalition crisis by voting against the government in which it is a partner, demands are mounting in the Labor camp to end the coalition by other means. Laborite Minister of Immigration Yaacov Tsur called for early elections Tuesday. The Labor Party newspaper Davar declared that the unity coalition exists "only on paper."

The meeting with Shamir was attended by Edri and Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction. The Prime Minister urged both political camps to cool their tempers.

**JEWISH LEADERS TELL VATICAN OFFICIAL
OF ANGER OVER POPE-WALDHEIM MEETING**
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- A meeting last Thursday between Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli and U.S. Catholic and Jewish officials, described by one participant as a "no-holds-barred" exchange, focussed on rising tensions between Catholics and Jews in the wake of the Pope's recent granting of an audience to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who is accused of Nazi war crimes.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international affairs for the American Jewish Committee and one of the four Jewish participants in the meeting, said he and others also expressed con-

cern about the Pope's attitude toward the Nazi Holocaust and anti-Semitism and had discussed the steps necessary to improve Catholic-Jewish relations.

Archbishop John May, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said of the meeting: "Among other things, we shared with his Eminence our assessment of Catholic-Jewish relations in the United States, especially as they have been impacted by recent controversies and allegations that the Catholic Church is insensitive to the Holocaust."

Casaroli, second in command at the Vatican, met with the U.S. religious leaders at the home here of Archbishop Renato Martino, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations. Casaroli agreed to the unscheduled meeting while he was on unofficial business in New York.

The controversy heated up last month when Pope John Paul II granted an audience to Waldheim in the face of adamant Jewish opposition. The Pope characterized Waldheim, a former two-term UN secretary general, as a great international servant who has advanced world peace.

But Jewish groups were angered that the Pope neglected to mention Waldheim's Nazi past or the six million Jews and millions of others who perished under the Nazi regime that Waldheim served as an intelligence officer in the Balkans.

'Hijacked' The Vatican

"What is troubling is his attitude on receiving Waldheim," Tanenbaum said. "He has allowed Waldheim to hijack the Pope and the Vatican for his own purposes. Waldheim called the Pope 'the conscience of mankind' and it follows that Waldheim is absolved in the conscience of mankind."

Tanenbaum said the Pope has sent a mixed message on the Holocaust, at times speaking "movingly and sympathetically about the unique suffering of the Jewish people." At other times, Tanenbaum said, it was "as if he was revising that history."

Tanenbaum added: "We told them how real this problem is. It is not a problem that is going to be dealt with in cosmetic or quick-fix public relations terms or by symbolic gestures." American Catholics have said openly the Papal meeting was unfortunate. Tanenbaum said he received "hundreds of statements, letters and calls from American Catholic bishops, nuns and priests saying it was a grave mistake."

The four Jewish leaders who attended the meeting are members of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations: Tanenbaum; Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, Committee chairman and president of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA); Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, past president of the Rabbinical Council of America; and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly. The Catholic Archbishop of New York, John Cardinal O'Connor, also attended.

Tanenbaum said he will travel to the Vatican July 19 to continue the dialogue he began last week with Vatican officials.

In response to the Pope's meeting with Waldheim, at least two American Jewish organizations -- the American Jewish Congress and SCA-- have decided to boycott a meeting with the Pope scheduled for September 11 in Miami. Other Jewish organizations scheduled to attend -- the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations -- told the Jewish Tele-

graphic Agency they are reconsidering. The groups are waiting for a clear signal from the Vatican that it is responsive to Jewish concerns, according to Tanenbaum.

STATE DEPT. CONCERNED OVER REPORTS OF ISRAEL DENYING ENTRY TO U.S. BLACKS, PALESTINIANS; ISRAEL SAYS IT'S JUSTIFIED
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- The State Department expressed concern Monday about several complaints received from Palestinian-Americans and U.S. Blacks who say they were denied entry to Israel or had their passport confiscated while trying to enter.

"We've raised the issue with the government of Israel...stressing that all American citizens are entitled to equal treatment under the laws of foreign countries and that we oppose any discrimination against any of our citizens on the basis of race, religion or ethnic background," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

Redman was responding to a New York Times article which reported Monday that the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Consulate in Jerusalem are urging the State Department to issue a travel advisory warning Arab-Americans and Black Americans that they may encounter harassment in trying to enter Israel.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) here reports that 30 American-Palestinians were turned away this summer and another 50 had their passports revoked. Most of these individuals were traveling to Israel to visit parents in the occupied territories.

Accused Of Harassment

The ADC also reported cases of Israeli officials demanding that Palestinian-Americans post bond before they enter the country, in some cases as high as \$100,000.

"It's a much bigger problem than I anticipated," said ADC president Abdeen Jabara, who recently returned from trip to the West Bank to investigate the problem.

"It's a selective form of harassment," added an ADC spokesman. "There seems to be an effort to chill the American-Palestinian community and to discourage them from going."

Nawal Hamad, a resident of Arlington, Va., born in the West Bank, said that she flew to Israel with her four children last month to visit her parents. But when she arrived at Ben Gurion Airport, she said, she and her family were taken into custody by Israeli security officials, held for several hours without explanation and later forced to board a plane back to New York.

"I was treated like garbage," Hamad, a bank office manager, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. She said she and her children were told they were not welcome in Israel.

Hamad said she was recently informed that she may visit Israel if she signs an affidavit testifying that she will not extend the stay provided by her visa. But she said she has not been given any financial restitution for the cost of the last trip and is unsure she can afford another ticket. Asher Naim, Minister of Information at the Israel Embassy here, said that cases like that of Hamad were not a result of Israeli discrimination against Palestinian-Americans.

"These are individuals who we have reason to believe form a security problem and their intentions are not just to visit and leave Israel,

but they have other agendas," Naim said. "This is a prerogative of any government to accept or reject anyone who comes to its shores."

Naim said Black Americans have been turned away because they are suspected of belonging to the Black Hebrew Israelites. In 1972, Black Hebrews were ruled not to be Jews and so did not fall under the Law of Return.

Naim said the Israeli government is investigating the case of Marvin Vaughn, a Black resident of Cincinnati who was deported at the airport along with Hamad, and who the ADC maintains was simply a tourist. Vaughn was acting peculiarly when he left the plane by declaring that he was the Messiah, Naim said, and might have been mistaken for a Black Hebrew.

American citizens who have doubts about being allowed to visit Israel can contact the Israeli Consulate. "We would be happy to give them the information," Naim said.

EEC TO RESUME HIGH-LEVEL TIES WITH SYRIA, BUT SANCTIONS REMAIN
By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, July 14 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community (EEC) will resume high-level diplomatic relations with Syria, suspended last November after the Syrian Embassy in London was linked to a terrorist attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner in London.

The decision was taken Monday by the Foreign Ministers of the 12 EEC member states attending the European Political Cooperation conference in Copenhagen. But other EEC-imposed sanctions against Syria will remain in effect for the time being. These include an embargo on arms deliveries, freezing of EEC aid and surveillance of Syrian diplomatic activities and Syrian airlines.

The EEC gesture toward Damascus was seen as an expression of approval of Syrian moves to distance itself from international terrorism such as the closure of the offices of the Abu Nidal terrorist group in Damascus and Syrian help to gain the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

According to diplomatic observers, the EEC's move toward rapprochement with Syria coincides with the renewal of high level U.S.-Syrian contacts. Another consideration is said to be Syria's potential role in efforts to convene an international conference for Middle East peace. An international conference has been endorsed by the EEC as the only way to advance the peace process at this time. Syria has always been seen by the Europeans as a key player in the process.

The 12 EEC Foreign Ministers consider the sharp division in the Israeli government over an international conference to be one of the main obstacles. But they also stressed the necessity to await the outcome of the next Arab summit conference at which the Arab states are expected to take a common position on a conference.

TORAH SAGE, EDUCATOR RUDERMAN OF BALTIMORE DEAD AT 87

BALTIMORE, July 14 (JTA) -- Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchok HaLevi Ruderman, head of the Ner Israel Yeshiva in Baltimore and a senior member of the Council of Torah Sages of Agudath Israel, died here Saturday at the age of 87. He was buried Sunday. More than 6,000 mourners attended the funeral. Ruderman's death was widely seen as the end of an era. He was the last survivor of the

venerated "Roshei Yeshiva" who came to the U.S. from Lithuania early in the century.

Born in Dohlinov, near Vilna, Ruderman studied at the Slabodka Yeshiva and at the age of 19 authorized the "Avodas Levi," an in-depth analysis of some of the most complex issues of the Talmud.

He settled in Baltimore in 1933 and founded the Ner Israel Rabbinical College that year to train a new generation of Jewish religious leaders and educators.

As president and dean over the past 50 years, he ordained more than 1,000 rabbis. His advice and counsel was sought by Jewish leaders on a myriad of issues.

In addition to his position on the Council of Torah Sages, Ruderman served as chairman of the Rabbinic Advisory Board of Torah Umcsorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
RIGHTIST, RELIGIOUS PARTIES SEEN
INTERESTED IN NARROW-BASED CABINET
UNDER SHAMIR, DESPITE HIS OBJECTIONS**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- The rightist-religious coalition based on Likud and the Orthodox parties has become the main subject of speculation in Israel's political community, following last week's narrow defeat of religious-inspired legislation on conversion.

Political pundits say the lesson learned by Likud and the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, from the defeat of the "Who is a Jew" amendment and the similar attempt to amend the Religious Communities Ordinance in the Knesset last Wednesday, is that the present national unity coalition is not the best framework within which to achieve those goals.

The religious-backed measures fell because of small but crucial defections within Likud. Likud-Liberal MK Sarah Doron voted against the proposed amendment to the ordinance. Eliahu Ben-Elissar (Likud-Herut) deliberately absented himself from the chamber.

On the surface, Shas is still threatening to back Labor's call for early elections if Likud is unable to deliver. But behind the scenes both Shas and Tehiya, the pivotal rightist-nationalist party also ostensibly toying with early elections, are said to be scheming how to force Premier Yitzhak Shamir to set up a narrow coalition.

Understanding The Logic

The logic is best understood from a remark made Wednesday by Likud-Liberal Uriel Linn. Linn voted against the "Who is a Jew" legislation but reluctantly supported the proposed amendment of the conversions ordinance.

He explained that if the fate of the government had been on the line, he was sure all Likud members would have dutifully maintained party discipline.

His implication was that since the Shas-sponsored amendment was going to be defeated anyway, Doron's and Ben-Elissar's failure to support the conversions ordinance bill was excusable.

Shas now seeks to create a narrow-based government in which every vote would count.

Shamir is aware that the national unity government is still popular, and that in a narrow based government his Herut rivals would have

more power than they do today. He is reluctant therefore to disturb the present tenuous arrangement in which Likud and Labor govern uneasily together.

The religious parties and Tehiya believe with growing confidence that they can force Shamir's hand, and, together with such Knesset mavericks as Aharon Abu Hatzzeira (Tami) and Yigael Hurwitz (Ometz), set up a narrow government which, they hope, would push through religious legislation and large new budgets for new settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

They want Shamir to resign. Failing that, they would vote no-confidence in the government and force him to do so. They would then urge the President, who by law must consult with all the Knesset factions, to select Shamir to form a new government.

With the help of Abu Hatzzeira and Hurwitz, who have both recently signed deals with the Likud, and Shinui MK Zeidan Atshe, who is reportedly about to sign one, the Likud-religious bloc could amass a majority of 61.

Shamir Under Pressure

An indication that Shamir may be moving in this direction came Sunday night, at the Herut Central Committee meeting. He warned repeatedly that the way to protect the integrity of "Eretz Israel" is to ensure the survival of the present Knesset -- in other words, to thwart Labor's push for early elections.

Shamir seems ready now at least to contemplate ending the present partnership with Labor and creating in its place a Likud-religious alliance that would hold power until the end of the Knesset term in the fall of 1988.

Such combative trends on the right are matched by a perceptibly growing feeling within Labor that the party must withdraw from the government in order to salvage its standing and self-respect.

Shimon Peres, the party leader, rejected that course earlier this year, when it became clear that Shamir was successfully blocking his peace conference policy. There is now mounting pressure on the Labor leadership from rank-and-file Knesseters who are troubled by the steady decline of the party's fortunes in the opinion polls.

The Laborites see that Shamir is determined to pursue a policy of undermining and discrediting Peres on the foreign relations front and in domestic affairs. On Monday, Shamir remarked off-handedly that the agreement that Peres worked out last week with the Druze villagers of Beit Jahn in their land-dispute with the Nature Reserves authority "does not commit the government."

Since Shamir forever proclaims at home and abroad that Peres' peace policy, too, does not commit the government, a situation is rapidly growing in which the Foreign Minister is being held up to public ridicule.

CRASH IN GAZA KILLS SIX

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- A head-on collision near Ashkelon early Monday took six lives, including that of a three-month-old child, and injured seven other people, five of them seriously. Most of the victims were Arabs. According to police, a Subaru pick-up truck enroute from Ramle to Ashkelon was struck by an Arab-owned taxi coming from Raza in the Gaza Strip. Both drivers were killed.

**DEMJANJUK HAS UNTIL MONDAY TO
DECIDE ON REPLACING DEFENSE
COUNSEL; POSTPONEMENT BID REFUSED**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem District Court hearing the case of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk is prepared to allow the defendant to replace his chief defense counsel, American lawyer Mark O'Connor. But the court will deny any motion to postpone the trial, which is scheduled to resume on July 27 after a one month recess.

Judge Dov Levin, who presides over the three-judge panel, made this clear to Demjanjuk at a special recess session Wednesday. It is a vital point because Demjanjuk, who is due to take the stand in his defense, is not certain that the new lawyer he selected, John Broadley of Washington, D.C., will have sufficient time to prepare himself.

He asked for more time to consider his plans, and Levin gave him until next Monday. Demjanjuk signed a letter on June 30 firing O'Connor. O'Connor said he was influenced by his family and Yoram Sheftel, the Israeli lawyer O'Connor hired for the defense team. O'Connor and Sheftel have had serious differences over the conduct of the trial since it began February 16.

Demjanjuk, speaking in his native Ukrainian, told the court Wednesday that O'Connor had "handled this case wrong from the start." O'Connor, who sat with a bowed head and remained silent, had said earlier that Demjanjuk was "crestfallen" and "confused" over the consequences of his letter of dismissal.

Levin noted that according to Israeli law it was up to the court to approve a change of lawyer in mid-trial and up to the Justice Minister to allow a foreign lawyer to plead before an Israeli court. He indicated, however, that if Demjanjuk understands a postponement is out of the question, the court would agree to relieve O'Connor.

He also implied that Broadley would receive a special permit if Demjanjuk hires him.

The defendant told Levin that it would be up to Broadley to decide whether to retain Sheftel and O'Connor's other assistant, John Gill, an American documents expert.

Mutual Respect Seen

Observers at the trial say a mutual respect seems to have developed between Levin and O'Connor, although the latter has drawn occasional reprimands from the bench for long-winded, convoluted questions.

In contrast, Levin has had little patience with Sheftel. He has rejected some of the Israeli lawyer's remarks as "chutzpah." Sheftel's motion before the trial recessed that no case had been made against Demjanjuk for the defense to answer was dismissed by the judge as "superficial."

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 66, a former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, is accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," who operated the gas chambers. He

has been identified by more than a score of witnesses, including a former SS man, Otto Horn, who gave testimony in West Berlin last month.

The defense contends that Demjanjuk was a German prisoner of war during the time he is alleged to have been at Treblinka. O'Connor has attempted to discredit the witnesses, questioning their memory after more than 40 years. He also charged that key documents identifying Demjanjuk as "Ivan" are Soviet forgeries.

**REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AGAINST MORE
TRADE RESTRICTIONS ON SOVIET UNION**
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 15 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration said Tuesday that it is opposing Congressional legislation that would put further restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union until it eases its emigration policy.

But Thomas Simons Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe, told a joint meeting of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittees on International Economic Policy and Trade and Europe and the Middle East that there were no plans to dilute the Jackson-Vanik amendment which links Most-Favored-Nation trade status with the emigration record of Soviet bloc countries.

"It's the law of the land and we implement it," said Simons. He added that the Administration also supports the Stevenson Amendment restricting Soviet access to Western credits and cash.

The subcommittees heard testimony from Administration officials, Soviet experts and Soviet Jewry groups to determine whether the new Soviet policy of glasnost (openness) should result in eased trade restrictions.

"The jury is still out on whether the Soviet bear is more or less dangerous when hungry," said Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.).

No Evidence, Says Simons

Simons said there was no evidence to support a Congressional amendment to the Trade Bill which would ban seven categories of goods imported by the Soviet Union because they are made with forced labor.

"Legislating such a ban without adequate evidence on which to make such a finding of fact looks like economic warfare, pure and simple," Simons said.

But Rep. Christopher Smith (R. NJ) said that the CIA had established several years ago that the goods were made with Soviet slave labor and that he was "disappointed" that the Administration had failed to act on a ban.

The Administration is also opposing an amendment sponsored by Sens. Jake Garn (R. Utah) and William Proxmire (D. Wis.) that would restrict the Soviets from receiving untied bank loans from American banks.

"Bank credits to the USSR already face a host of restrictions, and those loans that are extended largely go to support direct U.S. exports," said Simons.

However, Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said that over the past year the Soviet Union received nearly \$4

billion in loans from Western banks not linked to any trade transaction.

Both Cohen and NCSJ executive director Jerry Goodman testified that the policy of glasnost has not resulted in an easing of restrictions on emigration.

Goodman noted that long-term refuseniks are now being refused permission to leave because they possess state secrets, while others have been told they have "insufficient kinship" ties to claim family reunification with relatives in the West.

"The outline of the Soviet strategy is clear," said Cohen. "As always, Jews are for sale. The equation for them is the least-necessary concession in emigration in exchange for U.S. trade concessions."

BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS STILL KEY TO MIDEAST PEACE, SHULTZ TELLS HADASSAH

By Alan H. Feiler
Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE, July 15 (JTA) Secretary of State George Shultz discussed his "central theme" of foreign policy before the national convention of Hadassah here Monday evening, telling the 2,500 delegates that like their founder, Henrietta Szold, the United States must "remain engaged and involved in global affairs."

Noting at the outset that "discussing engagement to American Jews is preaching to the choir," Shultz said he was disturbed by signs that some Americans are "growing tired" of this commitment.

He offered an overview of why the United States must maintain its role as the active leader of freedom throughout the world, focusing on the Persian Gulf and the Mideast conflict, and offering warm praise for Israel as "our faithful ally and perpetual friend."

The Secretary of State, who later received Hadassah's highest honor, the Henrietta Szold Humanitarian Award, said that it is in America's interests that Iran not dominate the other countries of the Persian Gulf and that the USSR not play an increasing role in the oil-rich region. "We need to stand up diplomatically there, and we are," he said, "and we can't allow ourselves to be pushed out."

He said the U.S. will continue to be engaged in the Mideast peace effort, with the key being direct, bilateral negotiations. "There is considerable work to do," he said, "and it may never come to pass, but we must work on it."

'Israel Wants Peace'

Recalling the euphoria he sensed among Israelis following the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem a decade ago, Shultz asserted, "I know in my bones that Israel wants peace." But he also emphasized several times in his 35-minute remarks that Jordan's King Hussein wants peace as well. (Indeed, one veteran State Department official noted that "the most interesting thing about this speech was what he didn't say -- for instance, he never mentioned Syria.")

Shultz said that the Administration agrees with Hussein that there should be Palestinian representation at the peace talks and that the Palestinians should be part of the Jordanian delegation. As for Soviet participation, Shultz said they "deserve a place at the peace table only if they act in a deserving way." He called on Moscow to recognize Israel and enhance its

treatment of Soviet Jews before seeking a role in peace negotiations. That statement was greeted with warm applause by the delegates of the world's largest Zionist organization, who met at the Convention Center for four days this week.

While stressing American efforts to "minimize the risk," Shultz said that "we know that doing nothing does not increase the chance for peace." He said the U.S. is pledged "to harness the desire for peace."

In praising Szold, a native of Baltimore, Shultz noted that she embodied what America believes in. "She understood," he said, "that the world is not always a friendly place. She realized that those who are lucky enough to live in a democratic society can never turn their backs on those less fortunate."

MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS POLLED WOULD KEEP TERRITORIES IN PEACE ACCORD

TEL AVIV, July 15 (JTA) -- An overwhelming majority of Israelis insists that Israel retain the West Bank as part of a future peace settlement, according to a poll conducted by the Mod'in Ezrachi organization, published in Maariv Wednesday. A fifth of the respondents want Israel to annex the territory and transfer the Arab population from it.

The pollsters interviewed 1,205 adults. According to the responses, 68.8 percent favor a peace settlement that would leave the West Bank in Israeli hands, while 31.1 percent were prepared to give up all or part of the territory for peace. Annexation and removal of the Arab population was favored by 20.1 percent.

LAVI BACKERS MULL ISSUING SHARES OF STATE-OWNED AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 15 (JTA) -- The State-owned Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) may go public in order to produce the Lavi fighterplane. This is one of the possibilities under study by Likud ministers who want to keep the project alive without putting additional burdens on the Treasury or the defense budget.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim reportedly have concluded that the defense budget cannot sustain production costs of the Lavi, and no additional funds are available. The design and development costs were borne so far by American military assistance grants.

Now supporters of the project are seeking other sources. They hope the Israeli public and investors abroad would respond favorably if IAI decided to issue shares. Haaretz reported Wednesday that an IAI-Israel Defense Force panel headed by a brigadier general is examining proposals to reduce the Lavi's costs by \$70 million annually.

This would require wage reductions and additional dismissals. The plan could not be carried out without the agreement of the workers' committee representing IAI employees. Haaretz said IAI proposes to invest \$38 million from its own resources, but even if the cost-reduction program were adopted, another \$61 million would be needed this year to continue the Lavi.

Hadashot reported that the IAI management has informed the workers' committee that it cannot pay salary advances to its employees because of the company's financial straits.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
NORTH'S TESTIMONY LINKS ISRAEL TO
CONTRA FUNDS, BUT NOT COMPLETELY**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 15 (JTA) -- For those who had predicted that the Congressional investigation into the Iran-Contra affair would show Israeli complicity in the diversion of funds from the sale of arms to Iran to the Contras, the six days of testimony by Lt. Col. Oliver North must have been a disappointment.

But the former National Security Council aide, who completed his testimony before the select Senate-House Committee Tuesday, did not take Israel completely off the hook as he described two incidents in Israel's involvement in the affair.

The first was that Amiram Nir, the counter-terrorism advisor to the Israeli Premier, proposed to North that profits from the arms sale be used to pay for the United States resupply of Israel with the 503 TOW anti-tank missiles that Israel sold Iran in 1985 and for "supporting other activities."

This occurred at a meeting in Washington in late December 1985 or early January 1986, at which Nir urged continuation of the Iranian initiative, according to North. He said Israel was concerned that the U.S. replenish its TOW stockpile and had believed, apparently mistakenly, that the U.S. would do it free of charge.

Said Ghorbanifar Suggested Contras

The second incident described by North took place at a meeting in Europe in January 1986, between North, Nir and Manucher Ghorbanifar, the Iranian arms dealer, whom Israel and then the U.S. had used as the middleman for the sale of arms to Iran.

During a meeting, North said Ghorbanifar took him into the bathroom and proposed the diversion of the arms profits for the Contras.

North said the late William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told him that the CIA believed Ghorbanifar was an Israeli intelligence agent. North said he believed at the time that Ghorbanifar made the proposal "with the full knowledge and acquiescence of the Israeli intelligence service, if not the Israeli government."

However, North also testified that as the NSC official responsible for the U.S. efforts against terrorism, he had expressed reluctance at the meeting in Europe to supplying Iran with arms, and Ghorbanifar had pulled him aside to make several suggestions aimed at changing his mind.

When the diversion to the Contras was suggested, for the first time "the whole idea was made more palatable," North testified. "I must confess to you that I thought using the Ayatollah Khomeini's money to support the Nicaraguan resistance was a right idea."

North also noted that Ghorbanifar was well informed and knew of his close involvement with the Contras.

Consistent Israeli Denials

The Israeli government has consistently denied any connection with the diversion of the arms profits to the Contras. The government has relied for this denial on Nir, who has continued as advisor to Premier Yitzhak Shamir after first being appointed to the post by Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres when he was Premier. After North's July 8 testimony about Nir, there were reports, later denied, that Nir had been removed from responsibilities for counter-terrorism, though not fired. The next day North said if this had happened to Nir, with whom he said he had a "close relationship," then "I sadly regret it. He is a brave man who served his country well, and I believe tried to help us in trying to carry out our policies."

North and earlier witnesses testified that it was Israel that first proposed to the U.S. opening an initiative to Iran. The Israel government has not denied this, but instead has strongly defended the effort to make contacts with the more moderate elements in Iran, as did North in his testimony before the committee.

"I've no regret as an Israeli about it," Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said July 1 during a breakfast meeting with reporters, sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He stressed that it was necessary to establish such contacts to pave the way for relations when Khomeini no longer rules Iran.

In his testimony, North also stressed that while Israel and the U.S. may have different reasons for the initiative on Iran, there was a "basic fundamental agreement" about the contacts. "I believe that there was sufficient congruence between Israeli objectives and American objectives that made this project worthwhile," North said.

**JEWISH TEEN FELLOWS VISIT ISRAEL
IN HOPE OF FOSTERING JEWISH UNITY**
By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 15 (JTA) -- Twenty-five Jewish teenagers from the United States and Canada headed for Israel Sunday courtesy of a fellowship granted by Jewish philanthropist Edgar Bronfman, who hopes to build bridges between Israeli and American Jews and between the different denominations of Judaism.

The Edgar Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, a new program designed to develop Jewish leaders of America and Israel, draws together upcoming high school seniors from a variety of Jewish backgrounds -- Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform and unaffiliated -- this year from 13 U.S. states and Ontario and Quebec provinces.

"The question that should be asked is not, 'Who is a Jew?' but 'What is a Jew?'" said Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, at a news conference with the 25 fellows here Thursday.

"The key to the survival of Judaism is Jewish pride," Bronfman said. "Sometimes going to Israel inspires them (young Jews) to learn even more."

Not The Usual Trip

The smattering of the Jewish community's "best and brightest," selected from more than 400 applications, will not experience the usual Israeli youth program that attempts to teach a Jewish identity.

Instead, led by Jewish educators, they will explore the issues of Jewish identity and Jewish community in the context of Israel, according to Rabbi Michael Paley, director of the project and the first rabbi to be chosen as director of the Earl Hall Center for Religious Activities at Columbia University here. "Our hope is to create a cadre of young Jewish leaders -- among them,

perhaps, future figures of prominence in the Jewish community -- who despite their different backgrounds and ideologies will know each other and know how to talk to each other," Paley said.

"It's not a tour," explained Rabbi Avi Weinstein, programming director and the Orthodox chaplain at Harvard University. "A lot of them have been to Israel before. The point is to learn from each other in the homeland of the Jewish people."

Each week of the month-long program, paid for in full by Bronfman's endowment and distributed through a grant to the WJC, addresses a different theme.

The first week's focus will be Israel as a state and its founders. The second week will cover the people of Israel, focusing on different immigrant cultures, and the next week will examine the religions of Israel. The final week will center on issues such as Israel's security, the Arab-Israel conflict and religious tensions in Israel.

The schedule includes seminars with some of Israel's most prominent political and literary figures. In addition, each fellow will make a presentation about a previously unknown topic.

Ongoing Contact Sought

In years to come, according to Paley, the fellows will be invited to organized "alumni" activities and possibly participate in a journal.

Much of the learning will take place with each other. For instance, students had begun discussing and arguing issues and views the night before the press conference, but they also sang "Hinei Ma Tov" arm in arm.

"I never had exposure to such different points of view in Judaism," said Sheila Jelen of Chicago. "I've taken for granted how easy my Jewish life has been." She is anxious to study the Judaism outside of her Orthodox background.

Mark Reichman of Roslyn Harbor, NY, is eager to learn from the other fellows. He said his experience with most Jews at home leads him to believe they are not issue-oriented, but rather focussed on materialistic items. After speaking with the others he said he was "humbled by their knowledge."

Some fellows were from a tiny minority in their hometowns. Daniel Jacobson comes from one of the two Orthodox families in Champaign, Ill. "It would have been nice to grow up in an Orthodox neighborhood," he said, but he noted that keeping his tradition strengthened him.

Jeremy Halberstadt of Wilmington, Del., was bar mitzvah as an Orthodox Jew but later became Reform. He said he fears Orthodox domination in the Jewish identity debate in Israel. Since he is considering aliya, although this is his first trip to Israel, "I don't want Israel to say we (Reform) can't go there."

Similarly, other fellows share the concern of a fragmented Judaism in America and Israel. "More than realizing our differences," said Melissa Rubenzik of Phoenix, Jews should realize "how much we're all alike. Jews everywhere need to learn."

PURSUE INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST CONFERENCE, EGYPTIAN ENVOY URGES By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 15 (JTA) --The Egyptian Ambassador to the United States told a Jewish audience Tuesday that a possibility exists now to

achieve peace in the Middle East through an international conference and it must not be lost.

"All the parties to the conflict, all those who care about the peoples of the Middle East and a stable Middle East, must do their utmost to make sure that this opportunity is not missed or wasted," Ambassador El Sayed Abdel Raouf El Reedy said in a luncheon speech to the Capital Legal Counsel of B'nai B'rith, a newly-formed chapter of lawyers.

He expressed the belief that the conference would be successful since "who would want to share in the major burden of having such a conference fail?"

But El Reedy made clear that peace would require what he said was the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 formula of "land for peace," specifically Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

He said the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty should be the "model" for achieving peace in the Mideast. Noting the meeting last week in Geneva between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, El Reedy said that such meetings were no longer considered a "novelty" but "normal meetings between leaders of two neighboring countries."

The two countries have achieved "peace, mutual respect and a welcome sense of security" and the same situation must be created between Israel and the Palestinians, El Reedy said.

Calling the Palestinian issue the "crux of the problem," he said the "occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza does not provide security for Israel and is harming Israeli society, particularly the young soldiers, who of "necessity" must carry out "harsh" measures. "I feel sorry for those young Israeli soldiers," he said.

While the Ambassador did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organization in his talk, in response to a question he said if the PLO gave up violence it, too, should be included in the peace talks.

ISRAELIS LAUD MOROCCO'S EX-KING AS SON CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 15 (JTA) -- King Hassan II of Morocco, who celebrated his 58th birthday on July 10, was presented with a scroll signed by 71 prominent Israelis, attesting to the role of his late father, King Muhammed V, in fighting the Nazis during World War II and saving Jewish lives in Europe and Morocco.

The information was reported to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here by Sam Ben-Shitrit, president of Beyachad, the organization of Israelis of North African origin, in a telephone call from Casablanca.

Ben-Shitrit said this should "once and for all" end the controversy and rumors about the attitude of Muhammed towards Jews.

Ben-Shitrit said Hassan was deeply moved and thanked the signers of the document and the Israelis who presented it to him, Rafi Edri, chairman of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, and Ben-Shitrit, "I would like to bless all Israelis of Moroccan origin," Hassan said, according to Ben-Shitrit.

Ben-Shitrit told the JTA that Muhammed supported Gen. Charles de Gaulle's Free French movement during the Nazi occupation of France and opposed the collaborationist Vichy regime. He was decorated by de Gaulle in 1954.

**SOVIET CONSULAR TEAM IN ISRAEL
MAY BE FOLLOWED BY SECOND GROUP,
SAYS HEAD OF CURRENT DELEGATION**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- Yevgeny Antipov, head of the three-man Soviet consular delegation that arrived in Israel last Sunday, indicated Thursday that the Soviet diplomatic presence in Israel, however low-level, may not end with his delegation's departure.

Antipov, who is deputy director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Consular Department, told the Jerusalem Post that the length of his group's stay in Israel would "depend on how soon we will accomplish our tasks." He said he was sure they would return to the USSR before their 90-day visas expire.

But he was also sure that they will be replaced by "other officials" of "a consular character."

Antipov insisted that the sole purpose of their visit, the first in 20 years by an official Soviet group, was to renew the passports of Soviet nationals living in Israel and to make an inventory of Soviet property here.

He also maintained that the description of his group as a "delegation" was a misnomer insofar as it implied diplomatic-political substance. But despite these disclaimers, speculation is rife that there is more to the visit than either Moscow or Jerusalem is ready to acknowledge.

Have Temporary Office

The Soviet visitors are staying at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel. They have rented a temporary office in suburban Ramat Gan to conduct their business. The newspaper Hadashot quoted Foreign Ministry sources Tuesday to the effect that the Ramat Gan office may become a permanent legation.

Haaretz quoted the Foreign Ministry's Political Director General, Yossi Beilin, Tuesday as saying, "Only a blind man can ignore the numerous signs indicating an important improvement in the Soviet attitude toward Israel."

Beilin suggested that the visit by the consular level officials was a test by the Kremlin of Arab reaction to a possible improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations. "If they see that they can live with this reaction it is conceivable that they will try to institutionalize the delegation and leave it permanently in Israel, perhaps as a base for a future embassy," Beilin said, according to Haaretz.

Beilin also made clear that when Israel agreed to grant visas to the Soviet officials, it was with the understanding that a similar Israeli delegation would visit the Soviet Union "within a reasonable period of time." Antipov told reporters Tuesday that there was no need for a reciprocal visit because there are no Israeli nationals or Israeli property in the USSR.

Some observers have pointed out that the three-man Soviet mission, accompanied by staff, is too large simply to look into the status of Soviet nationals and Soviet property in Israel. Most of the nationals are functionaries of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian women who married Israeli Arabs who were students in the Soviet

Union. Most of the property is Church property. In addition to Antipov, an important member of the delegation is Alexei Chestyakov, described as a diplomat with expertise on the Middle East. The third member is Genryk Flachin, who attended a brief meeting with Israeli officials in Helsinki last August.

Chestyakov told the Jerusalem Post Thursday that the USSR did not regard the lack of diplomatic relations with Israel as an obstacle to Soviet participation in an international conference for Middle East peace. He recalled that both countries sent delegations to the peace conference in Geneva in October 1973 after the Yom Kippur War, despite the absence of relations.

Antipov was noncommittal on the subject when questioned by reporters earlier in the week. He would say only that as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council "certainly our role should be taken into consideration." About the role of a conference, he said, "I believe it is too early to talk about it."

The Soviet delegation met briefly Tuesday with Yaacov Aviad, head of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Division, who described their talks as "extremely positive" and "a good beginning." He did not elaborate.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urged that the visit "not be blown out of proportion."

The Soviet visitors have not been disinclined to talk to Israeli reporters since their arrival here. Antipov was interviewed by the Army Radio Tuesday morning. The Army Radio opens its daily news program with greetings by a prominent personality, and on Tuesday it was Antipov who delivered a cheerful "Good Morning, Israel" in Hebrew.

Visit Protested

But the visit has not been without its tense moments. Soviet Jewry activists demonstrated outside the Foreign Ministry Tuesday while the Soviets were meeting with officials.

On Thursday evening, a group of 10 demonstrators, some of them relatives of imprisoned Soviet Jewish refuseniks, occupied the lobby of the Tel Aviv Hilton, carrying placards calling for the release of "Prisoners of Zion" and "Let My People Go." One demonstrator, Vladimir Magaryk, chained himself to a pillar.

Security guards forcibly removed them. An Associated Press photographer covering the event was locked in her room and her film was confiscated.

The Soviet delegates did not seem disturbed by the demonstration. "We are not afraid that something may happen to us. There are demonstrations everywhere," a spokesman for the delegation said.

**TRIP TO ISRAEL VIA RUMANIA OF
FORMER POC'S NOT SEEN AS PRECEDENT**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA) -- Two prominent former Prisoners of Conscience who were released from a labor camp March 19 arrived in Israel Thursday via a direct flight from Rumania, according to the National Conference on Soviet

Jewry (NCSJ). Mark Nepomniashchy and Yakov Levin, father and son-in-law, were travelling with their wives via Bucharest "on principle, to create a precedent," Levin told a New York Times Moscow correspondent.

The plans to travel the "new route" direct to Israel -- bypassing the traditional transit center in Vienna where the Jewish Agency and HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) register and process Soviet emigres and where most of these have been leaving for the United States -- are, however, nothing new. HIAS executive vice president Karl Zukerman told JTA: "To my knowledge, it has always been possible to fly from Moscow to Bucharest to Ben Gurion Airport. There has been a notice to that effect for years at the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, which handles Israeli interests in the Soviet Union."

'Always An Option'

Zukerman added that, "If Levin thought he was creating a precedent, okay. But it's always been an option."

The NCSJ said "it's been done before in a number of cases. But it's quite possible that Levin doesn't realize that."

Glenn Richter, coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, said that "Soviet Jewish activists have not indicated to us any clear sense that direct flights through Rumania to Israel would begin either on a limited or on a widespread basis soon. There's no corroborating evidence that what is happening with the Nepomniashchy-Levin family would be duplicated."

Auguries of a change in the flight plans of Soviet Jewish emigres were presented in March in statements by prominent American Jewish visitors who met in Moscow with Soviet officials -- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation here, and Morris Abram, NCSJ chairman, who traveled with Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress.

They returned with tentative assurances that Bucharest was being substituted for Vienna as the first arrival point for emigrating Soviet Jews, ensuring direct routes to Israel and eliminating the opportunity for "neshira" -- dropping out of Soviet Jews who emigrate with Israeli papers and then register as refugees in Vienna and come to the U.S. and some other countries in the West. However, to date, no change has been made, and the Soviets never officially verified that such a substitution would be made.

AFTER DISCUSSING NETANYAHU BOOK WITH REAGAN, POINDEXTER SAID HE AVOIDED MENTIONING FUND FOR CONTRAS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan was reading "Terrorism: How the West Can Win," the book edited by Israeli United Nations Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu, at about the time his then-National Security Advisor considered telling the President about the diversion of Iranian arms sales profits to the Contra rebels, but decided not to.

The former Advisor, Rear Admiral John Poindexter, related the story Wednesday during his testimony before the Senate and House committees investigating the Iran-Contra affair.

Poindexter recalled the incident when asked whether he had ever come close to telling Reagan about the diversion of profits from the sale of arms to Iran to the Contras. He replied that he

had approved the diversion when it was suggested to him by Lt. Col. Oliver North in January 1986.

"I thought it was a good idea" and "consistent" with the President's policy to support the Contras, Poindexter said. He said he made a "deliberate decision" not to tell the President about the diversion to protect Reagan from any political embarrassment.

"I decided that the buck stops here, that I have the authority to do this," he said. However, he noted, "If the President had asked me I very likely would have told him about it. But he didn't."

Poindexter said he considered telling Reagan when on the return flight from the May 1986 economic summit in Tokyo, Reagan asked him if there was anything the President "unilaterally" could do about supporting the Contras, despite the Congressional ban on providing funds to the anti-Sandinista group.

The President was concerned that Congress had not yet approved the \$100 million in aid the Administration requested for the Contras, which was appropriated later in the year.

This discussion occurred after Reagan and Poindexter had talked about the Netanyahu book. But Poindexter did not explain the connection.

Poindexter also said that until he spoke about the diversion of funds for the Contras with Attorney General Edwin Meese III in November 1986, he believed that he and North were the only members of the government who knew about it. North has testified that he discussed the diversion with the late William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

After the diversion was disclosed by Meese, Poindexter was allowed to resign from the NSC and North was fired.

BRITAIN, CANADA JOIN CALL TO OPEN UN WAR CRIMES FILES TO THE PUBLIC
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 16 (JTA) -- Britain and Canada joined Israel and 11 other nations Thursday in requesting that the files on Nazi war criminals compiled by the United Nations War Crimes Commission be opened to the public.

The two countries informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the change in their position Thursday. Only four of the 17 former members of the defunct War Crimes Commission still oppose opening the files. They are France, Poland, Czechoslovakia and India.

Last week Belgium, China, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Norway joined Israel's request. It had been supported earlier by the U.S., Australia, Denmark, Greece, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

Israeli diplomats have noted that while a majority of the former members favors making the files public, final authority rests with the Secretary General. An archive containing 40,000 files on war criminals is stored in a building in midtown Manhattan. Israel has already inspected several thousand files. UN regulations allow member states to do this on a confidential basis.

ISRAELI PRINT JOURNALISTS STRIKE

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA) -- A strike by print journalists Thursday for higher wages is expected to keep most of the country's daily newspapers off the stands Friday. Radio and television were not affected.

AN ACTUAL WEEKEND? ISRAEL MULLS CUTTING WORK WEEK FROM 6 TO 5 DAYS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- As the government and the Histadrut were haggling over a new general wage agreement this week, more Israelis discovered that the work week here could be shortened from six to five days, and the economy would survive.

One of those Israelis was Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, who at 2 a.m. Wednesday came out of seven-and-a-half hours of negotiations with the Histadrut, saying he would propose to the government to officially shorten the work week to five days.

The parties were still at odds regarding a wage agreement. The Treasury is willing to approve wage hikes, but only on condition that the new agreement be for two years. The Histadrut objected, but the negotiations are to continue. There is no immediate threat of a strike similar to the general work stoppage that the Histadrut organized Sunday.

Nissim's agreement in principle to shorten the work week was seen by the Histadrut negotiators as a gesture of good will.

According to government figures, some 300,000 Israelis already work only five days a week, about a third of them in industry. But each day has been extended to nine hours, meaning a 45-hour week.

So far, the industrialists have expressed opposition to shortening the week, fearing that productivity would decrease -- although studies in the West have shown the opposite.

The truth is that in practice, many Israeli employers, especially in industry, have already shortened their weeks to five days at their own initiative, partly to attract workers and partly after they realized that the shorter week brings about greater productivity.

"Productivity has nothing to do with the number of work hours a week, but is linked to the wages, said Haim Haberfeld, chairman of the Trade Unions Division of the Histadrut. The Histadrut has already presented the government with a formal proposal to cut the official work week to 40 hours spread over five days while cutting 10 percent of the manpower in the civil service. According to the Histadrut, the plan would be implemented gradually from April 1988 until 1991. The treasury has not yet reacted to the proposal.

Relatively Long Week

Israel has the longest work week among industrialized states, with an unofficial 45-hour average.

The longest work week in Europe is in Portugal, at about 43 hours. The shortest is in Belgium, which cut its work week to 35.7 hours. Some countries are considering cutting the work week to 35 hours over four days.

Moshe Katzav, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, expressed support for Israel cutting the week short for laborers. Civil servants should continue working six days a week, he said, so that the industrial workers could use the extra day to get service.

Haberfeld of the Histadrut expressed confidence that even if the government rejects the proposal, by the time elections are held, no core will dare oppose the idea. "I am willing to wage my entire public career that by October 1988, at

the latest, we shall have a long weekend," he said.

To some Israelis, especially the religious population, this could mean a dramatic change in how free time is spent -- having an extra day of leisure, without the limitations of observance of the Sabbath.

BILL TO CLOSE PLO OFFICES IN U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL, SAYS AJCONGRESS

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA) -- A study by the American Jewish Congress has determined that Senate Bill 1203, which would close the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the U.S., is constitutional and protective of free speech.

The study noted that the U.S. Congress has recognized in past legislation that the PLO constitutes sufficient threat to international order to require special controls and limitations upon its activities in the U.S., including a ban on the entry of foreign members of the PLO.

"It would seem at least paradoxical that the same terrorist body whose members are barred from entering this country should continue to function freely, especially since (its) offices serve as the principal mechanism for the coordination, supervision and direction of PLO activities in the United States," the study said.

It stressed that SB1203 protects First Amendment rights. "It is only the PLO as a foreign entity which is prohibited from transacting business in this country and then only until it renounces the use of terrorism as a political method," the study said. Under the proposed legislation, American sympathizers with the PLO would be free to speak on its behalf and continue to be members of the organization and solicit money on its behalf.

The study, "An Analysis of Legislation Directed at Closing of PLO Offices in the United States," was prepared by Phil Baum, associate executive director of the AJC, and Marc Stern, co-director of its Commission on Law and Social Action. Both are attorneys who specialize in constitutional law.

PALESTINIAN TEAM SPITS ON ISRAELIS AT WORLD ATHLETIC COMPETITION

By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, July 16 (JTA) -- The eighth Gymnastrada, the first international sports event in which both Israeli and Palestinian teams are participating, was marred by a minor but nasty incident and the intrusion of Middle East politics at its opening in Herning, Denmark Monday.

A police guard was ordered for the 41 Israeli gymnasts and folkdancers after they were cursed and spat upon by Palestinian team members outside the Herning stadium. The Palestinians were also forbidden, by order of the Danish Foreign Ministry and Justice Ministry, to display the Palestinian flag.

Teams from 25 countries are participating in the Gymnastrada. There were close to 17,000 spectators at the opening.

The Palestinians, mainly from Bahrain and Kuwait, complained that their flag was banned because of pressure from the Israel Embassy in Copenhagen.

The Embassy denied this, and Niels Nielsen, chairman of the Gymnastrada, said on a television interview that the games management acted on unequivocal orders from the Danish government.

**COMMANDER CONCERNED THAT IDF
COUNTER-TERRORISM IN LEBANON
DETRACTS FROM DETERRING SYRIA**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is waging a counterterrorist war in southern Lebanon for which it was not trained, which to some extent impinges on its main task -- facing the threat of war with Syria, Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, commander of the northern sector, said in a frank interview broadcast by the Army Radio recently.

But he also made a strong case for the presence of IDF forces in the south Lebanon security zone, explaining that the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) contributes much, but is not yet capable of performing all of the tasks required.

He stressed that the IDF deters any plans by Syria to go to war to retake the Golan Heights. But to remain a deterrent force, it must maintain its toughness and qualitative superiority and the Syrians must be kept aware of this.

Discussing counter-terrorist activities, he said: "The IDF can't fight in a routine manner within the framework of the war against terrorism -- maintaining outposts and patrolling. This is a very complex matter. It's not exactly the military method taught in military schools. It's a different form of combat. It must be a sophisticated way of fighting, not routine."

Peled explained, "We have to go to them (the terrorists) at an unexpected time, unexpected place, knock on their door and say 'we're here.'"

Asked why this kind of warfare cannot be waged from within Israel's border, the General replied: "Don't be naive. Ninety percent of the incidents in the security zone today occur at a distance of four, six or a few more miles from the northern settlements. If we weren't stationed inside the security zone, all of these incidents would be on the border, including Katyushas." Katyushas are rockets.

He said the SLA will eventually be able to perform more of the duties assigned to the IDF. "We need patience in this matter, I believe that if we give the SLA the correct support, we will be able to entrust it with most of the burden," he said, but it will be a long process.

Asked if day-to-day operations in south Lebanon reduced the IDF's ability to carry out its primary objective to prepare for a war situation in the north, Peled said, "In all sincerity, Lebanon certainly robs me of much time, but I am glad that we have found a way to balance these two matters, both with respect to time and to means." He added that something "urgent" must not become something "important."

"What is urgent is the daily confrontation with terrorism. I estimate that in the past year we have taken several steps forward regarding the Syrian front as well...It's a clear decision in which you tell yourself that you will handle both, because it is very easy to be swept away by Lebanon and deal with it 24 hours a day," Peled said.

He does not believe that threat posed by the Syrian army has lessened. "The Syrian army is a large army, equipped and equipping itself with very advanced combat material: on land, with advanced tanks; in the air, I estimate it's a matter of time until we see the MIG-29 flying in Syrian skies.

"The Syrian army trains, and I don't believe that they're maintaining this large army to hold parades in Damascus. I allow myself to assume that there are other reasons which prompt a country like Syria -- with its economic situation -- to maintain such an army," Peled said.

"I believe it is naive to think that the Syrians, because 20 years have passed, have gotten used to the fact, that we are on the Golan Heights...In their opinion, the Golan Heights is a strip of land which has been taken away from them and which has to be returned...", Peled said.

He stressed that the IDF must make its deterrent capacity evident in order to prevent war because casualties would be heavy if war broke out.

"Deterrence capability is what we demonstrate always," he said. "How we are viewed by the Syrians...is connected with our level of discipline. If we demonstrate confidence, if we demonstrate capability, if we demonstrate high standards, it's no secret that in some cases the Syrians simply sit and watch our training. There's little distance between us."

Peled added, "If we demand tough training of ourselves, they'll see, hear and know this; if we don't compromise on standards and we come across as a quality army, there's a chance that we can maintain our deterrent capability. If we maintain our deterrent capability, there's a chance that the other side -- despite its inability to accept to fact that we are on the Golan Heights -- will perhaps think twice whether it is worth clashing with us in a war.

"If we don't act this way and act instead like 'nebechs' and wretched souls, and demonstrate wretchedness and inability, I believe we'll bring war closer," Peled said. "Therefore we have to demand much from ourselves. Only through uncompromising demands from ourselves will we be able to maintain our deterrence capability."

AMIT WOMEN LEADER GOLUB DIES

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA) -- Mollie Golub of New York, a lawyer and honorary national president of AMIT Women, died here Monday at the age of 87. She had been active in the religious women's Zionist movement for more than 40 years at the local, regional and national levels.

Golub served as national president of AMIT, formerly American Mizrahi Women, from 1949-51, and was elected again in 1956 to a one-year term.

She negotiated with governmental agencies in the U.S. and Israel on a variety of projects aiding children and new immigrants in Israel. She travelled extensively to rally support for her organization's work, aimed at creating a secure and religious Israel. Its projects expanded greatly during her terms in office.

LIFE SENTENCE FOR 2 MURDERERS

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- Two Gaza Arabs were sentenced to life imprisonment by a military court Sunday for the murders of three Israelis during the past year and the attempted murder of others.

According to Col. Moshe Sheffi, president of the court, two members of the three-judge panel favored the death penalty, which the law allows military courts to impose. But they did not vote for it because capital sentences are rarely carried out in Israel.

**CABINET STUDIES TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS;
DEATHS EXCEED RECORD PACE OF 1986**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- The Cabinet devoted much of its weekly session Sunday to traffic accidents, which have taken a higher toll in lives and injuries this year than in the same period last year, the worst on record.

The issue is hardly political, but it is national in scope. The Cabinet discussion was led by Supreme Court Justice Dov Levin, who appeared before the Ministers in his capacity as head of the National Council for the Prevention of Road Accidents. He recited grim statistics.

In 1986, 415 people died in highway accidents and more than 21,000 were injured, 331 seriously. In the first six months of 1987, the highway death toll was 207, compared to 191 in the same period last year. About 1,873 people were injured, 200 more than in the same period of 1986.

In the first two weeks of July, 35 people were killed in 24 accidents and 131 were injured in 104 accidents. Only last week, 19 people died on the highways and 64 were seriously injured.

Levin said the situation must be dealt with by better driver training and strict enforcement of traffic regulations.

He suggested that highway safety be made a main subject in next year's school curriculum and that more police be assigned to deal with traffic.

Whoever does not know how to behave on the roads should not have the right to drive, Levin said.

In response, Premier Yitzhak Shamir decided to assign the problem to a ministerial committee on traffic safety which is to complete its deliberations within a month. Transport Minister Haim Corfu presented a five-year plan to improve highway transportation.

It would cost \$450 million. He asked for 25 million Shekels this year to repair dangerous roads.

Corfu said his ministry proposed to add 142 traffic policemen and to create a border traffic police force. He also suggested a special radio program for drivers which would be on the air 24 hours a day.

**YUGOSLAVIA, HUNGARY CLOSER TO RENEWED
TIES WITH ISRAEL, WJC LEADER REPORTS**

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA) -- Yugoslavia and Hungary have moved closer to renewing diplomatic ties with Israel, according to World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman, who recently returned from meeting with the two East European nations' leaders.

During meetings with Bronfman July 14-15, Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov and Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic said the country is considering renewing ties with Israel, reported Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director. Although Mojsov did not say a renewal of the ties broken in 1967 was imminent, Steinberg noted that Yugoslavia has begun to normalize relations with Israel and the world Jewish community.

Bronfman's visit received wide press coverage within Yugoslavia, which Steinberg saw as a significant positive sign in a Communist country. The warm reception was attributed in part to the enhanced image of Jews and Israel following revelations that Austrian President Kurt Waldheim ordered reprisals against both Yugoslav partisans and Jews while he served as an intelligence officer in German Army Group E during World War II.

Yugoslavia, a leader among non-aligned countries, has shown signs of reevaluating its longstanding pro-Arab policy in the Middle East, Steinberg said. Within the past four months, the Yugoslav press and parliament have openly criticized the one-sided Middle East policy.

Economic and commercial exchanges between Israel and Yugoslavia have also increased in recent months. Internally, Yugoslavia's tiny Jewish community of about 6,000 enjoys internal freedoms to cultivate religious and cultural life as well as relatively free emigration.

In Hungary, Bronfman met with Janos Kadar, the Communist Party Chief and leader of Hungary, and other top officials.

Bronfman reported that Hungary and Israel have advanced considerably toward renewing ties, also broken in 1967, along the lines of Poland's low-level exchange of diplomatic representatives with Israel, which commenced last year. Israeli officials have already met with their Hungarian counterparts to work out a similar agreement, Steinberg said.

Referring to other recent developments in East Europe-Israel relations, Steinberg said the WJC viewed the emigration of four Soviet Jews last week directly via Bucharest, Rumania, to Israel as "a feeler on the part of Moscow." The rare flight followed the arrival in Jerusalem of a delegation of three Soviet officials ostensibly to check up on Soviet nationals and properties in Israel.

**RABIN HALTS BULLDOZERS SENT BY
SHARON FOR WEST BANK SETTLEMENT**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin used his authority Sunday to turn back a convoy of bulldozers sent to level ground for a new settlement in the West Bank.

His action marked the latest round in the continuing struggle between Labor and Likud over new settlements in the administered territories. The bulldozers were sent to the site of the planned settlement by Herut Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon.

Although Sharon apparently acted on his own initiative, he was aiming for swift implementation of Premier Yitzhak Shamir's promise to the Tehiya Party over the weekend to allocate 50 million Shekels to expand Jewish settlements in the territories.

Laborites promptly announced that not one cent would be spent for that purpose without their agreement. The settlement in question--Avnei Hefetz, near Kalkilya -- was one of six approved under the Labor-Likud coalition agreement. But Defense Ministry sources said the

ground-breaking could not proceed until the settlement agency provided proof that it owned the land. So far, the sources said, no evidence has been presented, and in any case, Sharon's ministry is not "a settlement agency."

Shamir made his promise to Tehiya after it served an ultimatum that it would join Labor in voting to dissolve the Knesset and call early elections unless its demands were met for rapid expansion of Jewish settlements.

Tehiya did not react immediately to Rabin's action. The party's central bodies were scheduled to meet later Sunday to evaluate the situation. Meanwhile, its position is "wait and see."

Hadashot reported Sunday that Labor intends to refer the issue of the settlements budget to the 10-man Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud) where, it hopes, it will be buried until after the next elections.

Labor Party Secretary General Uzi Baram was quoted as saying Labor "will not allow even one bit to be added to the settlement budget." He noted that "according to the coalition agreement, the issue must be decided by the Inner Cabinet" which is the government's top policy-making body.

"If Likud says that the settlement budget has not yet been fully used, we say that the education and health budgets also have not been fully put into effect, since all government budgets have been cut," Baram said.

THATCHER, REAGAN AGREE MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE SHOULDN'T FORCE A SOLUTION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) -- President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher agreed during a White House meeting Friday that an international conference on the Middle East would not be permitted to impose a solution or veto agreements reached between Israel and the Arab countries.

The two also agreed that only direct negotiations could bring about a settlement to the Arab-Israel conflict, Thatcher said in her departure statement on the south lawn of the White House after the two-hour meeting.

Thatcher met with Reagan during her one-day visit here after discussing the possibility of an international conference recently with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan.

Reagan, in bidding farewell to Thatcher, spoke only in general terms, noting that the two had "reviewed the general prospects for peace in the Middle East, including the proposals for an international conference and the conditions necessary for peace negotiations to be successful."

Thatcher was more specific, stressing that she was describing what the two had "formally endorsed."

"We agreed that direct negotiations between the parties are the only practical way to proceed," Thatcher explained. "We explored how an international conference might contribute to bring about such negotiations. Clearly it would not have the right to impose solutions or to veto agreements reached by the parties. We must continue to make progress in the peace process and commit ourselves to work for that."

While the U.S. has been advocating the need to consider if an international conference could lead to direct negotiations, Britain and the other members of the European Community have more directly urged such a conference. A senior Admin-

istration official told reporters that Britain and the U.S. were not engaged in a joint effort in the Mideast peace process, but that Reagan and Thatcher had explored how such a conference should be set up.

Thatcher stressed that both the U.S. and Britain are committed to seeking to take advantage of the "diversity of opportunity" that now exists to move the Mideast peace process forward.

"The countries of the region should not have to go on spending such enormous sums on defense rather than on their development," she said. "We must help them take the difficult steps necessary for peace."

A great portion of Friday's meeting was devoted to the Iran-Iraq war. Both Reagan and Thatcher expressed support for a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire.

"We believe that the United Nations Secretary General should personally undertake a mission to achieve that end," Reagan said. "If either or both the warring parties refuse the United Nations call for a cessation of the fighting, then an arms embargo should be bought to bear on those who reject the chance to end this bloody and senseless conflict."

ISRAELI ENVOY ARAD ARRIVES AS U.S. COMPLAINS ABOUT ENTRY INTO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) -- Moshe Arad, Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, arrived in Washington this week amidst the growing controversy over complaints by Palestinian and Black Americans that they have been experiencing difficulties in entering Israel.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Thursday that another expression of "serious concern" would be made to the Israel Embassy here Friday. However, the complaint was not to be made to Arad, since he does not officially take up his post until he presents his credentials to President Reagan sometime soon.

Arad, who comes to the U.S. from Mexico, where he was the Israeli envoy, paid a courtesy call Thursday on Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

The 52-year-old career diplomat was appointed Ambassador after a six-month dispute between Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres about who should replace Meir Rosenne, who ended his four-year tour of duty in Washington June 1.

75 Complaints Reported

Redman said Thursday that about 40 Arab Americans and 35 Black Americans had complained that they were denied entry or had their passports confiscated this summer. Blacks have been turned away because of suspicion that they are Black Hebrews, according to Israeli spokesmen.

"We have continued to express our deep concern to Israel about discriminatory, arbitrary treatment of some American citizens," Redman said.

He said Israel has been asked for "assurances" that the problem will be "resolved promptly. The United States believes strongly that all American citizens are entitled to equal treatment under the laws of foreign countries regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background."

When he was asked whether the U.S. had ever complained to Arab countries, such as Saudi

Arabia, which bar American Jews, Redman said he didn't know. He also would not confirm reports that the U.S. is threatening to issue a travel advisory warning Palestinian and Black Americans that they might face harassment in going to Israel. The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate in Jerusalem have reportedly urged that the advisory be issued.

Redman, however, indicated that an official warning might not be necessary. "I think the problem has been publicized," he said. Redman noted that a similar problem last summer was cleared up after the U.S. complained.

U.S. CANCELS EXHIBIT AFTER CHINESE REFUSE 2 PORTRAITS, INCLUDING GOLDA'S
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) -- The United States has cancelled a National Portrait Gallery exhibition to China because the Chinese government refused to show portraits of former Israeli Premier Golda Meir and Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

The two portraits, a Chinese official explained in a letter last month to the National Portrait Gallery, "involve politically sensitive questions which are not only against the present policy of China but also involved in the relations with the third countries."

Although Chinese officials have refused to state their specific objection to the Meir portrait, it is believed to be based on their desire not to anger Arab countries. The objection to the MacArthur portrait apparently stems from his role as commander of U.S. forces in the Korean War.

The Chinese demands that the portraits be removed from the exhibit brought a stern protest Thursday from the United States Information Agency, which was sponsoring the exhibit as part of a cultural exchange between the U.S. and China.

"It is unacceptable to dictate which portraits shall be included. It is an affront to the American people and to the memory of Douglas MacArthur and Golda Meir. We had hoped that they would welcome the exhibit as a cultural rather than a political event; unhappily this has not occurred," the USIA statement read.

The exhibit was to focus on the changing style of American portraiture over the past 100 years, said Carolyn Carr, assistant director of collections at the National Portrait Gallery. The 51 portraits would have included such figures as Samuel Clemens, Thomas Edison, T.S. Eliot, George Gershwin and Henry James.

Carr said the Chinese voiced no objections to the portraits selected when the museum signed a contract for the exhibit last March. The exhibit was to have opened in Beijing in September and toured three cities.

'Loving Portrait' Of Golda

The Meir portrait was painted by Raphael Soyer in 1975 when the former Premier, then age 77, was on a trip to the United States. A museum catalogue described Soyer as painting women "not for what they might symbolize but for what they really are. She (Meir) is a gentle, pensive, but still robust person and he writes that he was impressed by her strong, wise and kind face."

"It's basically a very loving portrait of an older woman. We thought it was a beautiful portrait," Carr said. The National Portrait Gallery exhibition is part of a cultural exchange agree-

ment between the U.S. and China signed in 1978. The first exchange, a display of paintings from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, was almost cancelled because the Chinese objected to some abstract paintings after they had arrived in China. The U.S., however, refused to remove the works and the Chinese relented.

"We feel it's terribly regrettable. This was meant to be a cultural exchange and we were taking works of art, that was our concern, just to pick out the most representative works of American portraiture," said Carr.

POLL HAS SHAMIR, PERES EVEN; LABOR, LIKUD GAIN SUPPORT

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA) -- The latest opinion poll showed Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres running neck-and-neck in popularity while their respective parties-- Likud and Labor -- each picked up support among voters.

According to the poll, conducted by the Dahaf organization and published in Yediot Achronot Friday, Shamir was given a 63-35 percent approval rating, with Peres at 63-36 percent. The most popular politician, however, was Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, a Likud-Liberal with a 67-30 percent approval rating.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Laborite, had a favorable rating of 62-36 percent.

The standings of the two principal coalition partners improved. The poll indicated that if elections were held now, Labor would win 47 Knesset seats compared to 44 according to a poll taken last month, and Likud would increase from 37 to 40 seats. The Tehiya Party dropped in voter approval from eight to five seats. The National Religious Party was up from five to six and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party down from three to one Knesset mandate. Shinui dropped from four to two seats.

The standings of the other parties were unchanged since the June poll. But the idea of early elections lost ground. The latest poll showed that Labor would lose two Knesset seats to Likud if it were responsible for early elections. If Tehiya precipitated early elections it would lose one seat to Likud.

LIVING COSTS RISE SLIGHTLY WHILE HISTADRUT URGES 5-DAY WORK WEEK

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA) -- Israel's cost-of-living index rose by one percent in June, according to figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics Wednesday. The increase, exceeding the expected rise of 0.5 percent, drew expressions of "restrained disappointment" from Treasury officials.

The index has risen by 8.5 percent in 1987. The June increase brought it to 177 compared to 100 in the base year, 1985.

The latest figures are likely to affect negotiations between the Treasury and Histadrut for higher wages for public employees. Spokesmen for the employers Association said they re-enforced their opposition to Histadrut proposals for wage hikes and a five-day work week.

Israelis presently work a six-day week. The employers said the economy could not stand a reduced work week.

NEW JEWISH AGENDA PLANS MISSION TO NICARAGUA, REITERATES CALL FOR PLO TALKS, ENTERS SOVIET JEWRY FRAY

By Shloime Perel

LOS ANGELES, July 19 (JTA) -- New Jewish Agenda (NJA) decided at its biennial convention here last week to send a Benjamin Linder Brigade to Nicaragua in December to reopen the confiscated Managua synagogue as a Jewish cultural center.

Most of Nicaragua's tiny Jewish community fled the country when the Sandinista-led revolution ousted Gen. Anastasio Somoza-Debayle, the military dictator, in 1979.

Some Jewish organizations contend that the Jews were forced to leave and their property confiscated. Some also accept the Reagan Administration's linkage of the Sandinista government with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But NJA, at meetings July 9-12 at the University of California at Los Angeles, took a far different view. Its task force on Central America said its "work has been especially significant in building support against aid to the Contras, building the Jewish sanctuary movement, supporting material aid projects for Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, challenging disinformation (especially the myth of anti-Semitism in Nicaragua) in the Jewish community and the public at large, and ensuring that Jews are proportionately represented in coalitions and other anti-intervention efforts."

Several mainstream Jewish organizations have cited evidence of anti-Semitism on the part of the Sandinistas and claim they collaborate with the PLO and Libya.

Many Issues

Criticism of Reagan Administration policies in Central America was just one of many controversial issues examined and debated by 500 members of the seven-year-old Jewish organization with positions to the left of the U.S. Jewish mainstream.

NJA's five national task forces presented strategy papers that will set the organization's course for the next two years. A key stratagem is to form alliances for political change.

For the first time, NJA took up the issue of Soviet Jewry. Delegates agreed that NJA must become active on behalf of rights in the Soviet Union, notwithstanding possible objections by a tiny minority of members who regard the USSR as a model society.

But the most controversial positions related to the Middle East. The Middle East strategy paper set out the principal political thrust of the NJA's work to influence American policy to: support the participation of the PLO in the peace process as the internationally recognized representative of the Palestinian people; help negotiate an international peace conference under United Nations sponsorship with participation of Israel, the PLO, the neighboring Arab states, the U.S. and the Soviet Union; and to work for the reduction of arms supplies to the Middle East and demilitarization of the conflicts there.

The task force also called for religious freedom in Israel for Jews and non-Jews.

Gordie Pellman, co-chair of the Middle East task force, said "The reality of the PLO is that it

represents the great majority of Palestinians and we must recognize this." At the convention's Mideast workshop, a strong minority position was expressed that NJA has moved too far ahead of the Jewish community on this issue. But the overwhelming consensus was that Israel should seize the moment and negotiate with the PLO.

This was reinforced in a speech at the Mideast plenary by PLO member Afif Safieh, a former staff member at the office of PLO chief Yasir Arafat and currently a visiting professor at Harvard University.

"You can't make peace with people you never talk to," he said. "It is in the interests of Israel, the Jewish people and moral decency for Israel and the PLO to sit at a table with other Arab states and the superpowers and negotiate a settlement that would allow for the self-determination of both peoples. It's taken some convincing, but the majority of the Palestinian people are ready to compromise."

Latif Dori, a leader of the Mapam Party in Israel, agreed. "If we don't shake hands we'll end up shaking guns," he said. Dori is one of four Israelis who met with a PLO delegation in Rumania. They are currently on trial for violating a law forbidding Israeli citizens to have any contact with the PLO.

NJA resolutions on the Middle East condemned the Reagan Administration decisions to deport Palestinians and to close PLO offices in the U.S. The NJA restated its basic position on the Middle East -- support for the two-state Israel/Palestine option as the basis on which to negotiate the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Feminist Strategy Backed

The feminist strategy paper proposed to develop and disseminate a feminist perspective on the Jewish family, including gay and lesbian families, and to become a progressive Jewish presence in the feminist movement. It proposed a new Jewish family work group to "function as a think tank for the development of a Jewish feminist analysis of perspectives on the Jewish family, produce articles, position papers and responses to developments on relevant issues in the Jewish communities."

The economic and social justice task force emphasized anti-apartheid and anti-racist work; opposition to the far right; support for more affordable social services for families with dependent children; job guarantees; and the formation of coalitions for low-income housing.

The disarmament task force stressed the need for educational work for disarmament, opposition to weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and opposition to Israeli participation in the Reagan Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as "Star Wars." It also proposed an end to nuclear testing and abolition of first strike weapons such as the Trident submarine.

The NJA was founded in Washington, D.C., in December 1980. It claims it is the only left-oriented Jewish organization that has grown since then. Its convention made clear that it stands by its original statement of purpose -- to provide a political and ideological "home" for Jews uncomfortable with the present Jewish community establishment.

**VISITING EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
GENERATES RESENTMENT IN ISRAEL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- The official visit here of Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, the first by a top Egyptian statesman since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, began under a cloud Monday.

Feelings are running high over Egypt's invitation to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim--issued by Meguid last week -- to visit Egypt. In addition, the Labor-Likud conflict over the peace process was aggravated by Meguid's call upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport for the Israeli government and people "to stand together and support" an international conference for Middle East peace.

Meguid also indirectly triggered a row among Labor Party Knesset members and between Labor and Likud over what many in both parties saw as a slight by the Egyptian visitor toward the Israeli lawmakers. According to Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, there was no slight, only a misunderstanding.

Officially Smooth

The official aspects of Meguid's visit went off smoothly. He was greeted at the airport with full diplomatic protocol. He met separately with Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Monday morning and lunched with President Chaim Herzog.

Political observers said Meguid's call for an international peace conference would carry no weight with Shamir and Likud, who are flatly opposed to that scenario. Shamir's aides briefed reporters in advance of his arrival not to expect any changes.

In his airport remarks, Meguid said, "Egypt will continue to exert all its efforts for an early resumption of the peace process through convening an international conference before the end of the year." He said, "The message to the Israel government and people is the urgency of peace."

Meguid had scarcely arrived when the Knesset House Committee plunged into debate over Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel's order to cancel a meeting between Meguid and the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee because it would take place at the King David Hotel rather than in the Knesset.

Hillel felt the venue was an insult which amounted to a boycott of Israel's parliament by the Egyptian Foreign Minister. Likud members of the House Committee backed Hillel, a Laborite.

But Eban, also a Labor MK, criticized Hillel's action and called the House Committee's debate "insulting and superfluous." He said it was never intended for the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee to meet with Meguid at a hotel, and he would not think of convening it anywhere but in the Knesset.

According to Eban, he had arranged for some committee members to meet with Meguid informally at his hotel because the Foreign Ministry had not scheduled a visit to the Knesset for him. Eban said he would meet privately with

Meguid at the hotel. Shamir and Peres both announced before Meguid's arrival that they would raise the issue of Cairo's invitation to Waldheim, who is accused of complicity in Nazi atrocities during World War II. The announcements drew an angry response from Meguid before he left Cairo warning Israel not to meddle in Egypt's internal affairs.

But the feeling here is that the invitation, issued almost on the eve of Meguid's visit here, showed an insensitivity to Israeli and Jewish sensibilities on the matter. Shamir charged over the weekend that Arab countries seemed to "court" Waldheim as a way of "expressing hatred" for Israel.

Waldheim has visited Jordan at the invitation of King Hussein and reportedly has been invited to Libya.

**ISRAEL TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES
TO PROCESS U.S. TOURISTS WHO
MAY BE RISKS TO SECURITY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- Israel will establish a body of rules and procedures for processing American tourists who may be security risks or are likely to overstay their visas, it was announced Monday.

The decision by a panel of senior officials was apparently in response to expressions of "serious concern" by the U.S. State Department that Americans of Palestinian origin and Black Hebrews from the U.S. were subjected to harassment by Israeli authorities when they arrived in the country and that many were denied admission after interrogation.

The panel, headed by Yossi Beilin, Political Director General of the Foreign Ministry, consisted of representatives of the Interior and Tourism ministries and the security services. The State Department has indicated it might issue a travel advisory warning Palestinian and Black Americans that they could face difficulties entering Israel. Such a warning could have adverse effects on Israeli tourism in general.

The panel decided that a senior government official would be put in charge of interrogations, that the room where tourists are interrogated at Ben Gurion Airport will be renovated and that tourists held there will have the opportunity to telephone their families, lawyers or the American Embassy in Tel Aviv. The same rules apparently will apply to tourists entering Israel via the Allenby Bridge from Jordan.

It was also decided that the U.S. Embassy will be asked to appoint a liaison officer to deal with disputes arising from the cases of American tourists denied entry to Israel.

Security sources were quoted Monday as saying that the changes may result in an increase of terrorist activity in Israel. According to those sources, "the security check-up of suspects including Americans, has prevented terrorist activities."

The Interior Ministry claimed that more than 2,000 American citizens of Palestinian origin who arrived here as tourists remained illegally after their visas expired. Most Palestinian Americans

who come to Israel as tourists are on visits to their families in Israel or in the administered territories.

Black Hebrews are denied admission because they claim the right as Jews to remain under the Law of Return. The religious authorities have determined that Black Hebrews are not Jews.

The State Department said in Washington last week that about 40 Arab Americans and 35 Black Hebrews have complained that they were denied entry to Israel or had their passports confiscated. "We have continued to express our deep concern to Israel about discriminatory, arbitrary treatment of some American citizens," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

Israeli sources were quoted as saying that Israel's treatment of American visitors was lenient compared to the tough handling of many Israelis by American immigration authorities.

U.S. WELCOMES ISRAELI CHANGES FOR BLACK, PALESTINIAN VISITORS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 20 (JTA) -- The State Department appeared pleased Monday that the Israeli government has taken steps to meet complaints that some Black and Palestinian Americans are being harassed as they try to enter Israel.

"The Israeli officials have informed us that they are instituting changes to deal with the concerns we expressed regarding treatment of some Black and Arab Americans seeking entry into Israel," State Department deputy spokesperson Phyllis Oakley said. "We are encouraged that this problem is being addressed and we hope that it can be resolved."

The Department had expressed "concern" both to the Israeli Embassy here and the government in Jerusalem over charges that some Palestinian Americans who were visiting relatives as well as Black Americans suspected of being Black Hebrews have been denied entry or had their passports confiscated and were forced to post bond.

The Israel government announced Sunday that it would henceforth allow detainees to make telephone calls and to contact the U.S. Embassy. There were reports that the U.S. threatened to issue a travel advisory for Israel, although the State Department has never publicly confirmed this.

DEMJEANJUK AFFIRMS FIRING OF COUNSEL O'CONNOR, BUT NO REPLACEMENT HIRED
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- Suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk affirmed to the Jerusalem district court Monday that he has decided to replace American lawyer Mark O'Connor as his chief defense counsel.

Demjanjuk signed a letter of dismissal two weeks ago. O'Connor contended that his Ukrainian-born client, on trial here for war crimes committed when he was allegedly a guard at the Treblinka death camp, was confused over the consequences of his letter.

The court, meeting in special recess session last week, gave Demjanjuk five days to reconsider. He told the court Monday that after careful consideration and consultation with his family, his dismissal of O'Connor stands.

The court intervened because it must approve a change of counsel in mid-trial. It also

made clear to Demjanjuk that it would entertain no motion to postpone the trial, which is scheduled to be resumed July 27. The defendant said his decision to fire O'Connor was not linked to a request for postponement.

Meanwhile, Demjanjuk's family is trying to find a replacement for O'Connor. Last week it had reportedly engaged Washington attorney John Broadley. But Broadley was unable to accept the brief.

LABOR'S HOPE FOR EARLY ELECTIONS STALLED BY TEHIYA PANEL VOTE
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- The Tehiya Party Central Committee's 29-9 vote Sunday against early elections has killed Labor Party hopes to dissolve the Knesset before summer recess. Labor cannot muster the requisite majority without Tehiya's five votes. But it has pledged to do everything possible to block the rapid expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, promised by Premier Yitzhak Shamir Sunday to Tehiya leader Yuval Neeman.

The Tehiya leadership insisted that its stand against early elections did not result from the latest opinion poll, which showed the party would suffer if it helped bring down the Labor-Likud unity coalition government. They also denied having served Shamir with an ultimatum that Tehiya would support Labor's early elections efforts unless its demands for new settlements are met.

Nevertheless, the party seemed pleased with Shamir's assurances. Neeman told the Central Committee that the Premier promised funds would be made available to expand existing settlements, strengthen the Jewish infrastructure in the territories and complete building the six new settlements called for in the coalition agreement.

Promised Thousands Of Units

He promised that "thousands" of new housing units would be built in the West Bank this year. According to Neeman, at least 3,000 flats will be added in Kiryat Arba, Emanuel, Ariel and smaller settlements. Neeman said Shamir also approved Tehiya's plan for massive road construction in the territories. Work on the new settlements of Hadar Beiter near Jerusalem, and Avnei-Hefetz near Kalkilya will begin immediately, Neeman said.

In addition, he said he was assured by Shamir that the dispossessed Arabs of Ikrit and Biram in the Galilee will not be allowed to return to the sites of those villages which were razed by the Israel Defense Force during the War for Independence in 1948. Labor is determined to prevent Shamir from delivering on his promises. Next Sunday's Cabinet meeting will debate last Sunday's attempt to begin breaking ground for the new settlement of Avnei-Hefetz before building permits were issued.

A fleet of bulldozers, dispatched to the site by Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon, was turned back by troops acting on direct orders from Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

LAVI FOE TO HEAD ISRAELI AIR FORCE

TEL AVIV, July 20 (JTA) -- Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, regarded as one of the staunchest opponents of the Lavi jet fighter project, will be

the next commander of the Israel Air Force. The decision was announced by Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron Monday.

Bin-Nun, who is head of the Israel Defense Force's planning branch, will succeed Maj. Gen. Amos Lapidot on September 22.

The planning branch will then be headed by Brig. Gen. Danny Yatom, who will be promoted to Major General.

Bin-Nun commanded an Air Force unit in the 1967 war, downed Soviet-flown aircraft during the war of attrition in 1970 and later commanded a major air base in the north.

Yatom has served as a military aide to then-Defense Minister Moshe Arens and later commanded a division on the Eastern front. He recently studied at Tel Aviv University.

FOXMAN TO HEAD ADL

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) -- Abraham Foxman, 47, has been appointed national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, succeeding the late Nathan Perlmutter, ADL national chairman Burton Levinson announced Monday.

Foxman served as associate national director and head of the ADL's International Affairs Division since 1978. He and Perlmutter were a "remarkable team," Levinson said. "Thanks to the unusually close relationship, both personal and professional, ADL is assured the continuity of leadership essential to continued progress in meeting the many challenges which confront the world Jewish community."

Foxman received a law degree from New York University Law School. He is also a graduate of City University of New York and did graduate work in advanced Judaic studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and in international economics at the New School for Social Research.

He is a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the advisory council to the New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission and the New Jersey Advisory Council on Holocaust Education.

Born in Poland in 1940, he was saved from the Holocaust by a Polish Christian nursemaid who claimed him as her own child after his parents were imprisoned by the Nazis. He was baptized and raised as a Catholic in early childhood, until reunited with his parents, Helen and the late Joseph Foxman, in 1946. Sixteen family members died in the Holocaust.

The Foxmans arrived in the U.S. in 1950. Abraham Foxman was educated at the Yeshiva of Flatbush (NY). In addition to English, he is fluent in Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish and Russian.

42 SOVIET JEWS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL, LARGEST SINGLE GROUP IN 5 YEARS

TEL AVIV, July 20 (JTA) -- The largest single group of Soviet Jewish immigrants to arrive here in five years landed at Ben Gurion Airport Sunday night. The 42 men, women and children came on a flight from Moscow via Vienna, unannounced. The size of the group surprised Jewish Agency personnel waiting at the airport. It included several former activists for Jewish and Zionist rights in the USSR.

The newcomers are from Leningrad, Minsk, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Moldavia and Soviet Georgia. They reached Vienna Sunday and trans-

ferred immediately to a flight to Tel Aviv. Most Soviet Jews travelling via Vienna stop-over there to apply for visas to the U.S. or other Western countries. Only a minority have gone on to Israel.

Meanwhile, Soviet Jewry activists continued to picket the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel Monday where a three-man Soviet consular delegation and their staff are staying. The Soviet delegation arrived a week ago. The activists carried posters demanding free emigration for Soviet Jews. They took turns reading out the names of Soviet Jews who have been denied exit visas.

SEVERAL FIRSTS AT EUROPEAN INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 20 (JTA) -- An interfaith seminar held in Fribourg, Switzerland last week ended with a declaration against anti-Semitism by the 200 participants who included Jews and Moslems from Israel and, for the first time, church leaders from Poland and East Germany.

The seminar was organized by the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ), founded in Fribourg 40 years ago. The final declaration urged Christians to work to stamp out new seeds of anti-Semitism and to stress that Christians are not inheritors of Judaism but an addition to Judaism.

Bishop Henryk Muszynski of Gdansk, spoke of growing interest in Judaism among the younger generation in Poland. Moshe Rezmikof of the Israeli-American Committee attended as a member of a group of 30 Israeli Jews and for the first time, Moslems.

A workshop on Islam decided it was important for both Jews and Moslems to achieve a better understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the problems of Christians facing a growing Moslem population in Europe.

Rabbi Alexander Safran of Geneva said he was generally pleased by the changes that have taken place in the Roman Catholic Church. But he was concerned by Pope John Paul II's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim at the Vatican last month and the beatification of Edith Stein, a Jewish-born convert who became a nun and died at Auschwitz during World War II.

Christians at the seminar expressed hope that their efforts to come to terms with Judaism would be matched by Jewish efforts to evaluate a theological relationship with Christianity.

The next meeting of the ICCJ will be held in East Germany on September 12. Israeli participants are expected to receive visas.

SOCIALISTS SPEAK UP FOR EDELMAN

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, July 20 (JTA) -- The Socialist faction in the Parliament of Europe has protested to the Polish government over the dismissal of Dr. Marek Edelman, one of the survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, from his post at the Lodz general hospital.

CORRECTION: Elie Wiesel has written to JTA that contrary to a recent report he is not involved in the construction of the U.S. Holocaust Museum overseen by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council since he resigned as Council chairman last December.

SPEED-PAINTING RECORD SET BY SELF-DESCRIBED 'KOSHER HAM' KATZ
By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) -- Surrounded by paint buckets, canvas and completed works, Morris Katz set a world record Wednesday by creating 103 saleable paintings during his 12-hour marathon in the lobby of the New York Penta Hotel.

Never ceasing to entertain the crowds and cameras with his banter, Katz, who calls himself the "first kosher ham I ever met," sold 55 paintings at \$50 a piece, raising \$2,750 for the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America.

This "Guinness Book of World Records" entry actually encompasses two records -- painting non-stop for 12 hours, with an allotted five-minute break after each hour, and creating the most saleable works of art in the shortest period of time. They are not Katz's first.

He already holds the world record as most prolific painter of saleable art with upwards of 162,000 paintings in his 41-year career, and a speed record with his 16-by-25-inch canvas of a skier, created in 43 seconds at the Limelight Nightclub in Chicago.

Starts With A 'Shmear'

The recipe for Katz's Instant Art, which allows him to paint at the rate of 2.64 square feet per minute, appears haphazard, although he insists each idea is well-formed. Using a palette knife for speed, Katz begins with a "shmear" of white acrylic for background.

In one painting, a black line is added to represent a tree and a wad of toilet paper is dabbed over the wet bark to detail the branches. Katz then forms two black horses into the background with the trowel, and using a snappy wrist, slashes on "de-tail," as he described the ends of the horses.

Finally, he scrapes his name and time (7 minutes, 32 seconds) at the bottom, staples the canvas into a frame and triumphantly holds it high above his head for the audience.

He developed his art, which he has termed impressionistic realism, 31 years ago. "It's quality painting with speed," Katz said while indenting line details with his knife into a rainbow New York City skyline. "I can sell them for less money and make more people happy."

Clad in green beret and yellow T-shirt, Katz is his own best promoter. Randomly printed across his shirt is a collage of his speed achievements, including the words "Paint Good and Fast," the title of his "how to" book which will be incorporated in his new book to be called "Amazing Artists: The Life and Works of Morris Katz."

Learned In D.P. Camp

Katz, born in Poland in 1932, escaped the Nazis more than 12 times. Living in a displaced person's camp after the war the 13-year-old Katz began art lessons with a former teacher from the Warsaw Academy. He then apprenticed at the Munich Academy of Art, paid for by his mother with a handful of chocolates.

In 1949 he immigrated to the United States and by 1950 he supported himself solely through painting. Six years later he created the Instant Art after finishing a work for a high school class in 30 seconds.

Since then he has added his humorous shtick of audience interplay and plays on words, usually

jokes with Jewish flavor. "In spite of his accent and showmanship, he's down-to-earth," said David Boehm, editor of the "Guinness Book of World Records," which is published by Sterling Publications, the same company handling Katz's books.

"Katz claims art is experience," Boehm continued. "By hiding in haylofts and cellars he got the experience of danger...life and death. It makes him more down-to-earth in his work than if he had been living in an ivory tower."

Katz' paintings utilize the motifs he studied -- pastorals, cityscapes, landscapes and still life. Some of his most popular works are based on Jewish tradition, such as "Dancing Rabbis" at the Western Wall or "Desert Camels."

Visitor To Israel

For at least a few weeks a year, Katz commutes to Jerusalem, although he spends most of his time in his studio and apartment here. In Israel, which he said adds to his "spiritual uplifting," Katz appears on kibbutzim and describes himself as their Johnny Carson.

Katz expresses gratitude to the United States, which is why he chose the Boy Scouts of America as a charity. "America has given me the privilege to express myself here and has made me able to go to Israel," Katz explained. He is attempting "to feed back to the future of America by giving my skin to charity."

Between America and Israel, Katz reportedly has raised some \$1 million for charitable organizations.

Katz, reveling in the attention of the international audience passing through one of the busiest lobbies in the city, finds his speed-painting an endless challenge despite the apparent ease at which he can produce.

"All the time I am rejuvenating with the challenges," he said. With eternal ideas, Katz described his paintings as originals "fresher than the bagels in the bakery."

SUSPEND ISRAEL-INDIA TENNIS MATCH UNLESS INDIA GRANTS VISAS: ADL

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has called on the International Tennis Federation to suspend the Davis Cup tennis match between Israel and India in New Delhi July 24-26 because of the Indian government's refusal to grant visas to Israeli visitors and journalists.

ADL national director Abraham Foxman charged in a telegram to ITF president Philippe Chatrier that India's actions "violate the spirit of international cooperation which is at the heart of the Davis Cup matches and is symbolic of India's record of hostility towards the State of Israel and its citizens."

He urged the ITF to "suspend the match until a neutral site is chosen, if India persists in barring Israelis or others who want to attend the competition."

PIPE BOMB FOUND AT CAMP

TEL AVIV, July 20 (JTA) -- A small pipe bomb planted in a Tel Aviv youth center was safely neutralized Thursday. It was discovered by an employee of the center during a routine inspection of the grounds before the arrival of youngsters attending a summer camp.

**PERES SAYS THE USSR HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS REGARDING SOVIET JEWS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset Wednesday that the Soviet Union had agreed in principle to several significant concessions with respect to Soviet Jews demanded by Israel before it granted visas to the Soviet consular delegation which arrived here July 12.

Three senior members of the delegation left Israel for Cyprus Tuesday night, reportedly en route to Moscow for consultations. But they will return, the head of the delegation, Yevgeny Antipov, said before his departure.

The delegation is the first official Soviet mission to Israel since Moscow broke off diplomatic relations 20 years ago. Its stated task is to inspect Soviet property in Israel and renew the passports of about 2,200 Soviet nationals here. The latter are functionaries of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian women married to Israeli Arabs. The property is mostly Church property.

But the visit raised speculation here and abroad that the delegation could be the vanguard of a permanent Soviet diplomatic presence in Israel in the future. Peres said that in return for Israeli visas, the Soviets agreed to increase the number of exit visas granted to Soviet Jews, to release Prisoners of Zion and to expand religious freedom for Soviet Jews.

He told the Knesset there was an "improvement" in all of those areas. He expressed confidence that the Soviets eventually would allow a reciprocal visit to the USSR by an Israeli consular delegation, though Moscow has rejected this so far.

Soviet Official Dismisses Speculation

Antipov, who heads the consular division of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said before leaving that no other Foreign Ministry officials would be joining the delegation for the time being. He dismissed speculation that the delegation might be enlarged and authorized to discuss broader issues of bilateral relations when he returns.

Shortly after his arrival in Israel, Antipov told reporters that his delegation would return to the USSR before their 90-day visas expire but he was sure they will be replaced by "other officials" of "a consular nature."

Leaving with him Tuesday night were Alexei Chestyakov, a Middle East affairs expert, and Vladimir Kruglyakov, First Secretary of the delegation. Another senior member of the delegation, Genryk Flachin, was a member of the Soviet group that met briefly with Israeli representatives in Helsinki last August.

The Soviet delegation is staying at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel. It rented a temporary office in Ramat Gan to conduct its business here. Its only known contact with Israeli officials was a short meeting July 14 with Yaacov Aviad, head of the Foreign Ministry's consular division. Aviad described their talks as "extremely positive" and a "good beginning" but did not elaborate. There was no other official comment here on the visit

until Peres' remarks in the Knesset Wednesday. Earlier, the Foreign Minister had urged that the visit "not be blown out of proportion."

Last week, Haaretz quoted the Foreign Ministry's Political Director General, Yossi Beilin, as suggesting that the Soviet delegation was sent to Israel to test Arab reaction to a possible improvement in Soviet-Israel relations.

SCIENTIST SAYS ARAB COUNTRIES ARE AHEAD OF ISRAEL IN LAUNCHING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE INTO SPACE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA) -- A leading Israeli physicist says the Arab countries have gotten ahead of Israel in efforts to launch a communications satellite into space.

Haaretz Wednesday quoted Tel Aviv University Prof. Yuval Neeman as saying "this issue is still not getting the 'push'" it deserves. He referred to the announcement that two Syrian cosmonauts will participate in an upcoming Soviet space mission. He said he hoped this "will stimulate the appropriate elements here to promote Israel's participation in space exploration."

Neeman, who heads the Tehiya Party, said Arab efforts to launch a communications satellite failed "due to a blunder on the part of its European manufacturers." But "they continue their efforts. We still do not have a communications satellite of our own, but we should already have one," Neeman said in an interview with Haaretz.

He noted that "according to an international convention, an area is reserved for us in space, over our region, for launching a communications satellite, but we are liable to lose it if we do not launch a satellite within four years."

Prof. David Abir, deputy head of the Israeli Space Agency, dismissed Syrian participation in the Soviet space mission as primarily propaganda, Maariv reported Wednesday. Abir said it is doubtful that the Soviets would place all their equipment and the data from aerial photographs at the disposal of the Syrians.

Meanwhile, tests are being conducted at the Haifa Technion to improve the resistance of satellites, space craft and missiles to the intense heat generated by the return to earth's atmosphere from outer space. Haaretz reported Wednesday. The tests make use of a new hot air tunnel which produces temperatures of 10,000 degrees Celsius by means of a five-megawatt electric generator.

Haaretz said they are being carried out in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the U.S. and other agencies.

EGYPT SIGNALS ISRAEL THAT IT SUPPORTS PLO PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE MIDEAST PEACE TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, unable to convince Premier Yitzhak Shamir to accept the idea of an international conference for Middle East peace, sent a strong signal on the last day

of his visit to Israel that Egypt strongly backs Palestine Liberation Organization participation in any future peace talks.

Meguid, who arrived here Monday, met Wednesday with 12 prominent Palestinians, all but two of whom are known supporters of the PLO. The meeting took place at the home of the Egyptian Ambassador, Mohammad Basyouni in Herzliya. The guests included Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem and former Mayor Rashad A-Shawa of Gaza, both considered pro-Jordanian.

Meguid briefed the group on recent contacts between Egypt, Jordan and the PLO on convening an international conference. He described the meeting afterwards as "very good." Other participants told reporters that Meguid did not ask them to pressure the PLO to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which imply recognition of Israel. Egypt is on record as insisting that this be a condition for PLO participation in peace talks.

The Palestinians gave Meguid a memorandum in which they pledged their full support of the PLO as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." They also called for stronger ties between Egypt and the Palestinians.

According to observers here, Meguid's meeting with the PLO supporters was a message to Israel that it cannot ignore the PLO in peace negotiations and that only the PLO can nominate Palestinian representatives to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in future peace talks with Israel.

Meguid Has Sharp Exchange With Shamir

Meguid, the highest level Egyptian diplomat to visit Israel since its invasion of Lebanon in 1982, reportedly had a sharp exchange with Shamir over an international peace conference at their meeting Tuesday. The Premier said later, "Unfortunately, I have not been able to convince the Egyptian Foreign Minister, but neither did he succeed to convince me."

At the meeting, Shamir quoted a letter the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat wrote to former Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in which he said the Palestinian problem should be solved within the framework of the Camp David accords. "Today you completely ignore this," Shamir told Meguid.

Meguid replied that conditions have changed and reverting to the Camp David accords would set the peace process back three years. Yediot Achronot reported Wednesday that "a third party" was attempting to arrange a meeting between Shamir and King Hussein of Jordan in the hope that it would soften Shamir's opposition to an international conference.

Although no basic political changes emerged from Meguid's visit, it had several results. Laborite Ministers Ezer Weizman and Moshe Shahal will visit Egypt in the next few weeks for a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak. Egypt will help expand contacts between Israel and the Soviet Union. Contacts on the Taba border dispute will continue.

Meguid also informed the Israelis that his government would set up a special tribunal to review the demands for financial compensation by the families of seven Israelis killed by a berserk Egyptian soldier at Ras Burka in Sinai in 1985.

ISRAEL TO GET ADDITIONAL 1,500 FILES FROM UN ARCHIVE ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 22 (JTA) -- Israel will receive Thursday from the UN archive on Nazi war criminals copies of 1,500 files. This would bring the total number of files obtained by the Israeli government from the UN archive to 2,347.

The archive, which has about 40,000 files, was established by the former members of the United Nations War Crimes Commission after World War II. The archive is located in Manhattan. At present, only government members of the UN are allowed to inspect the files.

A spokesman for the Israel UN Mission told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that three files among those to be given to Israel Thursday are those of Dr. Ludwig Fischer, the governor of Warsaw during the war, who deported tens of thousands of Jews to concentration death camps. He was sentenced to death by a Polish court and executed in 1947; Dr. Erich Gruen, who conducted medical experiments on Jewish prisoners in the Maidanek concentration camp and murdered Jewish and non-Jewish inmates, his whereabouts are not known; Dr. Alfred Meyer, the governor of North Westphalia in Germany during the war, who was responsible for the robbery and confiscation of Jewish art treasures. He committed suicide in 1945. The Israeli UN Mission will hold a press conference Thursday at the UN with Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel to announce that it received the 1,500 new files.

Meanwhile, Poland joined 13 other former members of the War Crimes Commission who now favor opening the UN files to the public. Only three of the 17 former members of the Commission are still opposed. They are France, Czechoslovakia and India.

REPORT SYRIA TO GET SOVIET MIGs By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA) -- Foreign diplomatic sources quoted by Maariv Wednesday said Syria will soon receive Soviet MIG-29 aircraft. According to the paper, this will change the balance of air power between Israel and Syria.

Experts here said the arrival of MIG-29s in the region would return the situation to what it was in 1967 when Israel's French-built Mirage jets were opposed by Egyptian MIG-21s from the Soviet Union. Both aircraft had equal capabilities and Israel's superiority in the air was determined by the higher quality of its pilots, they said.

The MIG-29 is considered the equal of the American F-15s, the Mirage 2000s in the Israel Air Force, and in certain aspects, their superior. None of the Warsaw Pact countries have received MIG-29s. They have been supplied to India and may go to other Middle East countries in the future, including Iraq.

SHARON GETS OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO TELL HIS SIDE OF LEBANON WAR By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA) -- Ariel Sharon has received official permission to make public his

version of the Lebanon war in an address to a forum of senior Israel Defense Force officers and Defense establishment figures next month, Al Hamishmar reported Monday.

Sharon, who was Defense Minister during the war and is now Minister of Commerce and Industry, intends to answer criticism voiced by Generals Avigdor Ben-Gal and Amir Drori. They spoke at a seminar at Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies six weeks ago on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Lebanon War.

Sharon has been accused by many of engineering the IDF's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982 without informing Premier Menachem Begin and the rest of the Cabinet of his full objectives. Last year, he won a libel suit in the U.S. against Time magazine which had reported that Sharon encouraged the family of Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel to avenge his assassination. According to Time, that resulted in the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps by members of the Christian Phalangist militia.

While the American court found the story false, it did not rule it libelous and did not award Sharon punitive damages. The controversial general is now considering a libel suit against Israeli journalist David Halevy who presently lives in the United States, Hadashot reported Monday.

Halevy and an American co-author have written a book about Lt. Col. Oliver North who was fired from the National Security Council last year. According to extracts from the book, published in Maariv Friday, North visited Sharon at his ranch in June 1982 and the then Defense Minister "described to (him) the details of the Israeli military plan in Lebanon" including plans for the IDF to attack the Syrian army.

Sharon denied vigorously that he was ever visited by North at his ranch, Yediot Achronot reported Sunday.

Davar reported Monday that Labor MK David Libai, chairman of the Knesset's Public Audit Committee, and MK Ran Cohen of the Citizens Rights Movement plan to ask Attorney General Yosef Harish to investigate possible criminal charges against Meshulam Riklis, the multi-millionaire businessman living in the U.S. who allegedly financed Sharon's suit against Time.

Davar quoted a book on the time case, co-authored by Sharon's associate Uri Dan, which referred to Riklis' financial assistance.

An unrelated report in Maariv Monday said that Maj. Gen. Moshe Bar-Kochba has asked permission to write an article critical of the IDF in Al Hamishmar, organ of the Mapam Party. This would be unprecedented for an active-duty IDF officer.

According to Maariv, Bar-Kochba's article is entitled "Is the IDF Senior Command Prepared for Future Challenges?" Maariv said Bar-Kochba believes the IDF has not learned the proper lessons from the Lebanon War and therefore is not prepared for future wars.

The military authorities have been considering his request for two weeks without reaching a decision, Maariv reported.

JEWISH PHILOSOPHER AWARDED GERMAN BOOKSELLERS PRIZE

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- An elderly German-born Jewish philosopher who has taught at the Hebrew University and in Canada and the United States has been awarded the 1987 German

Booksellers Association Prize. Hans Jonas, 84, a resident of New Rochelle, NY, is slated to receive the award in October in Frankfurt. A jury of 11 women and one man selected Jonas for the prize.

The selection of Jonas is "timely," according to an English translation in The German Tribune of an article in the Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt of Hamburg. The book for which he was awarded his prize, Das Prinzip Verantwortung (The Principle of Answering), is described as a singular volume, after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, "that addresses itself effectively to the search for an ethical system in our technological civilization."

Jonas, who has lived in the U.S. since 1955, was born in Monchengladbach, and was a student of such outstanding philosophers as Martin Heidegger and Edmund Husserl. His graduating thesis was on mystical knowledge -- gnosis.

He received a Ph.D. summa cum laude from the University of Marburg at the age of 25. He has honorary doctorates from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the New School for Social Research in New York, as well as an honorary Doctor of Theology from his alma mater at Marburg, bestowed in 1976. Jonas was chairman of the New School's philosophy department from 1957-73. He has taught widely at major American universities.

Fled Advent Of Nazis

Jonas left Germany in 1933 with the advent of the Nazis, going to Palestine via Britain. He served with the Royal British Artillery from 1940-45, and fought in Israel's War of Independence from 1948-49. His mother died in Auschwitz.

Jonas, who has authored eight books and many scholarly papers, has returned to his mother tongue for the first time in 50 years with "The Principle of Answering." He wrote the book in German as "a sober appraisal of his later years," according to the German newspaper article.

In the book, he wrote, "Prometheus Chained, to whom science attributes unknown powers and to economics untiring effort, cries out for a system of ethics that, with voluntary restraints, holds back the powers of man from being a disaster." The book is dedicated to his children Ayalah, Jonathan and Gabrielle. But, says the German newspaper article, "He dedicated it in essence to us all."

COURT REJECTS ARAB'S BID TO BUY TWO BANKRUPT FACTORIES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) -- A Tel Aviv magistrates court flatly rejected a bid by an Arab businessman from Gaza to purchase two bankrupt factories in Kiryat Gat in Israel. They will be sold instead to a Haifa-based company and to one in Switzerland, Judge Yishai Levit said Wednesday.

Levit ruled out the transaction sought by Arab entrepreneur Abed El Diks on several grounds. He said he could not buy a plant in Israel without special permission of the Defense Ministry which is the sovereign power in the administered territories, and permission from the civil administration in the Gaza district.

In addition, El Diks cannot own plants which have the Israeli defense industries among their customers, the judge said.

The court ruling calmed tempers in the development town of Kiryat Gat in southern Israel.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW
FOXMAN, NEW ADL DIRECTOR,
EPITOMIZES THE ORGANIZATION**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- Whenever the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith honors a Righteous Gentile -- someone who rescued Jews during the Holocaust -- Abe Foxman goes over to the rescuer and, tears welling up in his eyes, clasps him or her in a giant bear hug. In that embrace, Foxman is once again holding a very special person in his life, for each time this happens he is remembering the woman who saved his life when he was a baby.

When he was a year old, Foxman's parents, Joseph and Helen, seeing the Nazi pincers close around the Jews of Poland, entrusted him to the care of his Catholic nursemaid, Bronislawa Kurpi, who raised him as her own son in Vilna, where they fled from their home in Baranovicz.

For his, and her family's protection, she baptized him as a Catholic and brought him up in that religion with the name Henryk Stanislaw Kurpi.

In 1946, when Foxman was six years old, his parents, who had survived the war through different means -- his father in a series of camps in Latvia and Estonia; his mother, an escapee from the Vilna ghetto, with Aryan papers and a job that supported the nursemaid and boy -- reclaimed their son, and brought him up as a Jew.

"My father was very wise. He knew how to substitute one religion for the other without forcing," Foxman recalled with a smile. But the enormity of the Catholic woman's favor stayed with him.

In 1950, the Foxmans came to America, where they settled in Brooklyn. There, he attended Yeshiva of Flatbush.

The Duality Of Backgrounds

This duality of backgrounds -- a profound understanding of two different religions and cultures and an overwhelming gratitude to a Christian woman who had risked her own life to allow him his -- never left Foxman. Rather, he has made use of this depth of feelings and compassion in his everyday life.

Since 1965, Foxman has worked for the ADL, beginning as assistant in its law department, then, from 1968-73, as head of the Middle Eastern Affairs department, and in 1973 as head of ADL's International Affairs department, and closely affiliated with the ADL International Center for Holocaust Studies.

On Monday, Abraham Foxman was appointed ADL national director, succeeding the late Nathan Perlmutter, who died July 12 after a long bout with cancer. Perlmutter -- who always said "Call me Nate" -- continued working throughout the duration of his illness, writing and talking about it, drawing people close to him as he reached out to them. Foxman was certainly one of his closest associates during his trying times.

Foxman's accession to the directorship is "bittersweet," he told JTA. "Nate's passing leaves me very sad." Foxman plans to continue at the helm of ADL in the footsteps of his predecessor.

As a lawyer -- Foxman received his law degree from New York University School of Law after graduating from the City College of New

York -- he has applied his legal acumen to the problem of anti-Semitism. As a Holocaust survivor, Foxman has been constantly active as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the advisory council to the New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission and the New Jersey Advisory Council on Holocaust Education. His children attend Hebrew day school in New Jersey. Foxman is also vice president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

A Disease Without A Vaccine

Foxman perceives anti-Semitism as "a disease" for which the vaccine has not yet been developed. "We've conquered time and space. We've reached the moon. We've developed a vaccine for smallpox. And yet, unfortunately, we have not yet come up with a vaccine against this disease. One would have hoped that after Auschwitz and Treblinka were laid bare for the world to see, that all the powers of the world, all the scientists, all the thinkers, would have concentrated all their efforts to eradicating this evil. Unfortunately, they haven't, and anti-Semitism is here, it continues.

"People say to me, what are you going to do? Unfortunately, the agenda is outlined. We don't have a slow season in our business. What we deal with is words. We've learned that words have the power to kill, that words unchallenged, left in silence, words of bigotry, are part of our tradition. But words also have the ability to bring about good. And in those places where people spoke out and challenged, they offset the evil. "We've also learned that the power of the word to speak out has brought about the freedom of 270,000 Soviet Jews. That the power to speak out can dampen anti-Semitism, bigotry and prejudice when the powers that be, those who set the moral standard, speak out. When they're silent, that only encourages."

'Something In The Wind'

Foxman speaks easily, swiftly, with tremendous humor, peppering his words with Hebrew phrases. His ability to communicate is a cornerstone of his work, and is enhanced by his fluency in Polish, Russian, German, Hebrew and Yiddish.

Foxman senses "something in the wind" regarding cooperation between human rights groups of different special interests. "I don't know what it is yet, but I welcome it." But, he said, "This is a new generation, and we have to reeducate."

In response to a question, he said, "What am I going to be dealing with? That's what I'm going to be dealing with. Am I an optimist? Yes. Otherwise, you can't face the day. If I didn't believe that you could change people's minds, that one can influence their irrational behavior, I wouldn't be here. But I believe you can."

One of Foxman's first and most cherished projects at ADL as director will be the opening September 15 of the Foundation to Sustain Righteous Christians, founded by Encino, Calif., Rabbi Harold Schulweis, and directed out of New York by psychologist Eva Fogelman, and administered by Frank Reiss.

Foxman considers the foundation "part of what the ADL is all about. And it's a way to say thank you to compensate for all that these people did."



U.S. JEWISH LEADERS MOUNT INTENSIVE EFFORT TO TRY TO STEM CHANGES IN THE LAW OF RETURN

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders becoming increasingly alarmed at the prospect of the Israeli government passing legislation which would alter the definition of a Jew under the Law of Return have mounted an intensive effort to stem such changes.

A delegation of American and Canadian leaders from the top fund-raising organizations for Israel, the United Jewish Appeal and United Israel Appeal, led by Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), will leave for Israel Sunday, three days in advance of a scheduled vote in the Knesset on the issue.

Cardin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that should the measure pass, Reform and Conservative Jews would very likely reevaluate their political, financial and psychological support for Israel. In practice, she said, this could mean less travel to Israel and less encouragement for their youth to go on programs in Israel. But Cardin stressed that "we don't want to talk about the what if, we want to avoid that." She added, "No one voice speaks for the totality."

The decision to send a delegation immediately was taken Wednesday afternoon in a closed-door session at CJF headquarters here by representatives of UJA, UIA, CJF, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the Jewish Agency and four of the largest local Jewish Federations. The move reflects the profound concern in the North American Jewish community over the "Who is a Jew?" debate within Israel.

A Political, Not A Religious Issue

Small, ultra-Orthodox parties in the Knesset have attempted for years to push through amendments to the Law of Return which grants automatic Israeli citizenship to all Jews. The small parties want the law to stipulate that a convert must go through a halachic conversion to qualify for the automatic citizenship.

Following the numerous defeats, the latest of which came when two bills failed to gain a majority vote in the Knesset on July 8, the small parties have introduced a "back door" amendment which would give the rabbinic courts the authority to determine validity of conversions. This amendment is scheduled for a vote Wednesday.

The issue has become political rather than religious, said Cardin. The smaller religious parties, threatening to pull out of their traditional alliance with the Likud and vote with Labor to dissolve the unity government, have effectively pressured Likud into supporting the proposed changes. This was reflected in the July 8th votes when Likud almost unanimously voted for the two amendments. The amendments were narrowly defeated.

Shamir had pledged to the ultra-Orthodox Shas party several months ago that Likud would "do all in its power" to pass a bill introduced by Shas to empower the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate to approve conversions.

"The number of votes for the amendment has increased over the years," Cardin told the JTA following the closed meeting. "It is possible that special pressure now is being brought to bear."

The delegation's goal, according to Cardin, is to convince both major parties to remove the "Who is a Jew?" issue from their political agendas permanently.

Passing the amendments "would delegitimize and disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of Jews," Cardin said. She referred to the numbers of North American Jews affiliated with the Reform and Conservative movements who have the perception that they "do not fit in" in the Jewish state. "This could well erode support for the State of Israel -- something we cannot tolerate," she said.

The delegation leaving Sunday plans to meet with Shamir and other government figures, Cardin said. But they also want to reach the Israeli people through press conferences and meetings.

"We want to help Israelis to understand the issue. We are hoping that there is an understanding of the numbers of people involved and the potential rift," Cardin said.

Telegrams Sent To Every MK

The leaders who met Wednesday also decided to send telegrams to every member of Knesset urging them not to support the proposed changes and explaining their position. The text of the telegrams was similar to one sent earlier in the week to Shamir which warned that the changes would "irreparably damage the support of Israel and its institutions by diaspora Jews" and cause a "terrible rift" among the Jewish people. (See July 22 Bulletin.)

Representatives of the organizations supported a similar resolution at the Jewish Agency Assembly last month in Jerusalem and have communicated their displeasure with the trend on a number of other occasions.

U.S. ORTHODOX RABBINICAL GROUP OPPOSES KNESSET BILL ON CONVERSIONS

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) -- An organization of American Orthodox rabbis said Thursday they "categorically oppose" a Knesset bill backed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir that would give the Israeli Chief Rabbinate or Rabbinical Courts exclusive right to approve converts in Israel, even though it would exclude conversion performed by Reform and Conservative rabbis.

A statement by The Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada (Agudas Harabonim) said the proposed legislation "does not solve the problem of 'Mihu Yehudi'" (Who is a Jew) and "inherently poses a great danger because we cannot be certain of future rabbis who will constitute the Rabbinical Courts. Perhaps Conservative or Reform rabbis will be appointed by the government," the statement said.

It referred to a measure introduced in the Knesset by the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party to amend religious regulations dating from the British Mandate in Palestine. It would require that all converts to Judaism obtain the Israeli Chief

Rabbinate's endorsement in order to be fully recognized as Jews in Israel.

Despite Shamir's pledge of Likud support to Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, the measure was defeated in the Knesset on July 8 by a vote of 60-56 with four MKs absent. Also defeated by a 62-53 margin was an amendment to the Law of Return introduced by the National Religious Party. Known as the "Who is a Jew?" amendment, it would define a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism, with the words "according to halacha" (religious law) added. It would effectively invalidate conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

Statement By The Rabbis

The statement by the Agudas Harabonim expressed distrust of Shamir's motives and concern over inroads made by Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel.

It said: "We see the influence of Reform is growing daily in Israel and that the government has a listening ear to their opinion and their protest. In a time when many Reform temples have sprouted in Israel we are not certain that Reform and Conservative rabbis will not be recognized in the Rabbinical Court.

"We are almost certain that this resolution of Mr. Shamir is a device used to appease Rabbi Peretz whom he sorely needs in the Cabinet in his struggle for power with Shimon Peres. We are also certain that the same Reform people who did not allow the amendment of 'Givur Kahalacha'--converted according to the halacha -- to the Law of Return for so many years, will disallow Shamir's current resolution."

The statement concluded by noting that "we feel inherently the resolution as it now stands is a potential danger to the religious community and should be rescinded."

RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS HALT A DIG

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- Religious zealots won another battle against archaeologists digging at a site the zealots claim was a Jewish burial ground. A team of about 50 American volunteers, headed by Prof. Robert Bull of Drew University in Madison, N.J. cut short their excavations near the ancient Roman town of Caesaria Wednesday when they were surrounded by three busloads of ultra-Orthodox Jews who accused them of desecrating the dead.

About 100 Israeli police were on hand to prevent a physical clash. Bull, who was reported last week ready to resign rather than give in to the zealots, abandoned the site on orders from the president of Drew University, Paul Hardin.

The university, a Methodist-affiliated institution, has been under heavy pressure from Orthodox groups in the U.S., headed by Rabbi Pinhas Teitz of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to halt the digging.

The project, coordinated by Drew University, employed student archaeologists from a dozen American colleges and universities who volunteered for the work. They had been excavating at the site for six weeks and were to continue for another two weeks.

The ultra-Orthodox Atra Kadisha, an organization devoted to protecting ancient Jewish graves, intervened 10 days ago and began harassing the archaeologists. They said an Orthodox boy reported to them that he had found a bone at

the site which the rabbis said they "knew" was from a Jewish body. Bull said it had been established without doubt that there were no cemeteries, Jewish or otherwise, at the site. Individual remains were found but were unearched along crucifixes and other non-Jewish ornaments and inscriptions.

Claim Site Was Not Jewish Cemetery

Israel's antiquities department, which licenses all archaeological diggings sent inspectors who concluded that the bones found were not part of a Jewish cemetery. Yehuda Neeman, the inspector for the Hadera region which includes Caesaria, said the site was a garbage dump dating back 100-150 years, on top of the Byzantine Christian area of the historic city.

But Rabbi Zeev Berlin, of Atra Kadisha, insisted that "There are dozens if not hundreds of ancient Jewish graves at the site of the excavation." An Israeli archaeologist at the site told reporters it was impossible to reason with the zealots.

He said they told him, "We know more about ancient sites than you do." When the archaeologist pointed out that some remains and artifacts found at nearby sites had been carbon-dated several thousands years back, he was told: "Don't be ridiculous. Everybody knows that God created the world only 5,747 years ago."

Dig Site To Be Shifted

Archaeologists have been working at Caesaria for 12 digging seasons spread over the past 17 years. A source from Prof. Bull's team said the diggings for the remainder of this season would be shifted to a site about 500 yards from the disputed one.

The Atra Kadisha follows archaeological digs all over the country and claims to have found Jewish graves at virtually every site. In 1981 they succeeded in suspending digging at the City of David in Jerusalem and more recently interrupted construction of a new road in Tel Aviv because they claimed it ran through an ancient cemetery.

They do not object where non-Jewish remains are found. They claim to be able to distinguish Jewish from non-Jewish remains by the way the bones are arranged.

Meanwhile, an archaeological dig aimed at uncovering an ancient Roman city in the Beisan Valley was halted Wednesday, not because of religious pressure but for shortage of funds. About 90 residents of Beth Shean employed at the dig were dismissed from their jobs.

UNIFIL SOLDIERS INTERCEPT A GROUP OF HEAVILY ARMED TERRORISTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- Soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) intercepted a group of heavily armed terrorists in south Lebanon on their way to infiltrate Israel. Their weapons were confiscated and they were released, Israel Radio reported Thursday.

According to Israel Radio, a number of the detainees were Syrians. Three terrorist squads equipped with maps and binoculars were apparently on an intelligence-gathering mission. The others carried large stocks of weapons, sabotage material and sophisticated radio and communications equipment, Israel Radio said.

The Israel Radio report said UNIFIL was trying to maintain a low profile on the operation

in order not to complicate relations with various guerrilla groups active in the south Lebanon region patrolled by the international force.

"The most UNIFIL can do is to confiscate weapons and ask the terrorists politely to leave," an observer commented. UNIFIL's mandate does not allow it to arrest terrorists passing through its zone and it can open fire only if attacked.

CHILDREN OF YORDIM OFTEN URGE THEIR FAMILIES TO RETURN TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- The children of yordim -- Israelis who have settled permanently abroad -- are often the key to prompting their families to return to Israel, according to Absorption Ministry official Yosef Kuchik. At present there are about 40,500 children of yordim living in the U.S., 75 percent of them born there, and approximately a third live in New York City.

The figures, contained in a survey conducted for the Absorption Ministry by the Central Bureau of Statistics, were made public by Kuchik Wednesday. They are based in part on U.S. Census Bureau data.

The survey found that in 1980 there were 34,500 households in the U.S. and Canada in which at least one spouse was Israel-born. Only 15,400 of them had children under the age of 20.

Kuchik said that past experience showed that yordim return to Israel out of concern for their children's future Israeli identity and because many of the children want to come back to Israel. Kuchik heads the Ministry's efforts to encourage yordim to return.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

REMEMBERING THE RIGHTEOUS CHRISTIANS By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) -- In the early 1960's, Rabbi Harold Schulweis, then a Conservative rabbi in Oakland, Calif., came to know Herman "Fritz" Graebe, superintendent of a building in San Francisco, of meager financial means, who had once been a prestigious engineer in Germany. Graebe was assigned in August 1941 to manage a railroad engineering project for the Germans in the Ukraine. And there he witnessed the murder of nearly 1,500 Jews by Nazi extermination squads.

Graebe then engineered his greatest project: a rescue network that saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish refugees in a dozen Ukrainian cities and villages. For his rescue work, at tremendous personal risk, in which Graebe organized the Jews into work squads, Graebe became known as "The Moses of Rovno."

Graebe was the only German to volunteer to testify at the Nuremberg trials of war criminals. And for this he was hounded, his family taunted. His position taken from him, his money completely gone, Graebe came to America with his family in 1948.

Many Similar Cases

That such a man should be forgotten by those he had rescued haunted Schulweis, who began to think about starting a foundation to help Righteous Gentiles. The ailing Graebe was "just one of many that I came across," Schulweis told JTA. In 1962, Schulweis founded the Institute for Righteous Acts, whose archives were placed in the Judah Magnes Museum at Berkeley. "And not one rescuer of Jews wrote us," he said.

Schulweis said he also received reports from individuals who had visited in Canada with one of the people who hid the family of Anne Frank in Amsterdam, Viktor Kugler, who was in dire economic and health straits.

And he began to hear stories, such as the one of Mother Maria of Paris, who was sent to a concentration camp, where she gave her identification papers to a Jewish woman, who survived because of them, while Mother Maria went to the gas chamber.

Almost all the rescuers he learned about were impoverished and forgotten. Many had been turned out of their communities for helping Jews. Schulweis's thoughts were then clear: "If a Christian risked his life to save a Jew, don't I as a Jew have an obligation to help him live out his life in dignity?"

Foundation To Be Part Of ADL

Since 1981, Dr. Eva Fogelman in New York has been director of the Rescuer Project at the City University of New York Graduate Center, which was initially sponsored by the John Slawson Fund of the American Jewish Committee. For the past 10 years, Fogelman, a social psychologist and psychotherapist, has been involved with research and therapy related to the impact of the Holocaust on survivors and their children.

Fogelman, who recently received her Ph.D. as a result of this work, told JTA that "As a result of my research in this area, I have encountered many rescuers who were socially isolated because of the good deeds they had done for Jews during the Holocaust. Rescuers were attacked, some were killed after the war. We have information that rescuers were physically threatened and ostracized by their communities for being 'Jew-lovers.' And some continue to have fears until today."

And so Schulweis and Fogelman joined forces last year to bring this shame out of the closet. Together they worked on a bicoastal project, the Foundation to Sustain Righteous Christians.

It has just been announced that on September 15, the foundation will become a project of the International Center for Holocaust Studies of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. ADL's national director Abraham Foxman said that Schulweis came to him a year ago and said, "It's bigger than I am." Thereafter, plans were set in motion to make the foundation an integral part of the ADL.

Foxman told JTA, "There's a lesson, in that there is good and bad in all of us, and we must recognize both. If we are to survive as a people, it's to laud and applaud and use as examples people who did what is just and right. It's a fitting part of our institution. It's part of what we're all about."

An Important Step

Dennis Klein, director of the ADL Holocaust Center, is also enthusiastic about the transfer of the foundation to the ADL. "We're all really excited about it," he said, adding: "It supplies an understanding of that period that I don't think any program will give that much attention to, certainly not within the Jewish community. To my knowledge, there's been no full-time program addressing this issue."

The ADL has allotted close to \$100,000 for the foundation, Foxman said. The foundation will have a full-time ADL administrator, Frank Reiss. Fogelman remains the foundation's director,

Schulweis is founding and continuing chairman, and John Ruskay, who is vice chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America here, is foundation secretary.

Seeking To Befriend The Rescuers

And, said Fogelman, the foundation is seeking volunteers "who will befriend rescuers who are socially isolated, setting up speakers' bureaus, and recording the stories. We're also facilitating to help survivors write testimony to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in order to get these rescuers recorded as Righteous Among the Nations."

Schulweis, now rabbi at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, a Los Angeles suburb, has written a letter to be sent to all rabbis of all divisions of Judaism to ask them to appeal from their pulpits on Rosh Hashanah for those who were rescued by Righteous Christians to come forward with their stories, and with the current whereabouts of those who survive.

Schulweis said the foundation has already received contributions from rabbis, as well as laymen from all over the world. The concept of helping the rescuers comes from the Jewish ethic, he explained: "hakarat hatov" -- recognizing the good. This recognition of the rescuers "really provides an opportunity to relate differently to the world out there and to change an inner perception," he said.

Schulweis explained the foundation's goals as "to make a conscious, systematic effort to find out the numberless rescuers who have been accounted for. We need a (Simon) Wiesenthal and a (Beate) Klarsfeld to search out the good as we have spent our energies -- correctly -- to hunt down the evil. The evil has been well researched, but the good, tragically, have been unsung -- and that has to be acknowledged.

"In the last year, we've gotten hundreds of letters from Jewish survivors whose conscience has been pricked. The Jewish world community has not engaged in a systematic and active search for the rescuers, who clearly exist in greater numbers than we imagined."

WIESEL APPEALS TO UN LEADER TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UN ARCHIVES ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 23 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel appealed to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday to open to the public the files on Nazi war criminals at the UN war crimes archives in Manhattan.

"For the sake of memory and humanity, I appeal to the Secretary General, whom I respect very much, to open these files to the public," Wiesel, an author and Holocaust survivor, said at a press conference called by the Israel Mission to the UN.

The Israel Mission obtained 1,600 files on Nazi war criminals Thursday. It had been reported earlier that it would receive 1,500 files. Wiesel said he came to the UN to support Israel's long-standing request that the files be opened to scholars, educators, students and journalists.

"To keep them closed would mean to silence the voice of history," he said, noting that was what Hitler and other Nazi leaders wanted -- to deprive the human race of any knowledge of the atrocities and crimes they committed.

The 1,600 files were delivered to Israel's Deputy Ambassador to the UN, Yohanan Bein, who is Acting Ambassador in the absence of Binyamin Netanyahu, who is in Israel. Bein said the files would be sent to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Research Institute in Jerusalem for study. He said the Secretary General is scheduled to meet on September 22 with representatives of the 17 former member states of the now defunct UN War Crimes Commission to discuss opening the files to the public.

Bein said he believed all the countries now recognize "the necessity to grant broader access to the UN archives." So far, 14 of the 17 former War Crimes Commission members have announced they support broader access. The three countries still opposed are France, India and Czechoslovakia. Bein noted that final authority to open the files rests with the Secretary General, who will make his decision after the September meeting.

ETHIOPIAN JEWS APPEAL TO HIGH COURT AGAINST REFUSAL OF THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL TO REGISTER THEM AS JEWS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) -- An Ethiopian couple appealed to the Supreme Court Thursday against the refusal by the Rabbinical Court to register them as Jews unless they undergo a special conversion process, including ritual immersion.

The couple, Dov Vera Lapeto and Eli Noga of Kiryat Arba, an Orthodox town in the West Bank, stated in their appeal that they were married in April 1986 by rabbis of the Ethiopian community, according to halacha. They have since become the parents of a daughter.

But the Interior Ministry refused to register them as Jews without the Rabbinical Court's authorization. The court will not recognize their marriage unless they undergo conversion rites.

This has been a sore point, especially since the arrival in Israel of about 10,000 Ethiopian Jews in "Operation Moses" in 1985. The Rabbinate has expressed doubts in many cases of their authenticity as Jews. The Ethiopians, fiercely devout and observant of all religious laws, consider the demand for conversion a gross insult since it is not required of Jewish immigrants from other countries.

REHABILITATION PLAN FOR MOSHAVIM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) -- The Knesset Finance Committee approved a rehabilitation plan for moshavim Thursday, ending a long dispute between Labor and Likud over measures to ease their financial difficulties.

The plan, prepared by a special subcommittee, would cancel part of the moshavim's debts to banks and the Jewish Agency. The repayment of other loans would be spread over a four-year period. They amount to 852 million shekels and would be repaid at 6.7 percent interest.

The banks and the Jewish Agency will write off the balance of the debts, amounting to 24 million Shekels. Three Likud members of the Committee, including former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, voted against the proposal. Aridor said it would not solve the problem and the moshavim, largely Labor-affiliated, would need more assistance in the future.

**LIST OF WANTED AUSTRIAN WAR
CRIMINALS DISCOVERED BY RESEARCHERS**

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- A list containing the names of 244 wanted Austrians accused of brutal Nazi war crimes has been located by Holocaust researchers among U.S. Army records stored at the U.S. National Archives.

The wanted list was compiled by the U.S. Army in 1948 from information supplied by the Allied War Powers and by the United Nations War Crimes Commission. It was released here by Menachem Rosensaft, founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

The majority of those listed are charged with committing atrocities while serving with the forces of Nazi Germany during World War II. The specific charges include "murder," "torture," and "brutality."

Last year it was discovered that a similar U.S. Army wanted list contained the name of Kurt Waldheim and called for his apprehension on charges of "murder." That discovery led to the finding that in 1948 the UN War Crimes Commission sought to place Waldheim on trial for "putting hostages to death."

Among those on the Army wanted list found at the National Archives are Gestapo agents, concentration camp guards, SS commanders, and Nazi Party officials. Personnel from the concentration camps at Auschwitz, Dachau, Mauthausen, and Treblinka are included on the list.

In all, crimes committed in nearly a dozen European countries are described in the Army document. It shows that the listed individuals were sought for prosecution by Belgium, Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Holland, Poland and Yugoslavia. Seven individuals were sought as "witnesses."

Most Important Item Of Information

Rosensaft noted that the most important item of information contained in the army document is the entry which provides the file number of the UN War Crimes Commission for each individual listed. That criminal file contains the evidence and a complete description of the charges against the named individual.

As in the case of Waldheim, the United Nations has thus far refused public access to these files currently in the custody of the UN Secretary General. Recent demands by member-nations of the War Crimes Commission for more liberalized access to these files may lead to changes in the restrictive rules governing their availability.

The World Jewish Congress has been informed that the U.S. Army wanted list is currently in the possession of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, the government's Nazi-hunting unit, and they are proceeding with the matter as appropriate under American law.

In this regard, Rosensaft pointed out that while many of the listed individuals are dead, an undetermined number were certainly still alive, and some may have surreptitiously made their way to the United States.

**U.S. ZIONIST GROUPS CAMPAIGN
AGAINST MOVE IN ISRAEL TO INCREASE
THE AUTHORITY OF RABBINICAL COURTS**

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- "Stop Religious Coercion. Start Pluralism and Tolerance." These imperatives will headline a series of advertisements co-sponsored by three American Zionist organizations set to appear in five Israeli newspapers Wednesday.

The advertisements aimed at Knesset members seek to persuade the government to oppose a proposed amendment sponsored by the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party which would give the Rabbinical Courts authority to validate conversions, marriages and divorces performed abroad. The proposal is scheduled for a Knesset vote on Wednesday.

Friends of Labor Israel, Association of Reform Zionists (ARZA) and Mercaz (the Conservative Zionist movement) sponsored the ads. Friends of Labor Israel has also mounted a telegram campaign to Foreign Minister and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres expressing support for his efforts to defeat the bill.

At the same time, Hadassah, the American women's Zionist organization, has undertaken its own efforts to oppose the proposed legislation.

These four American Zionist organizations have joined a number of other American Jewish groups in taking an emphatic stand against changes in the Law of Return or proposed legislation which would have the same ultimate effect of giving religious leaders authority over the validity of Conservative and Reform conversions.

A delegation of American and Canadian Jewish leaders which included representatives of the major fundraisers for Israel -- the United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal -- and the Council of Jewish Federations, the National Jewish Community Relations Council and others left Sunday for an unscheduled trip to Israel in attempts to block passage of the amendment.

A Warning By The Delegation

The delegation in Israel warned Tuesday that amending the Law of Return or other measures which would delegitimize Reform and Conservative Jewry would split Jewish communities abroad and widen the gap between Israel and world Jewry. If the legislation received a majority vote in Knesset, it would endanger UJA support and other contributions to Israel, the leaders warned.

Peres told the leaders that the "Who is a Jew?" issue and other proposed laws are being used as bargaining chips for coalitions and support for early elections. Peres said the issue should not become an internal political battle.

Simmy Ziv-El, executive director of Friends of Labor Israel, said the people supporting the amendments are "trying to legislate discrimination." About 90 percent of affiliated American Jews are associated with the Reform and Conservative movements, he said.

"The government can't send them a message saying 'We want you to make aliya,' but we will legislate you into the realm of the non-legiti-

mate," Ziv-El said. "This bill (the Rabbinical Courts law) is more pernicious and offensive than previous attempts to change the Law of Return."

Ziv-El said the measure would take control over questions of citizenship and aliya out of the hands of government agencies which have traditionally controlled the matters and put that power solely in rabbinical hands. "It is blatantly circumventing the government ministry (Interior Ministry) that is supposed to deal with absorption," he said.

Hadassah Sends Letter To MKs

Ruth Popkin, Hadassah national president, took a slightly different tack in her attempts to oppose the bill. Popkin sent letters to 13 MKs who have not yet taken a position in favor of the Rabbinical Courts bill urging them to break with Likud Party discipline and vote against the measure.

"Though I understand full well that your party (Likud) has for political reasons decided to take a position in favor of the Rabbinical Courts bill, we ask you for the future of both our communities to take a stand in opposing this harmful legislation," Popkin's letter said.

"We do not intend to interfere in Israel's domestic jurisdiction, but this bill proposed to give Rabbinical Courts jurisdiction over conversions and marriages outside Israel. This could be the one issue that would divide the two great communities of world Jewry."

Popkin's letter referred to Likud's decision to support the Shas-sponsored proposals and the proposed amendment to the Law of Return which would stipulate that a Jew be converted "according to halacha" to qualify for automatic Israeli citizenship granted to all Jews under the Law of Return.

Several months ago, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir pledged that he would do everything in his power to assure passage of the amendments. This followed Shas' threats to support Labor's call for early elections if Likud did not support the measures.

On July 8, Likud MKs voted almost unanimously in favor of the amendment to the Law of Return and for a second Shas amendment which would require all converts to Judaism to obtain the (Orthodox) Israeli Chief Rabbinate's endorsement in order to be fully recognized as Jews in Israel. Despite Likud's support, both measures were narrowly defeated.

Shas May Submit Substitute Bill

In other developments in Israel Tuesday, Shas, which is composed primarily of ultra-Orthodox Sephardic Jews, indicated it may submit a substitute bill if a Knesset majority for the Rabbinical Courts bill cannot be guaranteed. The substitute bill would require converts to submit to the Interior Ministry a document with details on their conversion process.

The latest proposal, like the Rabbinical Courts bill, is seen as an attempt by Shas to introduce the "Who is a Jew?" amendment through a "back door."

The Shas proposal is expected to face obstacles in the Knesset Constitution Committee. National Religious Party MK Avner Sciaki warned that he will not vote for the bill because, according to Jewish law, it is forbidden to remind a convert of his/her conversion.

(JTA Tel Aviv correspondent Hugh Orgel contributed to this report.)

PERES: ISRAEL HAS CHOICE OF PARTITION OR CONFEDERATION WITH PALESTINIANS **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday Israel had the choice of dividing the land with the Palestinians and imposing a partition of the country, or share the government with them in a confederation.

Addressing an international forum of young leaders from Europe in Jerusalem, Peres said he could support either idea, provided it was reached in an agreement achieved through negotiations.

Facing up squarely to one of the most controversial subjects in Israel today -- the future of the administered territories -- Peres said: "We have to make a clear choice, either to incorporate in Israel the occupied territories and endanger our clear-cut majority, or satisfy ourselves with less territory but keeping a country with a Jewish majority."

He said the pragmatic choices came down to two -- partition, or confederation. "When you have two peoples living on the very same land you have a choice -- either to divide the land and have a partition, or to share the government and have a confederation. I would go for either one, provided it was based on agreement," he said.

He said that in the final analysis, the question of the return of the administered territories was a moral one.

DEMJANJUK, TESTIFYING IN OWN DEFENSE, SAYS HE WAS NEVER IN TREBLINKA **By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- On his first day of testimony in his own defense, John Demjanjuk told the Jerusalem court Monday that he was "never in Treblinka nor in Sobibor." However, he did admit freely that the scar in his left armpit was from a blood-group tattoo which he carved out of his arm. He claimed the tattoo was a legacy from his German prisoner of war camp days and not a German SS trooper's tattoo.

Speaking in measured Ukrainian, the war-crimes defendant insisted on making his statement, when questioned on details of his alibi.

Demjanjuk said he had attempted to erase his tattoo when he realized it was identical with those received by the SS. However, according to an expert witness for the prosecution, there are no records of POWs receiving the tattoo.

Demjanjuk is accused of being the SS recruit known as "Ivan the Terrible," who drove hundreds of thousands of Jews into the Treblinka gas chambers. He refutes that accusation and claims to have remained a POW who joined the turncoat Russian Liberation Army which fought on the German side.

Demjanjuk was questioned by Defense Attorney John Gill, the document expert on the defense team who appears to have replaced leading counsel Mark O'Connor, dismissed by his client last week. Gill led the defendant through an account of his childhood in the Ukraine, asking him to describe in particular his family suffering during the devastating Ukrainian famine in the early 1930s.

But the main thrust of the defense was to concentrate on the period after Demjanjuk's capture in 1942. Gill asked the defendant for details about the prison camps where he was held, the

rations he ate, and the numbers of people transferred from camp to camp.

7 SHIITE MILITIAMEN KILLED IN ISRAELI SEABORNE RAID NEAR SIDON

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA) -- At least seven Shiite militiamen were killed by Israeli troops in a seaborne raid on south Lebanon in the early hours of Monday morning, Israeli military sources reported. Several militiamen were also injured in the attack two miles south of Sidon. There were no Israeli casualties during the operation carried out under cover of helicopter gunships. It was the first reported seaborne raid on south Lebanon since Israel invaded the country in 1982.

The Israel army had reportedly obtained information that hundreds of Palestinian terrorists had set up bases in the Sidon area, the south Lebanon security zone, and were preparing to attack Israel. According to Lebanese security forces in Sidon, the Israelis landed on the coast from missile boats and blew up two vehicles belonging to members of the Popular Liberation Front, a Lebanese militia group allied with the PLO.

KAHANE GETS FAVORABLE COURT RULING BUT IT MAY NOT SPELL A VICTORY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane may be receiving more television coverage here following a Supreme Court order Monday directing the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to reverse its policy of limiting coverage of Kahane's activities.

The ruling came in response to an appeal by Kahane which protested a two-year-old IBA policy that restricted coverage of Kahane to what were deemed items of real news value following a series of violent clashes between Kahane supporters and leftists at rallies.

The court ruled that IBA did not have the authority to put such limitations on its coverage of Kahane. The ban has resulted in a minute amount of coverage for Kahane and the Kach Party which he represents in the Knesset in the Israeli television, radio, and press.

Aharon Barak, Supreme Court President, supported Kahane's right to make his views known although he said Kahane's views and those of the extreme right in Israel frightened him.

Opinions Of The Solons

In his ruling, Barak said the freedom of expression covered not only the views that were acceptable to the public, but also "the freedom to express views that are dangerous, provocative and extreme . . . that revolt and anger the public." He added that the IBA could ban only broadcasts that are "nearly certain to cause significant damage to public order if a particular view were expressed at a specific time."

Justices Shoshana Netanyahu and Gavriel Bach agreed with Barak, but Bach said the IBA should have more latitude in determining which programs to ban. The IBA may block the broadcast of racially and ethnically inciteful material even when there is no danger of "near certain" disruption to public order, he wrote in his opinion. Kahane rejoiced at the court's ruling. He

immediately demanded that he be invited to the prestigious TV interview program "Moked" (Focus). But jurists and journalists opined Tuesday that although the ruling seemed to be a victory for Kahane, it did leave the IBA the right to decide whether to interview Kahane, report his actions, or not.

Dr. Ruth Gabishon of the Hebrew University said that eventually the ruling may serve to limit Kahane's expression, precisely because the court stood by the right not to broadcast inciteful material. Hanna Zemer, editor of Davar, wrote Tuesday that "the freedom to express views that are dangerous, provocative and extreme . . . that revolt and anger the public," can eventually be applied for the benefit of the extreme left.

PROTEST ABOUT CANADIANS PARTICIPATING IN RECENT RECEPTIONS FOR WALDHEIM

MONTREAL, July 28 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has protested to Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark about the participation of Canadian diplomats in recent receptions for Austrian President Kurt Waldheim held in the Vatican and Jordan.

Dorothy Reitman, CJC president, charged in a letter Monday to Clark that despite the Canadian government's position that Waldheim is not welcome in Canada, Canadian diplomatic representatives in Jordan and the Vatican "were present at functions in honor of the Austrian President."

"May we have your assurance that Canadian diplomatic representatives will not be present at functions attended by Waldheim," Reitman wrote, adding: "We believe this would be consistent with your government-stated policy. Canada must reiterate clearly and publicly that Waldheim's past is repugnant to all Canadians."

DON'T LET 'EXTERIOR ELEMENTS' RUIN ISRAELI SCIENCE, SCIENTIST WARNS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- The President of the Israeli National Academy of Sciences warned Education Minister Yitzhak Navon in a letter Tuesday that interference by "exterior elements" in archaeological research amounted to "severe damage to the future of science in Israel."

Academy President Prof. Yehoshua Jortner was adding his opinion to the escalating conflict over the early closing Wednesday of archaeological excavations near the ancient Roman town of Caesaria by a team from Drew University, Madison, NJ.

University president Paul Hardin ordered the halt after pressure mounted from religious groups -- in particular the Atra Kadisha -- contending the dig desecrated dozens or perhaps hundreds of Jewish graves, even though archaeologists agree there are no graves on site.

Local archaeologists protested the cancellation in a meeting with Navon. The Education Minister was expected to visit the site Wednesday to decide whether to continue the excavation--even without the Drew University team.

In a meeting Monday, Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhak Peretz (Shas) and MK Menachem Porush (Agudat Israel) asked Navon not to renew the dig, but Navon told them it was up to archaeologists to determine "archaeological facts."

Special To The JTA
HEBRON JEWISH-ARAB TIES COULD
BE MIDEAST MODEL, RABBI CLAIMS
 By Shoshana Matzner Bekerman

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- An American-born rabbi who has become a leader and spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron believes that its relations with local Arabs can be a model of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Israel and between Israel and the Arab world.

According to Rabbi Yechiel Leiter, director of development for the Hebron Renewal Commission, the relationship also provides a viable alternative between the extreme left and the extreme right, which he denotes as the Peace Now movement and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party, respectively. "They are both born out of weakness of character -- differing only in their operative approach: One will throw out the Arabs and the other the Jews," Leiter said in a recent interview here. Leiter, who left his native Pennsylvania to settle in Israel, said the families who comprise the Jewish community in Hebron have for the most part dignified, respectable relations with their Arab neighbors. But for this to become the norm, they believe the Israel government must first crack down on terrorists.

They want stiffer penalties for terrorist acts, including expulsions and selective use of the death penalty, permanent closure of terrorism-advocating newspapers and colleges sponsored by the Palestine Liberation Organization, and recognition of stone-throwing and fire-bombings as terrorist acts, Leiter said.

"Once this takes place, the majority of Arabs will not feel threatened by their own violent minority for recognizing Israel's sovereignty and Jews will not feel their security has been abandoned and will not turn to partisan solutions," Leiter said.

Has Role For Government

But "for this to be accomplished, the Israeli government itself must recognize its sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and create incentives for massive, permanent Jewish settlement. The Arab neighbors will then recognize that it is 'for keeps' and will in turn have no fear of denouncing Arab terror and living peacefully with guaranteed individual rights," according to Leiter.

"Those who at this point would not recognize Israel's sovereignty and would not denounce terror would have to choose to live elsewhere," the rabbi said.

If Hebron is a model for coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the Jewish State, "there is no reason why that in turn cannot serve as a model for the entire Middle East," Leiter said.

As examples of coexistence in Hebron, he cited helping each other in daily matters such as starting a stalled car, discussing sewage problems over tea, utilizing commercial ties or joining in efforts to improve the quality of local services.

Leiter explained that the Jewish families and rabbinical students living in Hebron occupy buildings which were "re-purchased" from Arabs who had taken over Jewish property after the 1929 Arab uprising drove Jews out of Hebron.

INDIA SLAMS ISRAEL IN DAVIS CUP;
ISRAELI WOMEN LOSE TO SOVIETS

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- Israel's national men's tennis team was shut out in quarter-

final Davis Cup competition by India, 4-0, in matches played Friday-Sunday in New Delhi. Israel couldn't even win a set on the grass court, a surface unfamiliar to them.

In the closing match Sunday, Ramesh Krishnan defeated Amos Mansdorf, 10-8, 6-0. But that score was practically meaningless, as Israel's doubles team of Shlomo Glickstein and Gilad Bloom had lost Sunday to Vijay and Anan Amitraj, 6-2, 6-2, 7-5.

Their loss clinched the best-of-five series, 3-0, for India. On Friday, Vijay Amitraj had defeated Mansdorf, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5, and Krishnan had beaten Glickstein, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2. The final singles match, scheduled for Sunday, was rained out.

The match had begun as protesters near the tennis stadium were dispersed by riot police. Hundreds of Indians, Palestinians and Afghans complained of the presence of the Israelis on Indian soil. Indeed, the Israeli team travelled under tight security.

Despite the defeat, Israel will remain in the World Group of 16 teams qualifying to play for the cup next year, perhaps hosting a round. The cup signifies international men's team tennis supremacy. Israel had never reached the final 16 before this year.

Israeli tennis suffered another shutout Monday, as the women's team lost to the Soviet Union, 3-0, in first-round Federation Cup competition, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup. Playing in Vancouver, Natalia Zvereva routed Dalia Coriat, 6-1, 6-2, and Larissa Savchenko overwhelmed Ilana Bergen, 6-3, 6-1. In doubles, Coriat and Bergen lost to Savchenko and Svetlana Parkhomenko, 6-1, 6-1.

CANADIAN PARTY ELECTS KEEGSTRA,
TEACHER ACCUSED OF ANTI-SEMITISM
 By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 28 (JTA) -- James Keegstra, the Alberta high school teacher appealing his conviction of promoting hatred against Jews, has been named interim leader of Canada's Social Credit Party.

The party has included throughout its history a publicly anti-Semitic faction, with elements in opposition. Keegstra was elected by a majority of one vote Saturday at the party's executive meeting in New Westminster, B.C.

The Social Credit Party, formerly a power in Western Canada, now has no members in any provincial legislature or the federal parliament. Party national president Ben Bissett announced that Keegstra replaces the Rev. Harvey Lainson, who wanted to change the party's name to Christian Freedom.

Keegstra was convicted in 1985 of anti-Semitic teachings. He also claims the Holocaust was a hoax.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The Security Council will meet here Friday to renew the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a six-month period, until Jan. 31, 1988. UN officials and Israeli diplomats said Tuesday they expect that the 5,778-troop force's mandate will be approved with no objections. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended in a report to the Security Council Monday that UNIFIL's mandate be renewed.

**A Case Of Shas Shtil:
RELIGIOUS PARTY REFRAINS FROM
INTRODUCING AMENDMENT TO GIVE
RABBINICAL COURTS MORE AUTHORITY****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) -- Anticipating defeat, the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party decided Wednesday not to introduce a proposed amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Adjudication Law which would give the rabbinical courts the sole authority to validate conversions, marriages and divorces performed abroad.

Earlier this week, Shas indicated that it would not introduce the proposal if its political allies in Knesset, including Likud, could not guarantee sufficient votes to pass the measure.

A Shas spokesman blamed the National Religious Party for not supporting the bill. "It was the National Religious Party which let us down," the spokesman told reporters. "Without the National Religious Party we could never have gotten a majority."

MK Avner Sciaki of the NRP warned Shas Tuesday that he would not vote for the bill because under Jewish law it is forbidden to remind a convert of his/her conversion.

The bill was seen as an attempt by Shas to introduce through a back door changes in the legal definition of "Who is a Jew?" The ultra-Orthodox would like to push legislation through the Knesset which would invalidate the conversions performed by Conservative and Reform rabbis abroad.

The Knesset will adjourn for summer vacation next Wednesday and the Shas legislation cannot be acted upon until the House reconvenes in October.

Lost Battle But Fight Continues

But although Shas has lost this battle, it has not given up the fight. Shas spokesmen said Wednesday they would now press for introduction of legislation making it mandatory for converts to Judaism to present a document to the Interior Ministry's Population Registry which would provide full details of how and by whom they had been converted abroad.

The document would indicate whether an Orthodox rabbi performed the conversion. People who had undergone Orthodox conversions would then be recognized by the religious establishment as acceptable for a Jewish marriage. Reform and Conservative converts would not be recognized as valid Jews for marriage.

It is widely believed that with the failure of the Shas legislation, it will be easier for Labor to garner a majority of support for early elections and dissolve the Likud-led unity government. Shas had threatened Likud that it would support early elections if Likud failed to guarantee passage of the "Who is a Jew?" amendments.

Observers said that Labor had intensified efforts to secure a majority to pass a bill dissolving the Knesset and calling for new elections. Shinui MK Zeidan Atshe announced that he had changed his mind and would support early elections. Shas MK Yaacov Yosef said he, too, would support early elections because Likud "failed to

honor coalition commitments to Shas." Labor MKs reportedly received strict orders not to leave the country until the Knesset recesses in order to assure a majority of support for dissolving the government. Foreign Minister and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres scheduled a meeting Wednesday to evaluate the situation.

Not Making Threats

Meanwhile, a delegation of North American Jewish leaders, who made a last minute trip to Israel to lobby against the Shas proposal, held a press conference Wednesday.

Martin Stein, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, told reporters the leaders are "not making threats of withholding funds, which would be the absolutely worst solution."

Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said the proposed amendments to the law affecting conversions would "directly or indirectly cause a significant portion of our people to feel disenfranchised, to feel that the essential unity which has characterized our relationship over these past 40 years has been shattered."

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan contributed to this report.)

**JCRC INTENSIFIES EFFORT TO STEM
INCREASED MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNS****By Marlene Goldman**

NEW YORK, July 29 (JTA) -- The New York Jewish Community Relations Council's Task Force on Missionaries and Cults intensified its efforts to stem the increased evangelical campaign this summer by Hebrew-Christian and Messianic Jewish groups, in particular, Jews for Jesus.

The most recent action was a vigil held Monday outside the Manhattan headquarters of Jews for Jesus. About 100 representatives of the JCRC's 59-member organizations united to protest the "perversions" of traditional Judaism and to heighten awareness of the "deceptive practices" of Jews for Jesus and less visible Jewish-Christian groups, according to Michael Miller, executive director of the JCRC.

"We feel we no longer can afford to stand idly by as an organization passing off as Jews attempts to destroy Judaism and its conventions," Miller said.

Miller also noted the apt timing of the vigil as it marked the beginning of the Hebrew month of Av, a period commemorating the destruction of the two Jewish holy Temples in the years 586 BCE and 70 CE. He paralleled the missionaries' attack on Judaism with that of the Babylonians.

'A Blot On The Religious Landscape'

According to Task Force chairman, Julius Berman, "Jews for Jesus is a blot on the religious landscape. It denies the uniqueness of Judaism, and it stains the memories of all those who have lived and died in a commitment to Jewish ideals."

Jews for Jesus asserts that the acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah is consistent with Judaism. They claim it allows Jews to retain their culture. Jews can light Sabbath candles, wear yarmulkes and observe Jewish holidays but in their practice,

each holy act adopts a Christological meaning. Three matzoh on the Seder plate, according to the new symbolism, represent the Trinity and the broken afikomen, the crucified Jesus.

Berman contends that the separate theologies and histories of Judaism and Christianity cannot be combined. "We take offense at their claim that the only true Jew is a Jew who has accepted Jesus, and we are outraged at their suggestion that the holy Jews who perished in the Holocaust were consigned to hell because they were not Christians," he said. Jews, according to Berman, respect the rights of other religions and faiths. He called for a reciprocal tolerance, rather than cults actively seeking converts.

This summer, Jews for Jesus are distributing thousands of flyers proclaiming the legitimacy of a Jewish belief in a Jewish Messiah referred to as Yeshua. About \$70,000 of the annual \$7 million in donations to Jews for Jesus, by individuals, churches, sales of record albums, books and through fund-raising singing groups like the Liberated Wailing Walls, is targeted for literature production, including handbills that use calligraphy, drawings and Jewish humor to relay their message.

Their "glittery" form of public relations, according to Berman, attempts to mislead especially vulnerable groups seeking identity -- the young, elderly, the infirm and the newly-arrived immigrant.

"Jewish youth lack a sense of belonging," said Dr. Alvin Schiff, executive vice president of the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York. "Jews for Jesus preys on doubts and feelings of young people in search of a way of life."

Feels Accusation Is Unfounded

In response, Jews for Jesus believe this accusation is unfounded. "We preach to everyone," said Sue Perlman of the Jews for Jesus in San Francisco. "Their premise is that obviously someone has to be deficient to hear our message," she added in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

But the motive for evangelizing, a word preferred to proselytizing which they believe carries strong anti-Semitic undertones, is to disseminate the "truth" they believe they have found and to tell other people, according to Moishe Rosen, executive director and founder of the missionary group.

Since about 1970, when Jews for Jesus was founded, about 4,000-7,000 have converted through the group's missionary efforts, according to Rosen. Perlman noted that there is no membership to Jews for Jesus. The largest conversion numbers occurred between 1969 and 1973 and have since leveled off.

"We're not building an organization," Perlman explained. "When Jews come to believe in Jesus through us, we offer initial instruction in the faith, but we don't become their rabbi. We're not a separate religion," she continued.

But Jews for Jesus is only one of some 50 Jewish Christian groups, although its funds and staff of 104 qualify it as the largest.

The most effective weapon to combat missionaries is education, the study of Jewish heritage, according to Schiff. Not only must Jews be concerned with the "mind-twisting" policies of Jews for Jesus, Schiff noted, because American society suffers.

Rabbi Moses Birnbaum, associate director of The New York Board of Rabbis, which works with

the JCRC Task Force, agreed that "Jews for Jesus represents religious syncretism at its worst--neither authentically Jewish nor Christian--an insult to the integrity of both faiths."

He proposed that "religious bodies which aggressively seek converts by trying to diminish the potential converts' native religion, in our view, violate a basic social contract within American society."

"Don't be misled by those who promise you heaven and earth if you switch your allegiance," warned Annette Daum, director of the Committee on Inter-religious Affairs for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "To them you represent one more step on the road to the end of Judaism and the Jewish people... To us you are a cherished friend," and she proposed that Jews instead "discover emes -- what it means to be truly Jewish (mitzvot and tzedakah)."

Short And To The Point

The vigil Monday remained controlled and quiet. Several representatives held signs reading, "I Love Being Jewish; I Believe in One G-d Only." Cantor Morris Wolk of the Plainview Jewish Center intoned the Ani-Ma-amin, a song sung by concentration camp victims as they entered the gas chambers.

"We didn't want this to be a big demonstration," said Rabbi Bob Kaplan, officer in committee at the Task Force. "We wanted it to be organized, short and to the point," which the JCRC believes it accomplished.

But Jews for Jesus interpreted the small turnout for the vigil as a lack of concern upon the part of most Jews. "We're the Goliath still waiting for David to come on the scene," Rosen said.

Currently Jews for Jesus and the JCRC are in litigation over a lawsuit filed by the missionary group two years ago. They charged that the JCRC violated its civil rights by urging rabbis on Long Island to influence caterers, restaurants and Christian clerics to prevent an interfaith seder during Passover 1985.

BRITAIN SAYS IT WILL NEITHER TRY NOR EXTRADITE TO ISRAEL AN ALLEGED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL LIVING IN SCOTLAND By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 29 (JTA) -- Alleged Nazi war criminal Antanas Gecas will neither be tried in Britain nor extradited to Israel, the Home-Office said Tuesday. It was commenting on a Jerusalem report that Israel would prosecute Gecas if Britain failed to do so.

Gecas, a 71-year-old Lithuanian resident in Edinburgh, strongly denies that his battalion was responsible for murdering more than 50,000 Jews in 1941.

A Home Office spokeswoman said it would be impossible to try anyone in this country who was not a British subject at the time of the alleged offenses. The British-Israel extradition treaty also applied only to crimes committed in either country.

She confirmed that the Home Office was studying evidence concerning Gecas' application for British citizenship in 1956. Gecas' lawyer said Tuesday he understood his client's naturalization application had been investigated by the Home Office and found to be satisfactory.

Earlier, Merlyn Rees, former Labor Home Secretary and chairman of the Parliamentary War

Crimes Group, said war crimes should be punishable despite the 40 years which had elapsed since they were committed.

Speaking on television, Rees said the government should consider introducing the Canadian or Australian system of allowing war criminals to be tried retroactively. He also doubted whether deportation was a satisfactory punishment for people "who stood at the side of a trench, so it is alleged, and shot people in the back and exterminated six million people."

SURVEY OF AUSTRIAN PRESS SHOWS NUMEROUS ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS

NEW YORK, July 29 (JTA) -- Numerous anti-Semitic statements have surfaced in the Austrian press along with strong criticism of the United States in the wake of the American action barring Kurt Waldheim. This was revealed in a survey of Austrian print media commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Titled "Waldheim and the Watch List Decision: Anti-American and Anti-Semitic Reporting in Austrian Print Media," the report said that "the intensity and emotionalism of the anti-Semitic prejudice by far exceeds the anti-American comments." It added that anti-Semitism is "deeply rooted" in the Austrian press.

Abraham Foxman, ADL national director, said "it is particularly disturbing that the Austrian people who elected Kurt Waldheim President despite his Nazi past, should now add insult to injury by venting their anger against Jews who were the victims of Nazism."

The survey, conducted for the ADL by the Department of Journalism and Communication Research at the University of Vienna, sampled 458 articles which appeared in Austria's four largest daily newspapers, two weekly magazines, as well as the press releases of the three biggest political parties in Parliament.

Among the report's findings were the following:

- * Anti-Semitic comments appeared in more than a fifth of the articles dealing with Waldheim. Among them: "Jewish wirepullers," "Jewish greediness," "Jewish manhunt" and "Jewish impertinence."

- * Austria's largest circulation daily, Neue Kronen Zeitung, made anti-Semitic references in more than a third of its stories.

- * The press service of the Christian-Conservative Party (OVP) suggested "Jewish backers" or "a worldwide conspiracy" were behind the American action against Waldheim.

- * Criticism of the U.S. included use of numerous anti-American comments questioning the "legality of the American procedure," the alleged "interests behind it," and the "dubious motives" and "insufficient knowledge" of the Waldheim case on the part of Americans and the U.S. government.

Included in the survey were the Austrian dailies Neue Kronen Zeitung, Kurier, Die Presse and Salzburger Nachrichten, the Austrian weekly newsmagazines Profil and Die Furche and the Press services of the political parties SPO: Sozialistische Partei Osterreichs (social democratic), OVP: Osterreichische Volkspartei (conservative) and FPO: Freiheitliche Partei Osterreichs (national/liberal). The survey was coordinated by Theodore Freedman, director of the ADL's office in Rome.

U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS ADMINISTRATION HAS 'STRONG RESERVATIONS' ABOUT CLOSING THE U.S. OFFICES OF THE PLO By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 29 (JTA) -- A State Department official said that the Reagan Administration has "strong reservations" about closing the U.S. offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Closing the PLO Observer Mission at the United Nations raises issues of international law and foreign policy, and the information office in New York raises constitutional issues," Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs told a House Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East Tuesday. "We have strong reservations we'd like to discuss with members."

Murphy's statement provoked angry reaction from some representatives including Rep. Larry Smith (D. Fla.) who said that the PLO is "taking credit for terrorist acts and we're way behind in doing what we ought to be doing. I feel certain that the legislation (to close the offices) will move and it's better if it moves in concurrence with the Administration."

Legislation to close the PLO offices, introduced by Reps. Jack Kemp (R. NY) and Dan Mica (D. Fla.), currently has 55 sponsors. An identical Senate version, introduced by Sens. Robert Dole (R. Kan.), Charles Grassley (R. Iowa), Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ) and Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) has 43 signers.

In other testimony, Murphy alluded to his meeting with Soviet counterpart Vladimir Polyakov in Geneva earlier this month to discuss Soviet involvement in a Middle East peace conference.

"They spoke at length of their interest in progress toward Middle East peace. At the same time, they made no commitments and reiterated many familiar positions, and there are still important gaps on how to proceed," Murphy said. "I think we gave them much to think about and are waiting to see how they respond."

On the issue of Syria, whose decision to close the office of terrorist Abu Nidal prompted Reagan to send a special envoy to the country, Murphy said that Syria remains on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism and sanctions established last November remain in effect.

INCREASED IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) -- Immigration to Israel was up 49 percent during the first six months of 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported this week. In the first six months, a total of 5,400 persons -- 2,900 immigrants and 2,500 potential immigrants -- came to Israel, the Bureau said. The number of immigrants in January-June almost doubled as compared with the corresponding period last year, and the number of potential immigrants increased by 16 percent, for an overall growth in immigration of 49 percent.

The Central Bureau of Statistics spokesperson also reported that in the first six months of 1987, 676 immigrants and potential immigrants arrived from the U.S. (the same as last year; 409 from South Africa (240 in 1986); 732 from the Soviet union (240 last year); 267 from England (227 last year); 250 from France (315 last year); and 504 from Argentina (471 in the first six months of 1986).

JACKSON IS TRYING TO MEND HIS FENCES WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 29 (JTA) -- For the past year the Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose 1984 presidential campaign was plagued by allegations of anti-Semitism, has been making overtures to the Jewish community.

Jackson has met with Jewish leaders privately and in public forums, spoken before Jewish organizations such as the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and given interviews to Jewish newspapers.

"It is a different Jackson in 1988 than in 1984," observed Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "One has to recognize and welcome that certain sensitivity he is now showing."

Jackson has "gone out on a limb like that not just once, but several times, so there is a clear-cut pattern of an effort to reach out to the Jewish community, and the community ought to respond," added Rabbi David Saperstein, co-director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

But while Jewish leaders applaud Jackson's efforts, they remain skeptical to what extent he can put his past problems with the community behind him. Jackson, said Marc Perl, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, carries a "significant amount of baggage" that Jewish voters are unlikely to forget.

Heaviest Load In His Baggage

The heaviest load in this baggage remains Jackson's association in 1984 with the Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, whose preaching is marked by virulent anti-Semitic rhetoric. In a recent New York Times article, Jackson said "the simple fact is that Farrakhan is not connected to my campaign in any way. That's all that's need to be said."

But most Jews disagree.

"What Jews want and will continue to want is for Jackson to repudiate Farrakhan. There's a feeling that he has yet to do this," said Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee.

Frank Watkins, Jackson's press secretary, said as a religious leader Jackson "does not repudiate the personhood of anyone, even an enemy, let alone the personhood of a friend and ally in the '84 campaign, at least to a certain extent, because there is always the possibility of redemption."

Even if Jackson can put Farrakhan behind him, his views on the Middle East still disturb Jewish voters, many of whom see Israel as a litmus test for support of a candidate. Jackson no longer refers to Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat, whom he publicly embraced in 1978, as an ally, but he remains critical of U.S. military assistance to Israel and Israel's occupation of the settlements.

According to Watkins, Jackson advocates a four-point approach to the Middle East: a secure Israel within "internationally recognized boundaries"; Palestinian self-determination and justice including the right to determine their own representation; respect for Lebanon's territorial integrity, with U.S. assistance in helping them to rebuild; and normalizing ties with other Arab countries. Ann Lewis, former executive director of Americans for Democratic Action who has advised Jackson on Jewish issues, said Jackson's views on

the Middle East agenda has many points in common with Jews.

Symbolic Of A Delicate Relationship

Jackson's struggle with the Jewish community is symbolic of the delicate relationship between Blacks and Jews. Although they share a history of oppression and fought side by side in the civil rights movement, stereotypes and antagonisms persists, analysts noted.

Jackson may be politically, as well as religiously, unable to repudiate Farrakhan, without risking the support of Blacks who see Jews as wealthy establishment figures. At the same time, articulating a softer tone on Israel would offend the "Third World crowd" who support international "nationalist movements" such as the PLO and the African National Congress seeking to overthrow the government of South Africa, according to analysts.

"He can give a little on (issues such as the Palestinians and Farrakhan), but he can't just suddenly shed all these things without being accused of pandering to the Jews," said Bookbinder.

Watkins suggested that those Jews who remain skeptical of Jackson are "perpetuating a political problem and are not interested in learning the facts. What is he (Jackson) expected to do to end the skepticism?"

BRAZIL PROTESTS TO IRAN FOR DISTRIBUTING PORTUGUESE 'PROTOCOLS'

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 29 (JTA) -- Brazil has protested to Iran for publishing and distributing a Portuguese translation of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." The Iranian charge d'affaires in Brasilia, Mouhmed Entiaz, was called to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, where he was harshly admonished. He was told that the "Protocols" are a racist and anti-Semitic falsification forbidden by law in Brazil and that distribution of the book must be stopped.

The Iranian diplomat said that the "Protocols" were genuine because they were "adopted by the First Zionist Congress in Basel" but promised, however, to stop their distribution. The "Protocols" have been on sale in Brazil since February of this year after several years' absence in the country. Several publications in Sao Paulo asked interested persons to send 94 Cruzados (about \$2) per copy to the unidentified P.O. Box 3331 in Sao Paulo.

In 1984, the Iranian Embassy in London marked the fifth anniversary of the overthrow of the Shah by printing a summary of the "Protocols" in an English magazine, Imam, in which the Iranians described Zionism as "an enemy of humanity" and said that the "Protocols" were "being adhered to word by word by the Jewish-influenced Western governments."

GENEVA (JTA) -- The Swiss government is increasing its security at installations and for its nationals abroad after receiving a warning from an extremist terrorist group based in Lebanon that it would seek retaliation for the arrest and pending trial of a Shiite hijacker who killed a passenger on an Air Afrique jet last Friday at the Geneva airport.

**GAZA CURFEW LIFTED**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- The curfew which was imposed on the city of Gaza after an Israeli army officer was shot dead there Sunday will be lifted Tuesday night. But the street in the center of the city where Captain Ron Tal was killed by a terrorist will remain under curfew.

In addition, the ban on Arab residents entering or leaving the Gaza Strip by land or by sea, which was also imposed Sunday, will be lifted as Arabs began observances marking the four-day holy festival of Id-Al-Adha.

Israeli Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, who visited Gaza Tuesday, stressed that the Israel Defense Force did not intend to harm the Gaza Strip residents. But, he added, the residents must realize that the ongoing search for Tal's killer may make life hard for them. Intensive security searches have been going on since Sunday but Tal's car has not yet been found.

Security sources were bitter Monday because no one had volunteered any information that could lead to the apprehension of the killer. The sources noted that the attack took place in an area in the center of town where local residents, shopkeepers and passers-by must have seen what was happening.

Tal had been driving his car through the city and slowed down at an intersection to make a sharp left turn. A man who had apparently been standing unobtrusively near the intersection approached the slow-moving vehicle and fired several shots point-blank through the window and fled. Hours later the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for the attack. Army sources said they did not think Tal had been a planned target, but rather a "random" victim.

FOCUS ON ISSUES**SIGHS OF RELIEF**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- There must have been sighs of relief in Jerusalem when the Senate and House select committees ended 11 weeks of public hearings on the Iran/Contra affair Tuesday.

The 41 days of public testimony left little doubt that it was Israel that proposed to the Reagan Administration that it seek an opening to moderates in Iran and that Israel continued to push the Iranian initiative when the United States was wavering.

But on the one issue that could have seriously hurt Israel with Congress, there was no hard evidence that the Israeli government knew about or had anything to do with the diversion of profits from the arms sale to Iran to the Contras.

Since the diversion was first revealed by Attorney General Edwin Meese at a White House briefing for reporters last November, the Israeli government has denied any knowledge of the diversion. This denial has been echoed by all Israeli officials who visited Washington over the past nine months. The only evidence linking Israel to the diversion was a tenuous one from Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, the former National Secur-

ity Council aide. North testified that at a meeting in Washington in January 1985, Amiram Nir, the counter-terrorism advisor to the Israeli Premier, suggested that profits from the sale of arms to Iran could be used for other purposes.

Later at a meeting in Europe between North, Nir and Manucher Ghorbanifar, the Iranian businessman who was a go-between for the dealings with Iran, North said Ghorbanifar pulled him aside and suggested the diversion to the Contras as one of the ideas to convince the reluctant North to continue the Iranian initiative.

North said that he assumed that Ghorbanifar was acting with at least the approval of Israeli intelligence, if not the government, since the late William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, had told him the CIA believed Ghorbanifar to be an Israeli intelligence agent.

Left with no proven Israeli link to the diversion, some have sought to place the responsibility for the Iranian initiative entirely on Israel in an effort to give the Reagan Administration the excuse that "the Israelis made me do it."

'We Have To Take Responsibility'

This view was rejected by Secretary of State George Shultz when he testified before the committees. "When it comes to undertaking something by the United States government, then we have to recognize . . . that we're big boys and we have to take responsibility for whatever it is we do. We can't say that somebody else suggested it to us, therefore it's their fault."

However, throughout the hearings, Sen. James McClure (R. Idaho) continually questioned witnesses on whether the Israelis had pushed the U.S. into the initiative.

McClure vigorously denied he was anti-Israel at the closing public session Tuesday. However, he added, "We cannot really trace the evolution of American policy in this instance without looking at the influence, the very strong influence, and some would say the very proper influence, of people who are friends of Israel upon U.S. policy and Israeli influence upon our policy."

Israel officials have made no secret that they believe the effort to establish a link with officials in Iran was a correct policy, as does President Reagan.

During the hearings there was agreement by many on the committees that while the effort may have been justified, it gradually deteriorated into an arms for hostages arrangement, something which Reagan continues to deny strongly.

However, during a meeting with reporters in Washington in June, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin argued that the effort to use the sale of arms to Iran to gain release of the American hostages in Lebanon was justified. He also suggested that Israel is hampered in its efforts to attack terrorists in Lebanon by the fear that the American hostages could be killed in a raid or because of it. Testimony at the hearing left little doubt that Reagan approved the sale by Israel to Iran of 508 TOW anti-tank missiles in August 1985 and 18 Hawk ground-to-air missiles in November 1985, although after the fact. Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger were opposed to any arms being sold to the Iranians. They had both led

Iran of 508 TOW anti-tank missiles in August 1985 and 18 Hawk ground-to-air missiles in November 1985, although after the fact. Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger were opposed to any arms being sold to the Iranians. They had both led the U.S. effort to try to get other countries not to sell arms to either side in the Iran-Iraq war.

Testimony in the final days of the public hearing revealed that at a November 1985 meeting called to discuss the sale of arms, Shultz said that he felt "the Israelis sucked us up into their operation so we could not object to their (arms) sale to Iran."

Weinberger, who had made a note of this remark, said Tuesday that while he had no personal knowledge of previous Israeli arms sales to Iran, there had been consistent reports on this throughout the U.S. government. He said when the Israelis had been confronted with the charge they said they had U.S. approval, from former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, for example.

Weinberger also testified that he had raised the possibility that the U.S. could be subject to "blackmail" from Iran, Israel or others if it went through with the secret arms deal. He again raised this possibility in November 1986 in urging a full disclosure by the Administration after the effort had become public.

Difference Between The U.S. And Israel

The hearings also confirmed the difference between the U.S. and Israel on the Iran-Iraq war. While the U.S. has publicly called for a ceasefire with no victors or losers, Israel has leaned toward Iran with which it had good relations until the Shah was overthrown.

"As everybody knows, I am a very warm supporter of a strong relationship with Israel," Shultz told the committees. "However, I think we have to recognize that while our interests and Israel's interests are parallel in many respects, they are not always exactly the same. We have to be smart enough to see that. They have legitimate interests which are not necessarily exactly our interests."

In his testimony, North also testified that Israel and the U.S. differed on the Iran-Iraq war, but were in "basic fundamental agreement," on the need for the initiative to Iran. "I believe that there was sufficient congruence between Israeli objectives and American objectives that made this project worthwhile," he said.

Rear Adm. John Poindexter, the former National Security Advisor, in his testimony, said that he accepted the Israeli assessment in November 1985, that Iran was losing the war with Iraq. Shultz and Weinberger, however, said that U.S. intelligence believed that Iraq was the one in danger of being defeated.

Continuing To Take Closed-Door Testimony

While the public hearings are over, the committees are continuing to take closed-door testimony from CIA officials and from Michael Ledeen, the former consultant to the National Security Council, who first explored with Israel and others the possibility of making contact with Iranian officials. Ledeen said in a television interview Tuesday that he was asked in 1985 by Robert McFarlane, then the National Security Advisor, to look into the possibility of such an initiative. The committees are expected to release a joint report in late September. One aspect that will be eagerly awaited is the assessment of the

material the committees have received from Israel.

Israel provided the committees in June with details of its financial transactions in the Iran affair and last week turned over a 60-page chronology from the beginning of the Iran affair through Dec. 31, 1985. A chronology that will take Israel's participation to November 1986, when the initiative was revealed, is still being prepared.

The chronology is largely based on testimony from David Kimche, the former director general of the Foreign Ministry, and two Israeli arms dealers, Yaacov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer.

Both Schwimmer and Kimche have been subpoenaed by Lawrence Walsh, the special prosecutor investigating the Iran/Contra affair. Israel is seeking to have the subpoenas quashed on the grounds that the two were acting for the Israeli government.

IDF PATROL WOUNDS TWO UNIFIL SOLDIERS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Two Norwegian soldiers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were wounded by shots fired by an Israel Defense Force patrol Monday night. Norway has lodged a sharp protest with Israel through UNIFIL headquarters, and the IDF is investigating the incident.

The IDF spokesman said the patrol had noticed two men moving about in a suspicious manner in the middle of the night on the border of the south Lebanon security zone, and opened fire. The IDF patrol approached the wounded men and were dismayed to discover that they were Norwegian UNIFIL soldiers who had been moving about in the area without the knowledge of the IDF.

The wounded men were treated on the spot by an IDF doctor and then taken by the Israelis to the UNIFIL hospital in Nakoura where they were treated for what was described as light injuries. An IDF source, commenting on the incident, said that "anybody moving about on the edge of the security zone at 2 a.m. cannot be thought to be on a mission of mercy."

COMMERCE DEPT. ACCUSES SAFEWAY OF 449 VIOLATIONS OF ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, August 4 (JTA) -- The Commerce Department has accused Safeway Stores Inc., the nation's largest food chain, of 449 violations of the U.S. law against participating in the Arab boycott of Israeli products.

Safeway is accused of having excluded boycotted firms from a list of suppliers, which it used to offer products for sale to two supermarkets in Saudi Arabia and one in Kuwait.

The complaint also charges that Safeway required one of its wholesale suppliers to submit names of its manufacturers for boycott clearance.

The charges carry a fine of more than \$4 million, \$10,000 for each violation. If they are upheld by a Commerce Department administrative law judge it will constitute the largest fine ever levied for violation of the anti-boycott law. "We believe the charges are preposterous," said Felicia del Campo, a spokeswoman for Safeway Stores based in Oakland, California. "And we will vigorously defend ourselves against these charges because we have done everything possible to comply with the U.S. anti-boycott law. We certainly had no intention of being a party to an Arab boycott of Israeli products."

Del Campo said that Safeway does not own the Arab stores, but has entered into a "technical agreement" with native companies licensing them to use the chain's name and give them advice. She said the stores simply provided the local companies with a list of manufacturers of American products offering to sell them. "The (claim) that we constituted an agreement is an absurd charge," she said.

The Arab boycott of Israel increased substantially in the late 1970's and the U.S. adopted two laws to counteract the participation of U.S. firms in the boycott.

ISRAELI MANUFACTURERS ARE IN THE SWIM
By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- With eyes focused on the American market since last year's Free Trade Area agreement between the United States and Israel, nine Israeli manufacturers Monday kicked off the second annual U.S. showing of duty-free swimwear.

The fashion presentation, entitled "Israel Designs Swimwear," appearing at the Sheraton City Squire Hotel here through August 6, is expected to draw 300 to 500 buyers according to David Litvak, Israel Trade Commissioner to the U.S. In compliance with the Free Trade Area agreement, all swimwear sells duty-free and quota-free.

"In spite of the possibilities of European buyers offering to pay taxes," which translates to about 30 percent more for Israel's merchandise than in the U.S., Litvak said, "we understand the importance of an American market."

Expanding on the quality reputation granted Israeli bathing suits through the popularity of Gottex, Diva and Gideon Oberson, nine other firms -- Deep Sea, Hilgad, Klil Yofi, Marlin, Rikma, Ron-Ly, Scubidu, Sun Soleil and Swim--offered American buyers a taste of their collections.

Each company set up racks of sample swimwear, in their separate hotel room, for potential buyers and American models, upon request, demonstrated pieces for interested buyers.

Ron-Ly, one of the top five manufacturers of Israeli swimwear, brought 300 suits to the show, mostly geared toward the American market.

Popular Item This Year

Popular this year, according to Orit Biran of Ron-Ly, are one-piece suits cut low in the back, mostly with black or metallic material. Strapless bikinis also sell. One new style features a one-piece with "a flounce around the leg, like a dancer," Biran said.

Pam Seidel, a buyer from Saks Fifth Avenue, testing the samples at Klil Yofi, explained that these v-inserts, already a fashion in America, camouflage the thigh.

"We're looking for an expansion on the contemporary market," Seidel said, while checking the fit of several bikinis on the models. "Animal prints are big this year as are subtle metallics versus the all-over metallics of last year."

Seidel specifically favored black suits and black and white checks and in this heavy market week, said she would be in and out, like most buyers.

Klil Yofi, in the market 12 years and a participant last year, said the American business is "very good but not as established as the mar-

ket in Europe," according to manufacturer Joseph Lev.

While their largest business is in Germany and Switzerland, many of the 185 selections they brought included animal prints, silver and gray metallics and polka dots for the American taste.

Shanzer Zvi, manager of Deep Sea, which was not represented last year, also noted the difference in European and American markets.

"This would never sell in America," he said pointing to a one-piece with a floral print on pink background and olive gathers along the side. "It was made for the German market."

Most of his 80 pieces, however, such as a red and black patterned one-piece and a teal green and black suit, conformed to American demands.

The purpose of the show, according to Litvak, is to "establish a market in the East." In 12 months the show will travel to the West.

Israel also hopes to emphasize to American buyers that their duty-free status allows about a 32 percent advantage over European competitors whose swimwear is subject to customs duties, Litvak said.

"Without duties or clauses, Israel can now compete with Europe," said Beth Belkin, from the Government of Israel Trade Center.

DEATHS IN MECCA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, August 4 (JTA) -- Three Palestinians from the administered territories died in Friday's violent riots in Mecca, Islam's holiest city, according to reports in East Jerusalem.

The three had travelled to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, for the Haj, the annual pilgrimage made by Moslems around the world. Two of the victims reportedly lived in Bethlehem and Kalkilya and a third in Gaza. A fourth victim from Nazareth also died in the riots, according to reports.

An estimated 400 to 600 pilgrims died in the clashes between Iranian demonstrators and Saudi security forces. Saudi officials had banned demonstrations but the Iranians, reportedly under orders from their leader Ayatollah Khomeini, began demonstrating outside a holy site despite the ban. When the security forces tried to break up the demonstration, violence erupted.

About 8,000 pilgrims from Israel and the territories will return home early next week. Israeli Arabs received greetings from relatives in Saudi Arabia to signal they were unharmed. The Israeli Arabs, travelling with the Jordanian delegation to Mecca, were far from the scene of the riots, according to reports.

The Moslem Qadis (religious judges) in Israel condemned the riots.

SURVIVORS FROM GALICIA SOUGHT

MONTREAL, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- In its continuing efforts to assist in the identification of suspected Nazi war criminals, the Canadian Jewish Congress is seeking to locate witnesses to events in Galicia, primarily those which took place in Brzezany, Podhajce, Stryj and Wisniowozyk. In particular, witnesses to the persecution of the Jews in these places and the role played by the police in these activities are needed. Anyone with such information is asked to contact the Holocaust Remembrance Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress at 1590 Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1C5.

**WRITING FROM PRISON, POLLARD
SCORES ISRAELI, U.S. JEWISH LEADERS**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard claims the classified U.S. information he gave and sold to Israel was for an Israeli-sanctioned high and noble cause "pertaining to the covenant and survival."

He adds in a 14-page handwritten letter from federal prison here, published by the St. Louis Jewish Light, that Israel unfairly repudiated him and left him and his wife Anne to take the rap.

Pollard's letter is the first communication with a U.S. Jewish newspaper since he was transferred to prison here, according to the Jewish Light. All known Jewish prisoners in Missouri receive the newspaper.

"I wasn't motivated by greed and I didn't set out to become a martyr," he writes. "...I don't condemn the cause I served but only the cowardly leaders who decided to sacrifice us all on the twin altars of diplomatic and personal expediency."

"Rogue Operation"

Israeli leaders at first termed Pollard's work a "rogue operation." No proof to the contrary has been reported, yet official Israeli investigations have criticized the top governmental leadership for poor oversight of the now disbanded Lekem espionage agency that recruited and directed Pollard.

Jonathan Pollard, 32, received a life term in March for his espionage activities. A former civilian analyst for the U.S. Navy, he told the federal court that he had come to realize that rather than spy, he should have taken his concerns that Israel wasn't receiving enough security information through the channels of the Navy and as far as the President.

He added that he regretted sacrificing his wife "on the altar of political ideology." Anne, 26, was sentenced to two concurrent five-year terms for being an accessory to her husband's espionage and receiving stolen government material. He claims the inadequate treatment she receives for a rare, painful gastrointestinal disorder keeps her in agony.

Says U.S. Policy Compelled Him

Pollard also contends that Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's "even-handedness policy" toward the Middle East -- seeking to erode "the Israeli army's military superiority over the Arabs" -- "eventually precipitated my involvement with the Israelis."

Pollard claims that Weinberger has "approved such a radical pro-Arab tilt in U.S. Middle East policy" by accepting the Arab claim that Israel's strategic value is marginal, by selling "ultra-sophisticated" arms and by denying Israel "critical information needed to neutralize the new generation of Soviet weapons being deployed along her northern border."

Regretting that he broke the law, Pollard nonetheless writes that "after months of agonizing ... I came to the conclusion that the choice I faced was between my belief in Israel's right to continued security and my legal obligation to uphold Mr. Weinberger's betrayal of the Jewish State. Having thus identified my options, I acted accordingly." The convicted spy also attacks Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organiza-

tions, and other U.S. Jewish leaders "of his ilk." He accuses them of being "glib apologists" who should "limit themselves to fund-raising and leave the less glamorous affairs such as intelligence gathering to those of us who are not afraid to be exposed as 'unhyphenated' Jews."

He says Abram abetted the Arab cause by "endorsing Caspar Weinberger's rather fanciful off-the-record assessment of my actions as having constituted 'the gravest assault against the integrity of this country's national defenses in over 200 years.'"

Weinberger later repudiated that statement.

But above all, Pollard writes, "Abram's outrageous claim that I had, in fact, subverted Israel's interest struck me as being unaccountably naive ... It would appear that salon Jews like Abram either can't comprehend or accept the unfortunate dichotomy that exists between the noble halachic (Jewish legal) values for which Israel stands and the unpalatable means she must sometimes use in order to survive."

Nevertheless, he declares that he and Anne "are still confident that the American Jewish community, if not its leaders, will one day conquer its fears and complexes long enough to correct the terrible injustice which has been visited upon our heads."

Pollard also writes in defense of his reputation. He says he took no Israeli money until six months into his espionage, and then only at Israeli insistence. On the contrary, he claims that he and his wife bore the costs of their espionage, including a trip to Europe, until they could be reimbursed.

He contends that "perhaps in reaction to complaints being voiced by the Jewish community about the unjust nature of my sentence, the government appears set to unleash a stream of unattributable 'leaks' designed to smear my reputation to the point where nobody would be willing to stand up for me."

He says he was forced to see a psychiatrist after the failure of a Navy operation he was associated with, but the psychiatrist gave him "a clean bill of health."

YITZHAK IVRI DEAD AT 78

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here last Friday for Yitzhak Ivri, a journalist and editor, who died a few days earlier at the age of 78.

Born in Bialystok, Russia, Ivri immigrated to Palestine in 1935. He established himself as a reporter, editor and translator, and was for many years a correspondent for the Israeli daily Davar. In 1950 Ivri was sent to New York as Davar's correspondent in the United States.

From 1970 to 1985 Ivri served as editor of Hadoar, a respected Hebrew weekly published in New York.

Among his most memorable translations into Hebrew was Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," which was staged by the Habimah Theatre in Tel Aviv.

CORRECTION

The names of the Soviet cancer patient and her daughter in Israel were inadvertently omitted in the Aug. 4 Bulletin story "Does Glasnost Include Everyone But The Jews?" The mother's name is Chaya Kuchina and her daughter's name is Dr. Nona Kuchina.

FOCUS ON ISSUES**KNESSET SESSION ENDS, NOT WITH A BANG BUT WITH A FILIBUSTER**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- The stormy summer session of the Knesset, often suffused with political tension and speculation over the unity government's imminent collapse, drew to an end this week in an atmosphere of unwonted calm, indeed almost of apathy.

A last-minute effort by the Orthodox parties to push through subordinate legislation on Who is a Jew floundered in the Law and Constitution Committee of the Knesset. And the Labor Party quietly backed away from its much-trumpeted effort to topple the government in an early-elections vote, explaining that the full legislation would have to await the new session in the fall.

The 120 MKs adjourned Wednesday, therefore, for their summer break confident (or frustrated, depending on their political identity) in the expectation of a quiet late summer in the domestic political arena.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is to visit Rumania later this month where he will doubtless be regaled by President Nicolae Ceausescu as to the benefits of an international peace conference and of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian cause.

Hoping For Moves On International Conference

His colleague and rival, Labor leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, is meanwhile hoping that the parliamentary fallow period will be used by the U.S. government to press Shamir on an international conference -- and either convince him, or convince themselves that he is unalterably obdurate on this vital issue.

Peres contends that his advocacy of the international conference, far from "returning the Soviets to center-stage in the Middle East," as its critics contend, would serve to limit and restrain their involvement.

He argues that it is naive and unrealistic to pretend that the Soviets, especially under the novel and resourceful policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, can be kept out of regional peacemaking, as they were excluded during the Kissinger years.

The Labor leader insists that his party's perceived failure to bring down the unity government over the peace conference deadlock and trigger early elections is not harming it domestically.

Waiting Out The Summer

Peres maintains that Labor did in fact, by the end of the Knesset session, amass the required majority to vote the House into dissolution-- at least on a preliminary reading. But since the full legislation cannot by law be completed during the recess, he decided not to push through the dissolution bill on the first reading but rather to wait out the summer.

By the fall, Peres says privately, the picture must crystallize, both at home and abroad: either the Likud softens its rejection of the conference option, or else domestic opinion, coupled with the prodding of Israel's friends abroad, will bring the

issue to a head and the government will pass. Labor sources indicate that the Americans have undertaken to press the matter energetically during the weeks ahead. These sources suggest that, with the public hearings on Irangate now ended, the Administration will be able to devote more attention to Mideast diplomacy.

Who Is A Jew Issue Continues

While the diplomatic process, and specifically the dispute over an international conference, continues to head the domestic agenda and to interest statesmen abroad, the Who is a Jew issue uniquely blends party-political differences and diaspora concerns.

Without doubt, the Orthodox lobby made unprecedented gains during the session of the Knesset now ending. Several Likud-Liberals who previously had consistently urged their party leaders to vote against all Orthodox-inspired legislation on conversion, obediently supported a Shas amendment to the mandatory change of religion ordinance last month.

But the majority still rejected legislation that would, in effect, enshrine Orthodox conversion as the only form officially recognized by the State. To that extent, Labor and its allies are still triumphantly holding the line -- and can proudly assert to the Jewish leadership abroad that they are fighting for this principle -- at the expense of immediate expediency.

The diaspora leadership for its part, has become more worried and more strident than ever in their opposition to the proposed Orthodox amendment, and have been more outspoken than ever in their warnings to Shamir of the devastating effects should the amendment ever be passed into law.

Doomed Before It Ever Hit The Floor

This week, a back-door attempt by Shas to have subordinate legislation approved by the Knesset Law Committee was effectively filibustered by opposing MKs. The attempt was anyway doomed because a religious MK, Avner Shaki of the National Religious party rejected that Shas proposal on the grounds that it is not far-reaching enough. But the Likud was anxious to demonstrate to Shas and to Agudat Yisrael that it was fulfilling to the end its commitment to help pass the Who is a Jew measures which they submit.

The proposed new rule would require all converts to deposit their certificate of conversion with the (Shas-run) Ministry of Interior. Those certificates would subsequently serve to winnow out Reform and Conservative converts when they wished to marry.

However -- and this was Shaki's reservation -- these converts would continue to receive ID cards classifying them as Jewish.

Once the unity government breaks up, whether before its time or in late 1988 as required by statute, there is little doubt that Who is a Jew will be the key negotiating issue between the Orthodox parties and each of the big blocs. Aguda's Avraham Shapira said baldly this week that what he wants is a narrow-based government -- of either hue. "We'll never get what we want so long as Labor and Likud are together," he said.

In an attempt to avoid that -- by no means the first such attempt in Israel's political history -- a new Liberal center announced its birth this week. Amnon Rubinstein, leader of Shinui and until recently a government Minister, joined hands with veteran independent Liberal leader Moshe Kol and with various splinter groupings from the political center, to create a new rallying-point for voters who find the Likud too nationalistic, and Labor too Socialist.

JEWISH COUPLE FROM THE WEST BANK INJURED BY TERRORIST MOLOTOV COCKTAIL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- A Jewish couple from the West Bank settlement of Alfe Menashe near Kalkilya were injured when a Molotov cocktail was thrown into their car as they were driving to Ben Gurion International Airport for a trip abroad Thursday morning.

The incident occurred near the same cross-roads where Ofra Moses, also of Alfe Menashe, was burned to death by a petroleum bomb thrown into the family car four months ago. Her son died of his injuries some weeks later.

Edna Regev, 40, was taken to the hospital with third-degree burns on her head and chest, but her husband, Menashe, 47, received lighter burns on his back.

The gasoline bomb was thrown into the back seat of the car, setting Edna Regev's clothes on fire. She remained conscious but was unable to get out of the car and was dragged away from the burning vehicle by her husband, who rolled her on the ground to extinguish the flames.

Security forces clamped a curfew on Kalkilya and the surrounding area.

Edna Regev, a schoolteacher in Alfe Menashe, told reporters in the hospital that the family -- including her two teen-aged children-- would not be deterred by the attack but would continue to live in Alfe Menashe, where they had made their home for the last four years.

Central Command Maj. Avraham Mitzna, who visited the scene of the attack, said that it could not immediately be established whether there was a direct connection between Thursday's attack and the attack on the Moses family at the same spot.

But he said a terrorist gang appeared to be active in the general area of Kalkilya, and the IDF was stepping up its security precautions.

YEHUDA ROSENMAN DEAD AT 69

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held Thursday for Yehuda Rosenman, an official of the American Jewish Committee, who died of brain cancer Tuesday at the age of 69. He was the director of the Department of Jewish Communal Affairs at the AJC from 1967 until last May.

Describing Rosenman's leadership of what is regarded as one of the AJC's most innovative programs, Theodore Ellenoff, president of the human relations organization, said that "his was a presence that illumined countless areas of American Jewish life."

Rosenman is credited with creating many significant national projects to improve the quality of Jewish life in America. One of these is the AJC's William Petschek National Jewish Family Center, of which he was the coordinator since its founding in September 1979. The Center engages in research, organizes conferences and institutes,

and provides training and other activities whose purpose it is to support the family in the United States.

Another is the AJC's Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls, launched in 1974, which enables those enrolled to pursue home study courses in various aspects of Jewish history, tradition, and culture.

Among other projects Rosenman initiated for the AJC were: an interdisciplinary colloquium on Jewish education and Jewish identity; a study on the effects of intermarriage; American-Israel educational programs on contemporary Jewish civilization; an annual seminar in Israel for American academicians; and a variety of publications on such subjects as concerns of Jewish youth, Israel-diaspora relations, Jewish day schools and discussion guides on issues of Jewish interest. In 1983, he initiated a series of publications and videotapes on Jewish perspectives on contemporary issues.

Born in Poland, Rosenman came to the United States in 1939. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in 1944, and a Master's degree in social work there in 1946. Subsequently, he directed the training program for European students at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Thereafter, until he joined the American Jewish Committee, Rosenman was Consultant on Community Organization and Community Centers at the American Joint Distribution Committee's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He also served as executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore, Md.

JEWES ACCEPT VATICAN INVITATION By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders accepted an invitation by the Vatican to meet with Pope John Paul II in Rome at the end of August or early September, prior to the Pope's visit to the United States and the scheduled meeting with Jewish leaders in Miami on September 11.

The invitation was extended Tuesday by Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, in a telephone call from Rome to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the international affairs department of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) and chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, (IJCIC).

After a two-and-one-half-hour meeting Wednesday in the offices of the SCA, representatives of the IJCIC decided to accept the invitation.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, international affairs director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), told reporters that the meeting with the Pope should "clear the air" and the misunderstanding that resulted from the Pope's recent audience with President Kurt Waldheim of Austria who is accused of being a Nazi war criminal.

"There are fundamental and difficult matters to discuss," Tanenbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday. "We want to review with the Holy See the meeting with Waldheim and the whole question of the Pope's attitude toward the Nazi Holocaust."

Tanenbaum said that the Jewish leaders, by accepting the Pope's invitation, are hopeful that

the meeting "will open the way" for their participation in a meeting with the Pope in Miami on Sept. 11. The Miami meeting was in doubt following the Pope-Waldheim meeting June 25, a meeting that angered and upset American Jewish leaders.

The Jewish community was angered not only by the invitation to Waldheim but also by the Pope's failure to mention the fact that Jews were the main victims at the Maidanek concentration camp. The Pope visited Maidanek last May and listed 14 nationalities whose members were murdered by the Nazis. He did not mention the Jews, although 850,000 of them were killed there.

Full Agenda To Be Discussed

A statement issued here Thursday by the SCA said that the meeting with the Pope in Rome would last between 60 to 90 minutes. It said that "the full agenda of Catholic/Jewish relations would be discussed with the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and the Vatican Secretariat to be followed by a meeting with Pope John Paul II."

The members of the IJCIC are: The Synagogue Council of America, World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith and the Israel Interfaith Association. Since 1972, IJCIC has represented the world Jewish community in discussions with the Vatican on Catholic/Jewish relations.

Waxman said Thursday that other issues to be discussed during the Vatican meetings are anti-Semitism and the Vatican's continued refusal to recognize the State of Israel.

As for the Miami meeting with the Pope, Waxman said: "We reserve our final decision on whether or not to go to Miami for the ceremonial meeting with the Pope pending the outcome of the forthcoming discussions at the Vatican."

SHULTZ; U.S. TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR MIDEAST PEACE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz stressed Thursday that the United States will continue to "explore in detail" any opportunity to achieve peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, including an international conference.

But, there is "a long distance from where we are now" and actually setting up such a conference, Shultz said at a press conference at the State Department.

"Obviously an international conference, in and of itself, is not of any interest to us," the Secretary said. "Direct negotiations are, we think, the way to go."

He added that if an international conference could be organized to "achieve the results we are seeking, then we are willing to examine that possibility."

Shultz indicated that it is the need to examine "anything that can be legitimately a way to move peace forward" that prompted him to send his executive assistant, Charles Hill, to Israel next week.

There has been much speculation of why Hill is going rather than Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who normally makes this type of trip.

Shultz noted that Hill "knows these issues very well, is very close to me and knows the

people there very well." Hill formerly served at the U.S. Embassy in Israel and was head of the State Department's Israel desk.

He is scheduled to have "we hope quiet, in depth talks" in an effort to find "exactly how people there feel," Shultz said.

However, the U.S. does know the feelings of Israel's coalition government which is deeply divided between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who supports an international conference to provide the "umbrella" King Hussein of Jordan feels he needs for negotiations with Israel and Premier Yitzhak Shamir who is vehemently opposed to such a conference. Hill apparently will be trying to see if there is any chance of overcoming the opposition from Shamir and his Likud bloc.

Shultz, who is scheduled to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington Sept. 15-17, did not mention the Soviet Union which has been pushing for an international conference. As envisioned by Hussein, the conference would include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council -- the U.S., USSR, Britain, France and the People's Republic of China.

Both Israel and the U.S. have stressed that the Soviet Union, and presumably China, could not participate as long as they do not have diplomatic relations with Israel and that Soviet participation would also require increased emigration for Soviet Jews.

Says Palestinians Must Participate

At his press conference, Shultz stressed that the U.S. wants to see "progress" toward peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. He said this requires direct negotiations, including the participation of Palestinians as part of a Jordanian delegation.

"You have to find Palestinians that are able to represent the Palestinian people on the West Bank and are acceptable to Israel," he added. This would rule out the Palestine Liberation Organization which all sides in the Israeli government reject as a legitimate negotiating party.

PERES AND RABIN REJECT U.S. COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON TABA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin have rejected an American compromise proposal to resolve the Israeli-Egyptian border dispute over Taba, and decided to continue with international arbitration in Geneva.

Under the U.S. proposal, submitted to Jerusalem and Cairo three months ago, Egypt would be given sovereignty over the whole area while Israel would be granted full and more or less free access to the Taba region.

The proposal also provides for some form of continuing Israeli ownership of the Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson "village" at the site.

The Israeli leaders and their advisers are believed to feel that Israel has a sufficiently good case to warrant going on to international arbitration.

Israeli papers say that Premier Yitzhak Shamir has not been consulted about the American proposals but is understood to be "open to compromise -- but it depends on what sort of compromise."

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
THREE RABBIS PARTICIPATE IN
RELIGIOUS SUMMIT IN JAPAN**

**By Rabbi Mark Golub
Executive Director, Jewish Education In Media**

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Forty-two years ago this month, atomic bombs fell on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bombs brought World War II in the Pacific to an abrupt and merciful end, saving more than a million Allied and Japanese lives.

But those horrific explosions also marked the beginning of a new kind of existence for all mankind -- existence in a nuclear age, an age in which man has the power to destroy his entire planet.

This week 20 world religious leaders gathered at the top of the Japanese mountain of Mt. Hiei to participate in a Religious Summit calling for yet another age -- an age of world peace without nuclear weapons.

Representing American Judaism at this prestigious gathering of religious leaders was Rabbi Joseph Glaser, the executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (the professional association of Reform rabbis in the United States, Canada and abroad).

As the only American participating in the Religious Summit, Glaser also has the honor of representing the United States clergy at Mt. Hiei, which is known as the cradle of Buddhism in Japan.

Initially, Glaser was the only Jewish representative to be invited to participate in the summit. However, at Glaser's suggestion, the "Japan Conference of Religious Representatives" added invitations to one Orthodox rabbi from Israel and one from South America: Israel Lau, Chief Rabbi of Netanya, and Pinchas Brenner of Caracas, Venezuela.

Other world religious leaders participating in the Religious Summit included two Catholic representatives from the Vatican, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Jerusalem, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, three Buddhist leaders, two Islamic leaders, and a Hindu, Sikh, Dao and Confucian leader.

The Committee's Principal Proposal

The gathering was coordinated by the Japan Religious Committee for the World Federation, an organization of religious groups in Japan established in 1945 after experiencing the nuclear bombing at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Committee's principal proposal is that the year 2001 should be named "Year One" of the Age of Peace for Mankind, an age free from the threat of all nuclear weapons.

During the week-long conference, Glaser and his wife, Agathe, joined with the other participants in touring some of Japan's cultural marvels and in commemorating a number of local memorials. The week also included a visit to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But the central moments of the Conference occurred Monday and Tuesday during the two-day Religious Summit at the top of Mt. Hiei, a mountain located on the outskirts of the Japanese city of Kyoto.

Each religious leader was asked to speak on two occasions during the summit on Mt. Hiei,

first sharing thoughts on "The Way to Peace" and later offering a personal "Prayer for Peace." During his remarks to the world gathering, Glaser spoke of the Jewish concept of peace.

"Our Hebrew word shalom means more than cessation of war," explained Glaser. "It means wholeness and completeness. Since one side to a conflict cannot have shalom without the other, it follows that both sides must be part of this wholeness. Everyone is involved or there is no shalom. Not only everyone is involved, but the demands of wholeness require everything; justice, freedom, plenty."

Glaser characterized the transcending task of religious leaders to be that of "hearing the cry of the oppressed, the victims, the prisoners, the hungry." And ultimately, the mission of every religious leader is "to teach" a sense of compassion to all mankind -- a compassion that would lead to a world of peace.

**ELIE WIESEL TO RECEIVE BRAZIL'S
HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD AUG. 10**

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel will go to Brazil next week to receive that government's highest civilian award, the Gra Cruz of the Ordem Cruzeiro do Sul (Grand Cross of the Order of the Southern Cross), for his contributions to international peace.

The award will be presented to Wiesel by Abren Sodre, Foreign Minister of Brazil, on Monday in the Palacio do Itamarati, Foreign Ministry headquarters, in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. Wiesel will also be received by Brazilian President Jose Sarney, hold a series of meetings with leading legislators and government officials and deliver two major addresses.

Rabbi Henry Sobel, rabbi of the Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, the largest Jewish congregation in Latin America, will accompany Wiesel throughout his visit.

Brazil's 150,000 Jews comprise the second largest Jewish community in Latin American. (Only Argentina's Jewish population is larger).

During his three-day visit, Wiesel will be the guest of the Confederacao Israelita do Brazil, the central body of the Brazilian Jewish community which is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, and the Congregacao Israelita.

The U.S.-born Rabbi Sobel, who serves as coordinator of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogues, sponsored by the Bishop's Conference of Brazil, said in a statement that Wiesel's presence in Brazil "is especially important because a great majority of the 130 million Brazilians is not aware of the horrors of the Holocaust. Neither are most Brazilians sensitive to the spiritual Holocaust of Soviet Jewry in our days. Therefore Mr. Wiesel's visit will give enormous impetus to the efforts of the Brazilian Jewish community in raising the consciousness of the population at large."

Commenting on the significance of the award, Marcileo Marques Moreira, Brazil's Ambassador to the United States, said:

"The Brazilian government identifies Mr. Wiesel as an outstanding world personality in the field of human rights, as someone who throughout his lifetime has fought injustice and striven to make mankind freer of political and social constraints."

**IDF REPORTEDLY MULLS PATROLS
IN AREA OF ATTACK ON COUPLE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Top Israel Defense Force officials are reportedly discussing the establishment of permanent IDF patrols in an area of the West Bank between Alfe Menashe and the pre-1967 Israeli border.

Their discussions apparently were prompted by incidents such as the throwing of a Molotov cocktail Thursday by an unidentified man into the car of an Israeli Jewish couple, Menashe and Edna Regev of Alfe Menashe, wounding them. The incident occurred near the crossroads where four months ago Ofra Moses of Alfe Menashe was burned to death by a petroleum bomb thrown into the family car. Her son later died of his injuries.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir referred to the Thursday incident while addressing the National Defense College's concluding ceremony Thursday night. He said that "occasionally there is a need to impose collective punishment, and the population in the territories occasionally needs an iron fist." He added that the IDF must alter its methods from time to time in order to surprise terrorists.

He said that while threats to Israel's security should not be belittled, "they should not be viewed as threats to our existence. It should be remembered that our situation today allows us time and the possibility for negotiations, bargaining and the debate on the conditions for peace, which are no less important than peace itself."

**REPORT SHOWS CANADA'S ROLE IN
HARBORING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS**

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- A secret appendage to the Deschenes Commission report on war criminals living in Canada which was released -- heavily censored -- to the public Thursday concluded that Canada took in suspected Nazi war criminals following the war years and as late as 1983.

The Canadian Jewish Congress said the secret report prepared by Alti Rodal, an Ottawa historian, "shows Canada's insensitivity to the issue as recently as four years ago."

Rodal's 560-page report summarized his research of secret documents and interviews with officials and criticized the Canadian government's policy. Rodal recommended the prosecution of 20 suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada and investigation of 218 others suspected of Nazi collaboration.

Rodal noted that a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) allowed two alleged Nazi war criminals, whose names were not released, to enter Canada in 1983. The RCMP senior official who admitted the alleged war criminals said the issue was exaggerated by the "Jewish lobby." Rodal reported that the Mountie was transferred after the incident became publicly known and officials continue to investigate the case. Canadian Jewish Congress past president Milton Harris said the Rodal report offers further evidence that Nazi war criminals were admitted

into Canada and was not an exaggeration of the "Jewish lobby."

"We praise the current government and the Minister of Justice, who have demonstrated great resolve recently in dealing with this issue, and all Canadians should be gratified," Harris added.

The Canadian government released the Deschenes Commission report in March, based on research led by former Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes. Legislation to permit the prosecution of war criminals is still pending in Canada. But despite the Deschenes Commission's recommendation that the Rodal report be published uncensored, the government allowed the publication only of a heavily censored version. The release of the report followed a petition for the report by The Toronto Star under Canada's Access to Information Act.

In the report, Rodal charged that in the early 1950's, U.S. intelligence operatives supplied misleading information to Canadian authorities and aided East Europeans with false identities to immigrate to Canada.

Similarly, a U.S. Justice Department report in 1983 concluded that U.S. intelligence officers helped known Nazi war criminals secure new identities and immigrate safely to South America and other countries.

Censored Section Of The Report

The New York Times reported Sunday that the censored section of the report included details about two former Canadian Prime Ministers' roles in protecting Nazi war criminals in Canada.

Former Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent reportedly agreed to admit a Czechoslovakian Nazi collaborator, Karol Sidor, to settle in Canada in 1949 upon a direct request from Pope Pius XII. Sidor, who commanded the Slovakian stormtrooper unit, the Hlinka Guard, served as the Nazi-occupied Slovakia representative to the Vatican. In the appeal, according to Rodal's study, an Apostolic delegate in Canada told Canadian officials that Sidor could not settle in Europe "without undergoing serious inconveniences and vexations."

Rodal also said St. Laurent personally contacted Nazi collaborators from Vichy France who settled in Quebec after French courts convicted them, in absentia of war crimes.

Under St. Laurent, the Cabinet also gave refugee status to four collaborators which allowed them to remain in Canada, Rodal concluded.

Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, according to Rodal, opposed prosecution of alleged war criminals in the early 1980's. The Times reported that three pages of the Rodal report which discussed Trudeau's attitude and his efforts to block action against war criminals by other government officials were also deleted.

Rodal said she uncovered no evidence of "direct and willing Canadian participation in programs to resettle Nazi," but added: "There were instances in which American intelligence officers withheld information from and misled Canadians as to the true background of prospective immigrants to Canada, persons . . . who would have been inadmissible on grounds of moral turpitude, the category for undesirable Nazi collaborators."

**HOLOCAUST, ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVORS
LINKED BY NECESSITY TO TELL
THEIR STORIES, SAYS CCAR EXECUTIVE**
By Robert Israel

(Editor's note: Robert Israel, editor of the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, is on special assignment in Japan reporting on survivors of the atomic bombings.)

HIROSHIMA, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- The survivors of the atomic bomb dropped here 42 years ago are both distinct from and connected to the survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, according to Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

"In the case of the Jews, it was a calculated, cold-blooded plan to murder an entire people," he explained in an interview here. "In the case of the Japanese, the bombings were a cruel act of war."

However, he added, "the survivors of both events are linked by the fact they have suffered and have a responsibility to tell their story to humanity to insure neither will ever happen again."

Glaser was in Japan to attend two major gatherings. On Thursday, he joined an estimated 55,000 people in the Peace Memorial Park here for a memorial service for the victims of the bomb that devastated the city. On Wednesday, Glaser laid a wreath at the Memorial Centopath in memory of the bomb's dead.

The rabbi also was participating in the World Conference on Religion and Peace, which has brought together 500 religious representatives from various branches of Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Shinto, Islam and Confucianism.

The conference began last week at Mt. Hiei in Kyoto, a site sacred to Buddhists. The participants, who also included Rabbi Michael Schudrich of the Jewish community of Tokyo, then came here for the ceremony and travelled to Nagasaki before returning to Kyoto.

Interfaith Work Must Continue

"There has been a great feeling of camaraderie among the participants," Glaser, the only American cleric participating, said in an interview here. "Now, when we return to our countries, we must see to it that we continue our interfaith work."

The religious leaders have offered proposals to solve international conflicts such as apartheid and the escalating nuclear arms race. At Mt. Hiei, they conducted a silent vigil for world peace and rang a peace bell at the Enryaku Temple.

Glaser said wherever he has traveled throughout Japan he has been asked about the Nazi Holocaust.

"The Japanese have told me, 'Our witnesses are dying off, and many of them are unwilling to share their stories with others.' I told them this is true with the Jewish survivors, too. Often I have heard survivors of the camps say that people look at them in disbelief and that people do not believe their stories. But they are our witnesses and we must listen."

In recent months, several reports have described anti-Semitic publications in Japan. Schudrich has been monitoring these publications.

"To date," Schudrich said, "there have been at least a dozen books that are inflammatory in nature. Two of those books, by Masami Uno, have sold close to 800,000 copies."

One of Uno's books, "If You Understand the Jews, You Can Understand the World," talks about "international Jewish capital" that has damaged the Japanese economy.

"There has historically been great curiosity about Jews in Japan," Schudrich said. "Jews are an enigma to the Japanese and they are curious about Jews. That's one of the reasons these books have sold so well. But it's important to note that what people are reading hasn't yet been converted into real anti-Semitic actions."

"We are a small community, around 170 families. My concern is that what Japanese are reading not lead to action against Jews."

Several of the books in question have blamed Jews for international catastrophes, both political and social, including the Tanaka scandal in Japan, the Watergate scandal in the U.S. and the current epidemic rise of AIDS.

"In one sense there is positive admiration for Jews here," Schudrich said. "Since Japanese think Jews are rich and clever, they would like to emulate that, but the negative information is more than negative because it is false." He added that the Japanese are not readily exposed to information to the contrary.

The rabbi hopes to spearhead a campaign to finance the opening of a Jewish cultural center in Tokyo where Japanese could comfortably become better acquainted with Jewish life, literature and customs.

**POLISH CATHOLIC COUPLE PORTRAYS
POLAND'S LAST JEWS IN BOOK**

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- The once thriving Jewish community of Poland is a skeleton of its earlier days. Only 5,000 Jews remain from the population that in 1939 numbered 3.5 million and was the Jewish center of literature and politics.

These remaining Jews were virtually forgotten until a Polish Catholic couple decided it was time the story was told. Tomasz Tomaszewski, a photographer, and his wife Malgorzata Niezabitowska, a journalist, spent five years traveling around their country capturing the remnants of the Polish Jewish community.

Their book, "Remnants: The Last Jews of Poland," was published last year, and some of the photographs appeared last September in National Geographic Magazine.

"We wanted to know who and what remains of this big and splendid world of Polish Jewry because nothing was known about it," Niezabitowska said at a slide show/discussion at the National Press Club, where an exhibit of the photographs is on display through Aug. 14.

"The history of Polish Jews ended with the Holocaust. And the more we worked the more we understood how important it was," he continued. "We hope our work is a long step in the reconciliation between Poles and Jews."

Anti-Semitism is no longer a major problem for Polish Jews, but loneliness and alienation are. Many of the photographs show elderly people living alone in their apartments, their relatives having emigrated or perished in the concentration camps. Although they are free to leave Poland, they nevertheless don't want to go to a new country with a different culture and language, Niezabitowska said.

"They feel some moral obligation to stay. They think they should do something for the

culture," Niezabitowska added. Very little remains of this Jewish culture. A photograph simply shows a door with the indentation of a mezuzah, and there are several photographs of the some 500 Jewish cemeteries.

But several of the photographs show what little Jewish tradition still survives. No rabbis are left in Poland, but there are two synagogues and several prayer houses where religious services are performed by community leaders.

There are several photographs of the controversial 1985 Bar Mitzvah, the first there held in years. The female rabbi who accompanied them was barely allowed to participate in the service by an American Orthodox rabbi.

Thriving Jewish Theater

Paradoxically, Poland still has a thriving Yiddish theater which performs in state-sponsored Jewish clubs across the country.

"When people tell us it's nonsense to have a Jewish theater in Poland when there are so few Jews, we always protest. For the old people, performances are the only joyful moment they have. It's the only moment when they can hear Jewish words," Niezabitowska said.

Niezabitowska, a reporter for the newspaper of the Polish opposition group Solidarity, said she learned about Jewish culture from her grandmother. She was deeply affected by the emigration of two Jewish school friends in 1968, when 25,000 Polish Jews left the country in the wake of the Six-Day War.

In 1983, the Polish public became interested in the Jewish community, Niezabitowska explained. Memoirs of survivors were sold out in bookstores, and the documentary film "Shoah" was shown on television.

Nevertheless, the couple could not find a Polish publisher for their book, which was printed in English and has been translated into German, and soon will be available in French.

EMERGENCE OF ANTI-SEMITIC SOVIET GROUP PAMYAT CONCERNS WJC SCHOLAR By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- The emergence in the Soviet Union of a chauvinistic, anti-Semitic organization reminiscent of the Black Hundreds of Czarist times is a potentially disturbing new phenomenon on the Soviet scene, says a report by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, research arm of the World Jewish Congress.

The organization is Pamyat -- Russian for memory -- the most influential of a number of so-called historical and patriotic associations which have surfaced in the USSR during the period of "glasnost" (openness) ordained by Party Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dr. Howard Spier, an IJA research officer, prefaces his study of Pamyat by saying its character and aims raise questions fundamental to the nature of Soviet society.

The organization achieved prominence after an apparently spontaneous demonstration in a central Moscow square on May 6. About 400 demonstrators marched toward the Moscow City Soviet, with banners condemning Gorbachev's restructuring program and demanding a meeting with Gorbachev and the Moscow Party Chief.

Since then, a succession of vituperative attacks on Pamyat has appeared in some leading Soviet newspapers, suggesting that it had struck a nerve in Soviet public opinion.

According to Soviet press reports, Pamyat was founded in 1980 by a number of employees of the Soviet Ministry of Aviation Industry, with the aim of preserving Moscow's historical and cultural monuments in the face of official indifference.

However, Pamyat's objectives had apparently changed as it was increasingly penetrated by fanatical believers in Great Russian nationalism who also had xenophobic hang-ups about the supposed Zionist-Masonic conspiracy against the Russian people.

This echoes the rallying cry of the Black Hundreds organization, the union of the Russian people, the reactionary monarchist and anti-Semitic body which fought against reforms following the 1905 revolution.

Pamyat shares with these earlier anti-Semites the belief in the notorious anti-Semitic forgery "the Protocols of the Elders of Zion," and that freemasonry is pervasive. They even complain that the Soviet press is inundated with codes, menorahs and six-pointed stars.

Jews Get Blamed

Anyone with liberal or Jewish associations is anathema to them. They sent a veiled death threat to poet Andrei Voznesensky. They blame Lazar Kaganovich, the only Jew in Stalin's Politburo, for the drastic decline in the number of Moscow's churches, a charge which they also lay against Emelyan Yaroslavsky (originally Gubelman), chairman of the Militant Atheists.

Pamyat refrains from attacking Gorbachev directly, but has called him a puppet of Georgi Arbatov, his Jewish adviser on foreign policy and head of the Institute of the United States and Canada of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

According to Spier, there is no doubt that the views of Pamyat have won the backing of party officials at various levels, and a number of their meetings have been held in party premises.

It appears, too, that Pamyat meetings are well attended, including by youth, despite the lack of advance notice in the press. In Dmitry Vasilev, a journalist and photographer, Pamyat seems to have found a formidable, even charismatic leader, whose speeches are recorded on tape and distributed around the country.

Pamyat has branches or allied groups in Leningrad, Sverdlovsk and Novosibirsk, apart from its center in Moscow.

Spier concludes: "Pamyat is in many respects a grass roots movement of the disaffected. As yet, it does not appear to have attracted any persons of prominence to its ranks . . . but at a time of great flux in the USSR, its significance should not be underestimated."

* * *

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Ten Dutch organizations for the prevention of cruelty to animals have protested to the Dutch government over Jewish and Moslem methods of ritual slaughter. The petition demands the early introduction of stringent conditions for the ritual slaughters. In their review, the present techniques for stunning an animal before slaughter would not contravene Jewish and Moslem regulations. The groups also demanded that the government rescind allocations granted for exportings animals which have not yet been stunned before slaughter. The groups presented the petition to the Ministers of Welfare, Public Health, Agriculture and Fisheries.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA:
THE SOUND OF FREEDOM**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- The story of Soviet refusenik pianist Vladimir Feltsman is one of particularly sweet music, as it involves the unflagging interest of a host of concerned lovers of music and human rights in upstate New York, and the assistance of radio broadcasts, both in the United States and the USSR.

Feltsman, 35, left the Soviet Union Thursday with his biologist wife Anna and their four-year-old son Daniel. After eight years as a refusenik, the acclaimed musician whose career was severely curtailed since he applied to emigrate in 1979 was en route to a promising teaching position at the State University of New York at New Paltz as a distinguished university professor in music, with responsibilities as well at other campuses of the SUNY network of universities. He expected to arrive in New York later this month.

A good deal of Feltsman's permission to emigrate appears to have to do with the diligence of the owner of an upstate New York radio station and its classical disc jockey, and particularly with the president of The College at New Paltz, Dr. Alice Chandler.

The Overture Begins

Chandler, of Russian Jewish background and a long-time advocate of human rights, was made aware of the details of Feltsman's case by friends and colleagues Sasha and Jerry Gellman. Sasha Gellman is vice president of The College at New Paltz Foundation, and her husband Jerry is the former owner of radio station WDST in Woodstock, NY. Both had been greatly involved in behind-the-scenes activities on Feltsman's behalf, along with veteran music critic and record collector Leslie Gerber, a classical music programmer and disc jockey at the station.

Last year, as Chandler was planning a trip with five other university presidents to Vienna to attend the follow-up talks of the Helsinki Accords, Gellman and Gerber, with the help of the State Department, arranged a special program that would include a telephone hookup to Feltsman in Moscow. Gerber interviewed the refusenik pianist on the air and played recordings that the pianist had made years earlier, records not available in the Soviet Union since Feltsman had applied to emigrate.

In January, Chandler and the other university presidents made their trip to the Vienna talks, with a three-day stop-off in Moscow, where they were dinner guests of dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov and his wife Yelena Bonner shortly after the couple's return from exile in Gorky.

Proposes A Novel Idea

In Moscow, Chandler visited Feltsman and proposed a novel idea -- a cultural exchange between Feltsman and Latvian-born New Paltz professor of music Gundaris Pone (Po-nay). According to Chandler's highly creative plan, Feltsman would perform Soviet music during the college's Music in the Mountains Summer Festival and Pone would play contemporary American music in either Moscow or Leningrad.

Feltsman "expressed immediate interest," according to Karen Summerlin, assistant vice president of the Office of Development and Public Affairs at New Paltz.

Following her return to New Paltz, Chandler continued to pursue the proposal, corresponding with and speaking to many Soviet and American officials. When Secretary of State George Shultz returned from a mid-April meeting in Moscow with Soviet officials -- after attending a Passover seder at the American Ambassador's residence at which Feltsman was present -- he brought back a list of 45 people being considered for emigration. Feltsman's name was on the list.

Shortly afterward, Chandler learned that Soviet officials had told Feltsman there were "problems with processing his papers." So, on May 16, on the eve of the centenary celebrations of The College at New Paltz, Chandler arranged a telephone interview with Feltsman from her office by Voice of America correspondent William Skundrich.

Midway into the interview, in which Feltsman spoke of his life as a refusenik, the line went dead. That conversation, including the click, was broadcast into the USSR the following week.

Approaching The Finale

On July 2, Feltsman was summoned to the OVIR emigration office in Moscow and informed that his visa was being processed. Subsequently, Chandler began a search within the SUNY system to locate a teaching position for Feltsman. Working with the acting chancellor of SUNY, Dr. Jerome Komisar, she was able to offer Feltsman a definite position at New Paltz.

Feltsman will remain in Europe for the time necessary to process him as a refugee and will then visit briefly in Paris with former U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Arthur Hartman, who befriended the award-winning pianist in the past. In February 1986, Feltsman gave a concert at Hartman's residence that was for a few hours threatened when vandals damaged several strings of the Steinway grand piano on which Feltsman was to play in honor of Hartman's 37th wedding anniversary. Members of the Embassy staff re-tuned the piano, unable, however, to fix the low E string. However, Feltsman's performance of music by Franz Liszt went on as planned.

Feltsman -- the son of renowned Soviet composer-songwriter Oskar Feltsman -- had been regarded as a highly promising pianist since 1971, when, at the age of 19, he won the Marguerite Long International competition in Paris. He appeared with major Soviet orchestras and concertized in Europe and Japan, but his wife was not allowed to accompany him. Following his application to emigrate, he was only permitted to give concert appearances outside the major Soviet cities, his recordings were no longer broadcast and he was not even permitted to teach.

However, at the highly publicized seder at the American Ambassador's residence, Feltsman announced that he was again being permitted to give a concert in Moscow. Since then, Feltsman's story has resonated with all the right chords.

* * *

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Mayor Shlomo Lahat has rejected an appeal by the Foreign Ministry not to place the "Denver boot" on diplomats' cars which are illegally parked in Tel Aviv. Denver boots, so-called from the U.S. city where they were invented, are clamped on a wheel of an illegally-parked car, making it impossible to move. They are only removed, a few hours later, after payment of a fine.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CASTIGATED FOR
CENSORING REPORT ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS**
By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Alti Rodal, the Oxford historian who conducted the principal research for the Deschenes Commission report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, castigated the Canadian government for censoring her 560-page report "far beyond what meant the preservation of secrecy for the security of Canada."

The government released the heavily censored version of the Rodal report Thursday. She told the JTA Monday, "I did not expect such a heavy censoring of my report with whole pages and sections being expurgated." She accused the Ministry of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of excessive censorship.

The Rodal report revealed that Canadian officials admitted Nazi war criminals as late as 1983. It also charged that U.S. intelligence operatives withheld information about Nazi war criminals and misled Canadian officials in attempts to push refugees into Canada immediately following World War II.

Jewish groups in Canada have demanded the immediate release of the uncensored Rodal report and have criticized the Canadian government for obstructing the full publication of the report.

The Canadian government released the censored report only after the Toronto Star filed for the document under Canada's Access to Information Act.

A Censored Segment Of The Report

One censored section of the Rodal document reportedly uncovered the roles of two former Canadian Prime Ministers, Louis St. Laurent and Pierre Trudeau in opposing prosecutions for known war criminals living in Canada and in admitting known Nazi collaborators to Canada.

St. Laurent reportedly agreed to admit Slovakian stormtrooper Karol Sidor, a Nazi collaborator, to Canada in 1949 upon a direct request from Pope Pius XII. Sidor served as the Slovakian delegate to the Vatican.

Trudeau, according to the report, opposed prosecution of alleged war criminals in the early 1980's.

"I think that Mr. Trudeau in his quality as a statesman thought in his judgment that it was too fragile to sustain the kind of tension which would have emerged from seeking out Nazi war criminals in Canada when his attention was concentrated on problems of bilingualism back in 1967," Rodal said.

"I also believe Mr. Trudeau's personal perception against that of some of his own Cabinet, was that prospective immigrants should leave their quarrels at the Canadian border. Personally, Mr. Trudeau, as Minister of Justice in Lester Pearson's Cabinet, in 1967, categorically opposed Simon Wiesenthal's diligent appeals to open a file on Nazi war criminals in Canada," she said.

Rodal said Trudeau, as Prime Minister in 1981, appointed the inter-departmental committee on war crimes in the face of pressure from Jewish groups and public opinion. Martin Row, Trudeau's appointed chairman of committee, "car-

ried through Mr. Trudeau's position in his conclusion . . . that there are no legal means possible in Canada for acting against war criminals," according to Rodal.

"The only sweetening of the bitter pill was the committee's promise that 'we won't let them in the future.' The fact that in 1983, under the premiership of Mr. Trudeau, two alleged Nazi collaborators were admitted to Canada is proof of the inconsistency of the government's committee with its own conclusions," Rodal said.

'A Damning Indictment'

In other reactions to the report's publication, David Matas, senior legal counsel for the League of Human Rights of B'nai B'rith, called the report "a damning indictment of forty years of Canadian government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police." He castigated Ottawa for "its bureaucratic obstruction," noting that a censored version of the Rodal report was released only after a four-month delay.

**U.S. ENVOY MEETING WITH SHAMIR TO
CONVINCE HIM TO DROP OPPOSITION TO
AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- A senior State Department official arrived here Monday to hold talks with Premier Yitzhak Shamir and senior Israeli policy makers in an effort to convince Shamir to end his opposition to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' proposal for an international conference on Middle East peace.

The American envoy, Charles Hill, executive assistant to Secretary of State George Shultz, will discuss "the position of Israel's government" to determine whether there is sufficient unity on the issue for some movement toward holding a conference.

According to Yosef Ben-Aharon, Director-General of Shamir's office, Hill will find that there is much more uniting the government than dividing it on this issue. Both Likud and Labor are seeking to move the peace process forward, Ben-Aharon said. He noted that the differences between Shamir and Peres were "over the tactical approach, not the strategic goal."

American sources were cited Monday as saying that Washington "will not be satisfied with a flat no from Shamir regarding the conference scenario."

Memorandum Of Understanding Mulled

Both U.S. and Israeli sources have mentioned the idea of a memorandum of understanding to be drawn up between Washington and Jerusalem, largely dealing with strategic and military relationships between the two countries -- which could serve as an inducement to Shamir to go along with the conference option.

Such a memorandum, the sources say, would be intended to enshrine for many years ahead the U.S. commitment to ensure Israel's military superiority over its potential foes. Shultz is said to wish to conclude a memorandum of this nature in order to project the present Administration's strong commitment to Israel's security forward

into the future. An example of such a memorandum is the 1975 accord signed between then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and then-Foreign Minister Yigal Allon in which the U.S. undertook not to negotiate with the PLO unless the organization accepted the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, recognized Israel, and desisted from terrorism.

In the Likud camp, however, there is no sign of softening of the party's solid opposition to an international conference. Likud spokespersons continue to demand a mini-conference that would exclude the Soviets and the Syrians, or else direct talks with Jordan without any international umbrella.

Peres for his part insists that such ideas are inherently non-starters since the Arab side, and specifically Jordan, refuse to enter into talks without such an umbrella. By the same token, Peres maintains, an international opening conference would immediately lead to direct, bilateral talks -- under an agreement which he, King Hussein of Jordan, and the U.S. Administration concluded in April.

That agreement is still unpublished, but it is widely reported to have been reached at a meeting between Peres and Hussein in London on April 11.

Peres said Sunday that despite the Likud's stance on the eve of the talks with Hill -- he accused Shamir of intransigence -- "the last word has not yet been said" regarding an international conference.

KNESSET UNITS VOTE TO CONTINUE LAVI PROJECT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- A joint meeting of the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs and its Finance Committees voted Sunday by 22-6, with three abstentions and half of the committees' members absent, to continue the Lavi project.

The surprise decision has no binding value, and can only be regarded as a suggestion to the Cabinet for next Sunday's crucial government vote on the issue. The Israel Defense Force general headquarters and senior Defense and Finance Ministry officials expressed shock and surprise at the go-ahead vote.

Haaretz wrote Monday that the vote was received with astonishment in the defense establishment and the IDF, primarily because of the lopsidedness of the vote. Until two weeks ago it was estimated that most members of the committees opposed the plane.

Defense establishment sources claimed that Knesset members who were not present at previous meetings voted without any idea of the project's data and significance, which were elaborated on earlier.

Concerned About U.S. Reaction

The sources said that a decision to continue the Lavi could bring about a sharp American reaction, which would gravely affect mutual military purchases and thus would harm the Israel defense establishment.

Meanwhile, the Finance and Defense Ministers will submit a joint proposal at the Cabinet's next meeting for halting the project.

Earlier this year U.S. Defense Secretary Dov Zakheim spent five days in Israel trying to convince its political and military leaders that the

Lavi, financed by U.S. grants, is too costly to produce. Zakheim urged the Israelis to abandon the Lavi in favor of an already tried and tested aircraft.

He 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.

Last month Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim concluded that the Lavi project must be abandoned for budgetary reasons. They said there was no way to increase the defense budget and without extra funds, the Lavi could not be produced. An Haaretz economic affairs correspondent quoted Rabin as saying Sunday that "in such a difficult period we must decide what are the army's proper priorities.

"The decision must be made in light of only one thing: what wins wars. Both the Lavi and the F-16 constitute no significant change in the IDF's deployment on the future battlefield. We require other, more important means."

35 JNF WORKERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS INJURED IN A HIGHWAY ACCIDENT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Thirty-five Jewish National Fund workers and family members were injured, five of them seriously, on Monday morning when their vacation bus crashed near the village of Nes Harim in the Jerusalem hills.

The vacationers, JNF workers from all over the country, were on a trip organized by the JNF at Nes Harim. The crash occurred when the bus brakes failed on one of the steep winding roads near the village. The driver attempted to slow his vehicle down by grazing it against the boulders on the roadside, but he lost control and the bus hit a tree. The driver was thrown through the windshield and seriously hurt.

Nes Harim, a moshav founded in 1950 by Kurdish immigrants, many of whom worked for the JNF in their earlier years in Israel, stands on a ridge overlooking Jerusalem. The area is thickly forested and dotted with popular picnic areas set up by the JNF.

55 OLIM ARRIVE FROM THE USSR

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 -- Fifty-five new immigrants from the Soviet Union arrived in Israel Monday night, in what was said to have been the largest number in any single flight from Vienna for several years. Among them were pianist Hirsh Feikin and mathematician Pinhas Polansky.

Most of them spoke from good to excellent Hebrew, leading some Soviet Jewry activists to fear that the Soviet authorities were trying to get rid of as many Zionist activists as possible.

EUGEN LOEBL DEAD AT 80

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Eugen Loebel, one of the Jewish officials in postwar Czechoslovakia who was arrested and tried in the infamous Slansky trial in 1952, died here last week after a heart attack. He was 80 years old. A former First Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, he was one of 14 people, 11 of them Jews, forced to confess to treason and espionage during the 1952 trial.

Loebel and two codefendants were sentenced to life imprisonment. The rest were hanged. After serving 11 years, he was released and named director of the Czechoslovak State Bank in Brat-

islava in 1963. He immigrated to the United States in 1968 and became a State Department consultant and a teacher. He taught economics and political science at Vassar College in upstate New York from 1969 until he retired in 1976.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE HEAD WANTS POPE TO ALSO MEET LAY LEADERS
 By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- A principal Conservative layman has urged that Jewish congregational lay leaders be invited to join the rabbis scheduled to meet with Pope John Paul II in Rome in advance of the Papal trip to the United States in September, including a now uncertain meeting with Jewish leaders in Miami.

Franklin Kreutzer of Miami, president of the United Synagogue of America, announced Friday that he is "dismayed that the five delegates of spiritual dimension suggested for the meeting in Rome are not fully representative of the American Jewish community, of which the overwhelming majority consists of laymen."

The rabbis he alluded to represent the member groups of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), which was invited last week to meet with the Pope and Vatican officials.

However, a spokesperson of the Synagogue Council of America, a member of IJCIC, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the five IJCIC delegates probably won't be chosen for two weeks, and would likely include two laypeople--Dr. Gerhart Riegner of Geneva, representing WJC; and Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith. In addition to SCA, IJCIC consists of the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith International, Israel Interfaith Association and the World Jewish Congress (WJC). Since 1972, it has represented the Jewish world to the Vatican. United Synagogue is the association of 850 Conservative congregations in North America, and is a member of SCA.

Rationale For Lay Leaders

Kreutzer said the issues to be discussed at the meeting -- reportedly the Pope's recent audience with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and the Papal attitude in general toward the Holocaust -- transcend theological concerns.

The Jewish world has strongly criticized the Pope-Waldheim meeting, and the American Jewish Congress has pulled out of the September 11 Miami meeting scheduled between Jewish leaders and the Pope. SCA also has withdrawn, but has reserved the right to reconsider. Other organizations have said they are considering withdrawal, but the recently announced meeting may prevent that.

Kreutzer, however, is arguing a different principle. As he described it to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, rabbis can analyze and express ideas through a "spiritual dimension," but can't wholly express non-rabbis' visceral feelings about an issue. He said the Pope's meeting with Waldheim "literally is a sore festering in the minds, the hearts and the guts of North American Jewry."

Kreutzer contended that the laity accepts rabbinic participation, and he would like reciprocity. He may not get it. Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman,

SCA president, told the JTA that enlarging the delegation is unnecessary and unwise.

Invitation Called Specific

He explained that the invitation for the meeting from Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, was for a group of about five. Klaperman said that number could develop "one-on-one relations and discussions with the people that we're meeting," which he considered the best way "to develop an ongoing process" of communication.

Even if most of the delegations would be rabbis, Klaperman added, they would represent non-rabbinic organizations. In addition, he said he would listen to Kreutzer's concerns about the Pope-Waldheim meeting if Kreutzer called.

The United Synagogue president said he has written of those concerns to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, IJCIC chairman. Kreutzer claims that the Jewish delegation to the Rome meeting could be enlarged to include him as well as the top congregational lay leaders of U.S. Reform and Orthodox Jewry. He said he had not discussed the issue with any of them.

Protest Expected

If his request is denied, he said he suspected "that the (Jewish) laity across North America will be very rebellious and will then make a decision as to what to do to this problem, because the Vatican should not be allowed to dictate" who represents the Jews on this issue.

Yet, IJCIC has been Jewry's representative to the Vatican. "I don't think that they've ever discussed many of these non-theological issues," Kreutzer said, "and if they have, then I'm greatly concerned after all of these years that they still have this severe problem today."

He explained he was referring to the lack of Vatican recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and of the State of Israel itself, as well as its stand on the Holocaust.

For his part, he said he would request the lay participation in "every place that's appropriate, including the Vatican."

Geographical Issue

Kreutzer added that the issue had a geographical dimension. "I would hope that the Jewish leadership that is centralized in the Northeast corridor will be sensitive to all of America and will insist for us," he declared.

The lay leader explained that he was challenging the make-up of the delegation based on the appraisal of United Synagogue's representative at the latest IJCIC meeting, United Synagogue's senior vice president and chief executive officer, Rabbi Jerome Epstein.

A rabbi representing a congregational organization whose president speaks so forthrightly against rabbinic representation of laypeople?

"He is our senior professional," Kreutzer maintained. "We have other professionals on our staff who are not rabbis." The president added that if he could have, he would have represented United Synagogue.

The SCA spokesperson noted that United Synagogue has been represented at all IJCIC meetings either by Epstein or Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, its executive vice president.

HOSPITALS IN FOUR COMMUNITIES ARE ENDING THEIR JEWISH AFFILIATION

By Haviva Krasner

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- The Jewish-affiliated hospitals in Denver, Milwaukee and Minneapolis have announced they will merge with or sell to nearby non-Jewish hospitals primarily for economic reasons, despite concern by some local Jews that the reorganization will mean a loss of care sensitive to Jewish needs.

These moves apparently are the first of their kind for Jewish hospitals in the rapidly changing health care industry. However, most Jewish hospitals have consolidated services with other hospitals without merging, Warren Green, president of Mount Sinai Hospital of Minneapolis, told The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle.

The 1986 "Jewish Directory and Almanac" lists 46 hospitals and medical centers in its "Yellow Pages."

Denver's Beth Israel Sold

In Denver, the 70-year-old Beth Israel Hospital has been sold to St. Anthony Hospital for an undisclosed amount. The merger agreement is set to be completed in September. The two hospitals have worked together for many years, sharing medical staff.

According to a Beth Israel spokesperson, the merger will "enable us to better serve the needs of the community and combine our expertise." The new name of the hospital has not been decided.

Beth Israel, with 167 beds, also operates a nursing home, as well as three health care clinics for the elderly, mobile diagnostic programs and two adult day care centers.

The merger has left questions as to what will happen to Denver's Jewish elderly who receive care at Beth Israel Geriatric Center, but board members promise that the hospital's sale will facilitate the building of a new Beth Israel to serve the elderly. The construction could be finished in four years, Siegel said.

Milwaukee Merger Announced

In Milwaukee, Mount Sinai Medical Center, with 410 beds, will merge with Good Samaritan Medical Center within the next two years, becoming the non-sectarian Sinai-Samaritan Medical Center.

Mount Sinai officials told The Chronicle that they were compelled to merge because the high cost of providing health care and the overcrowded Milwaukee health care market were threatening its closure. They cited studies that show the move will save the two centers \$7 million a year.

Stanley Kritzik, chairman of Mount Sinai's board, called the merger a gain for the Milwaukee Jewish community "because we're not going to go to the Jewish community for money to support waste and inefficiency." Sinai-Samaritan will probably continue to receive money from the Milwaukee Jewish Federation to provide health care for Soviet emigres and older adults.

Mount Sinai's chief of staff, Dr. Morris Sable, said the merger saddens him because it means "the end of an era" for Jewish doctors who for years were prohibited from practicing at non-Jewish hospitals, the reason for Mount Sinai's founding in 1903.

Another Jewish physician wrote in The Chronicle that he and many Jewish colleagues

were upset over the change and their lack of input. However, no doctors have pulled their practices from Mount Sinai.

Another Merger in Twin Cities

The other Mount Sinai, in Minneapolis, has begun steps to merge with Metropolitan Medical Center there. The two hospitals will be joined under Health One, the area's largest multi-hospital organization.

Nancy Jensen, director of public relations at Mount Sinai, a 273-bed facility, told the American Jewish World that one reason for the merger "was the complimentary services of the two hospitals and two, was the proximity of six or seven blocks."

Dr. Irving Shapiro, medical director of Mount Sinai's Phillips Eye Institute, said that the merger is "mandatory. In this day and age, the third-party payers' writing insurance policies are not interested in small, independent hospitals. And a patient will not come here because the care is not paid for."

The "real savings," according to Shapiro, will come in the areas of common purchase and services which will enable the hospitals to operate their separate treatment specialties without doubling the cost.

"We will still maintain our identity," said Shapiro, "and will not change the special relationship we have with the Jewish community."

The Minneapolis Mount Sinai was formed by the Jewish community in 1951 to enable all doctors to practice as equals regardless of religious affiliation. Shapiro recalled that before Mount Sinai "a Jewish physician could not admit a patient under his own name. He had to find a non-Jewish doctor to admit the patient."

Although Jewish patients were attracted to the hospital because of its adherence to the Jewish dietary laws, many, if not most, of its patients were not Jews.

Mount Sinai in Milwaukee said it has established a foundation to channel specifically Jewish philanthropic funds. The Minneapolis Mount Sinai is considering the idea, its president told The Chronicle.

Not City's Only Jewish Hospital

In related news, the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia reports that the Albert Einstein Healthcare Foundation will sell its Mount Sinai-Daroff Division in the formerly Jewish South Philadelphia area to Graduate Hospital, pending approval of both boards.

The 210-bed Mount Sinai is a constituent of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, and is not the city's only Jewish-affiliated hospital. The foundation owns others.

The purchase price for the hospital, built around the turn of the century and renovated in 1983 for \$30 million, is reportedly \$10 million or \$11 million. Graduate Hospital board chairman Harold Cramer said the new facility's location in a residential area and selling price were attractive.

The Einstein foundation is selling at an acknowledged loss because Mount Sinai-Daroff "has become an expensive institution and a drain," explained Mark Levitan, president of the foundation.

He said he expected the hospital to operate as it did, with no need to change staff.

**U.S. ASKS ISRAEL TO DROP LAVI PROJECT**

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The State Department announced Tuesday that it has recommended to the Israeli government that it terminate plans to build the Lavi jet fighter.

The announcement comes the day after members of the Israeli Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs and Finances Committees voted to continue the project by a margin of 22 to 6. The Cabinet will vote next Sunday on the issue.

"Both the United States and Israel estimate production costs at a magnitude which could not be funded within our security assistance programs to Israel without crowding out other important projects," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman. "Given the budgetary constraints we and Israel face we believe a decision by Israel to terminate the Lavi would be in the best interests of both our countries."

Redman said this view was conveyed to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his visit here early last month, as well as during a "recent occasion" which he did not elaborate.

Sources have said that a decision by the Israeli government to continue the Lavi project, which would require an additional investment of \$4-6 billion, could bring about a sharp American reaction, which would gravely affect mutual military purchases and thus harm the Israel defense establishment.

Earlier this year, then-U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Dov Zakheim spent five days in Israel trying to convince its political and military leaders that the Lavi, financed by U.S. grants, is too costly to produce. Zakheim urged the Israelis to abandon the Lavi in favor of an already tried and tested aircraft.

He 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.

SIX ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Six Israeli soldiers were wounded lightly Monday when mortar shells were fired at them in the central section of the security zone in south Lebanon. The mortar fire originated outside the security zone, according to an Israeli Army spokesperson.

Israeli troops responded with artillery and mortar fire directed at the source of the attack outside the security zone. Israeli gunships fired a missile at a vehicle near Nabatiyeh, 20 miles from the border, according to Israel Radio.

The attack claimed the largest number of wounded Israeli troops since a roadside bombing in May injured four.

The attack in the security zone was the second in 24 hours. Sunday, Katyusha rockets fired from outside the security zone by Amal militiamen landed in northern Israel, according to military sources. The attack came apparently in

retaliation for an Israeli bombing of pro-Iranian-Hezbollah targets. Military sources said Amal had retaliated after an Israeli air attack on the Amal-controlled village of Soultaniye.

Lebanon's National Syrian Socialist Party claimed responsibility for Sunday's Katyusha attacks, saying they were retaliation for Israeli attacks on Syrian-controlled areas, according to Israel Radio.

Military sources said they believe Syria supplied the long-range missiles for the Katyusha attack.

SECOND TRIAL FOR ZUNDEL IN 1988

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The second trial of revisionist Ernst Zundel, previously convicted of deliberately publishing lies about the Holocaust, will commence January 4, 1988.

A Canadian court in March 1985 convicted Zundel, a German native living in Canada, of one count of wilfully publishing false information likely to cause racial or social intolerance.

Zundel published a number of books and pamphlets, including "Did Six Million Really Die?" which claimed that Zionists invented the hoax of a Holocaust to extort reparations from post-war Germany. He also claimed nobody had seen Jews being gassed to death.

The court sentenced Zundel, 48, to 15 months' imprisonment and prohibited him from publicly discussing the Holocaust. Zundel appealed the verdict and the Ontario Court of Appeal later ordered a new trial. The Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear an appeal of the Ontario Court's decision.

Zundel's lawyer, Douglas Christie, said the second trial would take four to six months and substantial new evidence would be presented. Christie claimed the court did not permit him to present this evidence to the jury in the first trial.

The court also modified Zundel's terms to allow him to travel outside Ontario province without the Attorney General's permission, as previously required. He must, however, supply an itinerary of his travels.

**FRENCH NEWS AGENCY PUBLISHES
A BOOK ABOUT THE BARBIE TRIAL**

PARIS, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- "The Barbie Trial: Agence France-Presse Tells the Story" is the title of the first book ever to be written by the French wire service Agence France-Presse (AFP). Published by Hachette, the book retraces the entire trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, which took place between May 11 and July 4. Summaries of the 37 sessions, the testimonies of surviving concentration camp prisoners and all the evidence presented in the trial are included in the 272-page book. AFP president Jean-Louis Guillaud explained the reason for this first in this company's history. "It is so that the awakened memory does not fall asleep again that we have put together this book," he said.

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS LINKAGE PROPOSAL BY PERES

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze rejected Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' view that Soviet participation in a peace conference on the Middle East be linked to the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR and to the Soviets opening wider the gates to Jewish emigration.

He told a press conference here last Friday that there was no linkage between the resumption of diplomatic relations and the USSR's participation in the conference. Regarding the conference, he said "The USSR is most interested in having it convened and is doing all it can to promote it." He added that he was gratified to note that there is a growing awareness in the international community that such a conference was a necessity.

Shevardnadze said he thought that Peres was more flexible on the issue of Soviet participation than other Israeli political leaders. He emphasized for a second time at the conference that there was no linkage. He refrained from dealing with the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration. The Soviet diplomat was here to hold talks with American officials on disarmament.

CABINET DECISION SPARKS PROTEST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- There were protests and demonstrations by workers at the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) Monday following the Cabinet's decision Sunday to restrict JDEC's operations exclusively to Arab consumers.

The Cabinet approved, by a vote of 15-5, the recommendation of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal to reduce the scope of the debt-ridden JDEC's operations so that the company would cease serving the new Jewish suburbs of Jerusalem and West Bank Jewish settlements.

These will now receive their electricity directly from the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC), the government-owned Israeli power monopoly. The JDEC will confine itself to supplying Arab sections of Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Cabinet rejected an alternative proposal that the JDEC be closed down altogether.

Effect Of The Cabinet Decision

The company will be required to dismiss some 350 of its staff of more than 500. It will be required to purchase all of its electricity from the IEC. Hitherto it has generated five percent of its electricity, and purchased 95 percent from the IEC. The five percent capacity will henceforth be used in emergencies only.

The JDEC is the largest corporation in the administered areas, and its staff is widely reputed to include politically radical elements among its leadership. The company's fate, therefore, has long been seen as a political as well as economic problem.

The company's chairman, Hanna Nasser, said he deplored the Cabinet's decision to reduce the JDEC's concession, but he did not reject the entire plan. Apparently he hopes for concomitant government aid to help bail the company out of its financial troubles.

Jewish residents of East Jerusalem and the

settlements were generally pleased at the Cabinet's decision, because JDEC's antiquated equipment has often broken down in the past, causing lengthy power lapses.

COURT SAYS CONVICTS NEED SEX

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Israel's High Court, in a landmark decision this week, urged that prisoners be allowed to have sexual relations on a regular basis with their wives, or, in the view of one justice, with their women friends if they are unmarried.

Present laws and regulations forbid this. As a result, a three-justice bench of the High Court ruled Sunday that it must deny convict Chaim Weill's application to be allowed conjugal rights.

But Justices Menachem Eilon, Dov Levin and Aharon Barak urged the legislature to change the law and permit conjugal rights, which, in Eilon's words, are fundamental to human dignity. He suggested a monthly meeting between convict and spouse either at home or in special prison facilities.

Eilon, who is religious, said the ban on such rights promoted homosexuality in jails. Barak, concurring, urged that the right apply to all prisoners, whether married or single.

STUDY SHOWS MAJORITY OF U.S. LARGEST PAPERS CRITICIZED POPE'S MEETING WITH WALDHEIM

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II's recent meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was criticized by the vast majority of America's largest circulation newspapers that commented on the controversial Vatican visit, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The ADL also said that most newspaper columnists and cartoonists reacted negatively to the June 25 meeting.

In making public the ADL's "Big 50" survey of the nation's leading dailies, Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said 19 of the 50 largest circulation newspapers commented editorially on the Pope-Waldheim meeting in a total of 24 editorials on the subject (some newspapers commented more than once).

Most said the meeting reflected poor judgment with 15 expressing dismay that it might strain Catholic-Jewish relations. Some, however, suggested that the visit could be used positively.

Eight editorials -- including those in The New York Times, Boston Sunday Globe, Atlanta Constitution and New York Newsday -- noted that the Pope missed an important opportunity to condemn Waldheim for his involvement in Nazi atrocities and raise public awareness of the Holocaust.

Three -- in the Hartford Courant, Chicago Sun-Times and Los Angeles Herald Examiner -- while in general agreement that an important opportunity had been missed, said the Pope had the right to meet with whomever he wished. Two newspapers -- The Seattle Times and The Milwaukee Journal -- were concerned that the Pope's action would clear the way for Waldheim to meet with other international figures and dignitaries.

The survey included the following sampling of press comment: The Miami Herald said that Pope John Paul II "disappointed and offended a large segment of the world population" by receiving Waldheim, adding that "Catholics and Jews,

especially, find repugnant the Pope's praise of Mr. Waldheim..."

The New York Times assailed the Pope's "praise for (Waldheim's) past good work and not as much as a frown about the darker past that the Austrian President has struggled to hide." The Times said the "effect is to slight all victims of Hitler's war."

The Atlanta Journal questioned the Pope's intentions, saying "even if the Pope's original decision to accept the visit were forgivable, his florid and unfettered praise of the man was not. We would hate to see any repetitions of this sad and sorry scene in any more world capitals."

The ADL's survey of "Big 50" columnists disclosed almost unanimous criticism of the Vatican meeting. Of 22 columns, only four did not find the meeting completely objectionable. The rest were strongly critical of the Pope's decision to welcome Waldheim without acknowledging his Nazi past. Some columnists said the meeting was antagonistic to the Jewish community and harmful to relations between Jews and Catholics.

Ten "Big 50" newspapers -- New York Newsday, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Pittsburgh Press, the Seattle Times, The San Diego Union, Los Angeles Herald Examiner, The Kansas City Times, The Miami Herald, The New Orleans Times-Picayune, The Houston Post -- published editorial cartoons critical of the Waldheim-Pope meeting.

WIESEL ADDRESSES BRAZIL'S CONGRESS

BRASILIA, Brazil, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Characterizing the Bible as his "favorite constitution," Elie Wiesel urged the Brazilian people to adopt a democratic constitution that would reflect scriptural values, including respect for human rights, concern for the poor and defenseless and an open door to those in need of refuge.

"Give a haven to those who feel alienated from their former world," he said, adding: "A society is judged by its attitude towards strangers."

Wiesel, here to receive the Grand Cross of the Order of the Southern Cross -- highest civilian medal awarded by the Brazilian government -- made his remarks Monday in an address to the Constitutional Congress, a joint assembly of legislators and government officials charged with creating a new constitution for the country, which is making the transition from military rule to democracy.

The award, presented by Abren Sodre, Brazil's Foreign Minister, was given to Wiesel for his contributions to international peace. While in Brasilia, the country's capital, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient also met Monday with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and other government officials and dignitaries.

Rabbi Henry Sobel, spiritual leader of the Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, largest Jewish congregation in Latin America, is accompanying Wiesel during his three-day visit to Brazil. The Nobel laureate is a guest of the congregation and the Confederacao Israelita do Brasil, the central body of the Brazilian Jewish community, which is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

Sobel pointed out that Brazil was the "largest Catholic country in the world" -- with some 117 million Catholics -- and that leading Catholic prelates would be greeting the Nobel laureate. "Mr. Wiesel's visit," he said, "will strengthen

efforts to build Catholic-Jewish understanding in Brazil and, because he is so identified with Israel, will also focus sympathetic attention on Israel's role as a free and democratic nation in the Middle East."

Earlier this year, a commission of 10 Catholic and Jewish leaders headed by Sobel issued a 187-page "Guide for a Catholic-Jewish dialogue in Brazil."

In his address to the Constitutional Congress, Wiesel noted that "as a son of the Jewish people, I view Scripture as the most eloquent moral code of behavior for nations, groups and individuals alike."

He said that as a Jew his experience made him aware of perils that could threaten any society as well as of "hopes that must be offered to any individual anywhere." He urged the Brazilian leaders to view their projected constitution not as a contract but as a "covenant between government and the citizens."

No people, he said, is superior or inferior to another and no nation is holier than another. "No religion," he added, "is closer to truth or to God -- the source of truth -- than another." Racism, Wiesel pointed out, "is sinful and ethnic discrimination outrageous."

Praising Brazil as a nation that has been immune to racism, he also urged the rejection of religious fanaticism as a course that "leads to hate, not to salvation, just as political extremism begets hostility, not security."

Urges Speaking Up For Soviet Jews

He also urged that the country speak up for Soviet Jews "whose only desire is to join their families in Israel . . . Speak up for dissidents everywhere who use non-violent methods to obtain freedom for themselves and their friends," Wiesel said. "Based on the moral imperatives that would be part of your constitution, adopt a policy of interference in other countries' affairs when human rights are violated and when peace is in danger."

Tuesday night Wiesel was scheduled to address Sobel's congregation at the Sao Paulo synagogue. More than 5,000 persons, including government officials and Catholic Church dignitaries, are expected to attend.

Brazil's 150,000 Jews make up the second largest Jewish community in Latin America. Only Argentina's Jewish population is larger. In Brazil, relations between the Jewish community and the Catholic Church are marked by "theological and political sensitivity, commitment and vision," according to Sobel.

ROSENNE HAS A NEW POST

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Meir Rosenne, who recently ended his term as Ambassador to the U.S., has taken up a post as top fund-raiser for the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. His title is chairman of international relations for the hospital.

Some political observers believe Rosenne hopes to receive another senior political appointment if the Likud returns to power after the next elections. His political outlook is closer to Likud than to Labor, and his postings as Ambassador to Paris and then to Washington were advocated by senior Likud leaders.

Rosenne, 56, is a professional diplomat and served as legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry before his Paris appointment seven years ago.

FORMER REFUSENIK CRAFTS U.S. CONSTITUTION MEDALS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish emigre who once held a prestigious position as a sculptor-engraver at the Leningrad Mint has etched his name into United States history. Alex Shagin, now of Los Angeles, has designed two medals commemorating the U.S. Constitution in honor of its bicentennial.

One is a multi-sided design whose outline matches the drum engraved on its reverse side. Upon the drum lies the parchment reading "We, the People of the United States," with drumsticks resting on top. On the flip side is a man in early American clothing with open mouth as though declaring liberty, and bearing a flag with a semi-circle of stars curved around the date Sept. 17, 1787, the day the Constitution was completed.

"I call it my drum medal, and I felt like we have to drum up the meaning of the document that moved the modern era, modern society, modern history, and influenced all civilized countries in the last two centuries," Shagin, 40, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"But above all, I wanted to show a man, a town crier announcing that event, as if he is crying, 'Citizens, listen, something is happening around here... that is going to shake up the entire world and affect our future.'"

The other medal is even more intricate. It shows on one side a group of delegates to the Constitutional Convention, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison. The reverse depicts three Colonial figures with drum, flag and the Constitution.

Celebrated Artist In USSR

In the early 1970's, Shagin was considered one of the Soviet Union's most gifted young artists. He was graduated from the Vera Muchina School of Art and Design in Leningrad, then worked at the Leningrad Mint from 1973-77. There he prepared the designs for many of the coins that were later issued to commemorate the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

But feeling deprived of creative -- and Jewish -- freedom, Shagin applied to emigrate 10 years ago. He was immediately dismissed from the mint and denied a source of income for the 14 months he waited for permission to emigrate. In 1979, Shagin left the USSR in the big wave of Soviet Jewish emigration and settled in Los Angeles.

His first job in Los Angeles was in the jewelry business, then in graphic design and journalism. He was a co-founder of An Almanac Panorama, which serves the Los Angeles Soviet community.

His first break in medallic art came in 1981 from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, for whom he designed the "Wall-Builders Medal" dedicated to those who provided funds for construction of the federation's headquarters. Since then he has received a half dozen commissions from the Federation, including award medals that depicted the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah.

He has also designed commemorative medals depicting Maimonides, Sigmund Freud, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Simon Wiesenthal, Albert Einstein, Anatoly Sharansky and Elie Wiesel.

Shagin grew up knowing little about Judaism. He said his grandmother spoke Hebrew and Yid-

dish, and was brought up in the Jewish religious tradition, but not so his parents. They in turn kept Shagin "totally unaware of my Jewish culture. They wanted to protect me against anti-Semitism, especially in the 1950's, in Stalin's last years, when it was virtually impossible to teach a child anything Jewish. So it was a process of eventual assimilation into Soviet culture," he recalled.

"My artistic career didn't allow me anything of the Jewish cultural values. So when I decided to enter the professional world of visual arts, I knew I would be constantly very closely watched by ideological bosses, by my artists' union and by mint authorities." He said those restrictions combined with the Six-Day War inspired him and his friends to emigrate.

So how did he even begin to envision the giants of Jewish history?

"To bring me to a recovery of my Jewish roots, I spent a lot of time trying to reeducate myself, trying to learn more about Judaica, tradition and history," he said.

He enrolled in many local Jewish education programs. "I'm not very far away from the level of the beginner, but I felt like you don't have to dig very deep," he said. "Your Jewish background eventually will show itself off."

Shagin said that in his work with Judaica subjects, "I always feel like I am enriching myself. Especially since I'm a great admirer of classical art, and I feel like the best Jewish artists in art history for me in my particular case are Michelangelo and Rembrandt, who weren't Jewish. But they gave me a lot of inspiration in how can I visualize, materialize my visions for Jewish history and Judaica subjects."

The Constitution medals were designed in consultation with New York Times numismatic editor Ed Reiter. A cast bronze example of the drum medal, of approximately two by three inches, costs \$87. The medal is hand-finished, numbered and personally signed.

The medal portraying the signers of the Constitution is round, about two-and-a-half inches in diameter, and weighing five ounces in pure silver. This medal is available in both proof-like and antique-finish forms, costing \$115 each.

Shagin has also designed a sepia-ink litho-print of a group of Constitutional Convention delegates, priced at \$50. A set of the litho-print, bronze medal and one of the silver medals costs \$200. Each medal is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by Shagin. Orders and inquiries should be sent to Shagin, 1319 Havenhurst Drive, Suite 1, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

LET 'EM EAT VEGETABLES

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- A member of Parliament has called on the Justice Minister to draft a law making it illegal for Moslems and Jews to continue with their methods of ritual slaughter of animals. Pia Kjerresgord, a member of the Progressive Party, said in a TV interview that Moslem and Jewish ritual slaughtering methods violate Denmark's legal, moral and cultural customs. "Animals must be protected," she said. "If people want to eat, let them eat vegetables." Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Kjerresgord's proposal has little chance of being adopted by the Parliament. A move to ban Jewish and Moslem ritual slaughter is also now under way in Holland.

**PERES SAYS U.S. WARNINGS AGAINST LAVI PROJECT MUST BE CONSIDERED**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that the Israel government would "have to take account" of the latest, toughest American warnings not to go ahead with the Lavi warplane project.

Peres spoke on Israel Radio in the wake of a formal call by the U.S. State Department for Israel to "terminate" the Lavi program.

The Foreign Minister and Labor Party leader has hitherto been counted among the supporters of the project -- though he always stressed that the defense budget must be increased if the project is to go forward. Peres has argued that the Lavi would require a reduction in living standards on the part of the Israeli public -- and that this is worthwhile given the importance of the project to Israel's entire technological infrastructure.

His remarks Wednesday, however, seemed to imply that in the face of this firm and public American position, the Israel Cabinet will have to think long and hard about approving the project's continuation.

Shultz Sends Personal Messages

American urgings against the project were intensified Wednesday. Secretary of State George Shultz sent personal messages to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Minister of Economic Coordination Gad Yaacobi urging them to support the abandonment of the Lavi project by Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

Rabin, in a TV interview Wednesday night, said it was "inconceivable" to him that the Cabinet might decide to continue with the project within the present budgetary framework. That decision would be "impossible to implement . . . There simply will not be the money," he said.

Such a decision would mean "the kind of cutbacks in the IDF's strength, including that of the Air Force, that I doubt whether there would be any need for a Lavi in the Air Force any more . . ."

Rabin appeared to imply that he would feel forced to resign if the Cabinet took this course, though he did not say so specifically.

He said the budgetary shortfall was around \$220 million and the state -- not the already truncated defense budget -- must provide it if the Lavi project was to continue. Rabin indicated that he did not realistically see any possibility of this sum in fact being provided by higher taxation or further cuts in other (non-defense) government spending.

Rabin confirmed that he and Nissim would jointly propose to the Cabinet Sunday that the Lavi project be ended.

Meanwhile, the Knesset's prime committee, the joint panel of the Foreign Affairs and Finance Committees, has decided not to reopen its debate on the Lavi until after the Cabinet has made its decision. The decision came Tuesday from Finance Committee chairman Avraham Shapira (Aguda Yisrael), despite pressure from Foreign

Affairs Committee chairman Abba Eban (Labor) to reopen the debate and call for a new vote.

In a previous vote Monday, a large majority of the joint committees -- 22 to 6 -- supported the Lavi. It was this, in the view of many observers, that prompted the U.S. State Department to go public with its forthright opposition to the warplane project.

SHARON BREAKS SILENCE ON WAR IN LEBANON, PROMPTING ATTACKS FROM POLITICAL FRIENDS AND FOES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The Lebanon war was a "great success . . . a war of salvation . . . the most carefully pre-planned and implemented war in Israel's history." Moreover, it was directed on a daily basis by the Cabinet, which was fully privy to every move made, Ariel Sharon declared in a prepared four-hour address to a VIP audience at Tel Aviv University Tuesday night.

Sharon's speech, in which he quoted extensively from the minutes of Cabinet and military staff meetings and briefings of senior army officers, was intended to "tell the truth and clear my name." But it has been followed by the reopening of the Lebanon war debate, with renewed sharp attacks on Sharon and his veracity.

Introducing Sharon to the packed audience of senior government officials, senior army officers and academics, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Aharon Yariv, head of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies (JCSS), which sponsored the meeting, said that Sharon had come under fierce attack during a JCSS symposium on the Lebanon war two months ago "and we thought it only proper to invite him now to present his case."

But JCSS sources said that Sharon himself had decided to break his five-year virtual silence and had insisted on his right to appear, requesting the widest possible press coverage.

Observers suggested that Sharon might now want to present his case in view of possible early Knesset elections and his possible bid to head the Likud.

Avoided Protesters

Sharon, who entered the campus via a side gate to avoid a crowd of anti-Sharon demonstrators, said that the plans to attack Beirut had been prepared years before the 1982 start of the war (when Ezer Weizman was Defense Minister) in what had been code-named "Operation Oranim."

He insisted that the Cabinet, in 92 sessions (some twice a day), had been briefed on every new move made by the Israel Defense Force. Many critics including former Cabinet ministers have claimed that the government had been misled by Sharon, then Defense Minister, who had reported many of his moves only after they had been implemented.

Opening his lengthy address (which left no time for the many critical questions expected from people intimately connected with the war), Sharon said: "I did not come here to respond to various charges. I have come to state the truth, to tell things as they were, for the first time, on the fifth anniversary of the expulsion of the PLO

terrorists from Beirut." He said the PLO expulsion had been the "high point and major objective of the war."

Sharon said the war was a "war of salvation, and I am proud to have been one of its organizers, a war against our main enemy -- the Palestinian terrorism that has been fighting us for 100 years."

Perspiring heavily in a hot auditorium, Sharon went into minute details of some moves during the fighting, with a minute-by-minute report of what he had said during various meetings and what he claimed had been said to him.

Sharon's Claims Denied

Former Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur said immediately after Sharon's address that his lecture had been "full of lies and half-truths."

Weizman, whom Sharon said had prepared a plan for the invasion of Beirut, said: "Sharon is famous for his inaccuracy."

Weizman said Sharon had possibly laid himself open to criminal prosecution for having read in public parts of the minutes of Cabinet and general staff sessions. But Rafael Eitan, Chief of Staff during the war, said Wednesday he had checked the minutes referred to by Sharon and had a different version.

Observers commented Wednesday morning that Sharon had appeared intent on spreading the blame for the Lebanon war as widely as possible and ensuring that none of the decision-makers at that time could claim they did not know what was going on.

Yet, Arye Naor, the Cabinet Secretary at the time, said Sharon had overlooked the fact that at the Cabinet meeting on the eve of the war, from whose minutes Sharon quoted, the Cabinet had ratified an invasion of only 40 kilometers inside Lebanon.

Naor said the former Defense Minister had made "selected use" of what he claimed were stenographic records of Cabinet and staff meetings and conferences with senior army officers to strengthen the claims he has frequently made that the Cabinet agreed with his "defense conception," on which the war had been based.

"That is incorrect," Naor said. "The Cabinet never discussed his conception (ousting the PLO from Lebanon and setting up a pro-Israel Maronite Christian government and state in Lebanon), but only the various consecutive steps and developments of the fighting as presented to it by Sharon. The only overall Cabinet decision was the one referring to the 40-kilometer entry into Lebanon."

Inquiry Urged

Col. Ram Cohen (Res.), who took part in the war and Tuesday demonstrated against Sharon together with Mapam protesters outside the hall, said Sharon was out of order in presenting his case now.

"He stands as the accused in the Lebanon war controversy. The only body which can decide what happened in Lebanon is an officially appointed commission of inquiry," he said. "We cannot allow Sharon to transform himself from the accused into the accuser."

Replying to Sharon's charge that the only opposition to Likud activities including the bombing of the Baghdad nuclear reactor and the war came from Labor Party headquarters, Laborite Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio

Wednesday morning: "Absolutely no truth to the accusation."

He said the Labor Party had been informed of the war plans only after the IDF had already crossed the border and had then been told that the fighting would last only three or four days and would take Israeli forces only 40 kilometers from the border.

Peres said that under questioning at that time the Labor leaders had been told there would be no approach to Beirut and no confrontation with the Syrians.

"We were all taken by surprise for what happened later. Not only were we not informed-- we were told exactly the contrary of what happened," Peres stressed. "(Then-Premier Menachem) Begin himself told me he was surprised by the IDF air raids on Beirut and promised me he would check with Sharon."

Peres noted the Lebanon war had begun during a period of relative quiet on the border, and ended with the extremist Hizbullah, together with the PLO, in control of a destroyed Lebanon.

(Sharon had said the war started after a long period of attacks on Galilee settlements, and had ended with the defeat of the PLO.)

Peres said he had until now opposed the idea of a commission of inquiry into the Lebanon war, but Sharon's speech Tuesday night had possibly made essential such an official investigation.

Sharon's Conscience

Weizman said Wednesday that Sharon's conscience appeared to be troubling him.

Reacting to Sharon's statement regarding 1980 plans to march to Beirut, Weizman said: "We had no authorized plans. You have to understand that in the general staff you deal all the time with potential problems and prepare files (contingency plans) for possible events -- such as a strike against the enemy air forces in 1967, which had been prepared in advance.

"But nothing like this was authorized by me or anybody else. The only contingency plans we had was jumping across the Litani River up to the Zaharani.

"But that is not the point. The point is that if Mr. Sharon finds it necessary to open up this discussion now and use me as an excuse, he must have a very heavy conscience, and I would rather argue with a successful and victorious Defense Minister than one who looks for excuses . . .

"And back in July 1981, Begin as Prime Minister and with the good offices of (U.S. envoy) Philip Habib achieved a ceasefire between Israel and the PLO on the northern borders which was adhered to. Not a shot was fired into Israel.

"And the only reason that we started the war in 1981 was the attempted assassination of our Ambassador in London."

The public debate on Sharon's version of the Lebanon war is likely to continue for some time, with renewed demands by critics for a commission of investigation into the war, and counter-demands by Likud for an "inquiry commission" into what is termed "the conduct of the Labor Party in sabotaging the war."

PHANTOM AIRCRAFT UPDATED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- An updated version of the Phantom aircraft, which has been in service with the Israel Air Force for some 16 years, was shown to the press on Tuesday.

The updated version of the plane, with new Israeli-developed electronic systems said to be equal to those incorporated in the F-16s just delivered to Israel, is planned to extend the operational life of the Phantom 2000 by some 15-20 years.

The first model of the updated Phantom was test-flown by its Air Force designers for the first time Tuesday. A second prototype will be flown by next March. But the first squadron of improved Phantom 2000s is due for delivery to the Air Force only by the early 1990's.

Several foreign Air Forces are reported to have shown interest in the updated Phantom. Some 2,000 old-version Phantoms are still flying around the world, and upgrading them may be a cheaper alternative for many countries to buying the next generation of sophisticated fighter aircraft.

STILL MOURNING THE MURDERED MIKHOELS AND 24 YIDDISH POETS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- A standing-room-only crowd of Yiddishists, socialists, students and even a black-coated rabbi pushed into Chanin Hall of the Workmen's Circle here Monday evening to see a rare film of the giant of the Soviet Yiddish theater, Shloime (Solomon) Mikhoels.

The man adulated by Jew and non-Jew alike for his exceptional dramatic interpretations was murdered in Minsk in January 1948. His death is remembered every year in August in conjunction with memorial ceremonies for the 24 Yiddish poets murdered by Stalin four years later, on Aug. 12, 1952.

Mikhoels, at the head of the Soviet Jewish cultural vanguard, was the first of these prominent Yiddish cultural figures to be murdered in Stalin's purges.

Traditional Jewish Background

Mikhoels was raised in a traditional Jewish family in Riga, Latvia. He studied law at the University of St. Petersburg. His announcement of desire to be an actor surprised everyone. He was short, not particularly handsome, and nothing in his background had prepared him for that life. In 1918, he entered the Petrograd Jewish Dramatic Studio, despite being told that at the age of 28 it was too late to study acting.

In 1919, Mikhoels went with the Studio to Moscow, where its name was changed to the GOSSET, an acronym for State Yiddish Theater. Mikhoels became its leading actor, and the GOSSET began to attract an unexpected following of non-Yiddish-speaking Jews as well as non-Jews. An estimated 600,000 people saw Mikhoels' "King Lear."

Ben Schechter, director of New York's Folksbicne Yiddish Theater, said that a world authority on Shakespeare, who understood no Yiddish, was persuaded to observe Mikhoels in "Lear," and was so taken by his dramatic powers that he returned several times to see him, proclaiming Mikhoels one of the greatest actors in any language.

The Soviet government accorded Mikhoels the title "People's Artist," and in 1931, on the theater's 20th anniversary, he was awarded the Order of Lenin.

In 1942, the Soviet government founded the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee to garner wartime

support from Jews worldwide, fostering a false sense of security that the Soviets supported international Jewish unity. Mikhoels was named chairman of the committee. Stalin himself chose the Yiddish writers and artists to lead the committee. It was these people who were killed during what are known as the "Black Years," 1948-53.

The committee, formed in '42 and disbanded in '48, became the focus of Jews in these turbulent years. With Nazi horrors reverberating around them, the Jewish writers attempted to demonstrate Jewish will to survive through use of Jewish historical and religious themes in their works. The committee published a journal, Eynikayt (Unity), which publicly pronounced Jewish unity worldwide, something unthinkable before the war.

Mikhoels addressed all Jews throughout the world as his "brothers." Poet Peretz Markish-- among those later murdered -- wrote, "There are not two Jewish peoples. The Jewish nation is one. Everywhere, we are and shall remain one entity."

The Soviet government even sent Mikhoels and poet Itzik Feffer -- also killed in '52 -- to the United States in 1943 to collect money from American Jews for the war effort.

Morris Schappes, editor of Jewish Currents, recalled having a private meeting with Mikhoels in New York at that time, during which Mikhoels told him he looked forward to buying tanks for the Red Army with the money raised and inscribing on them in big letters "From the Jews of the U.S." It is not known if tanks were bought with the more than three million dollars raised.

Victim Of 'Anti-Cosmopolitanism' Policy

After 1948, anti-Semitism reappeared in the guise of "anti-cosmopolitanism." Mikhoels was the first prominent victim of this policy.

He was sent to Minsk by the Cultural Affairs Ministry as a member of the Stalin Prize Committee, purportedly to inspect theaters. Late at night, on Jan. 13, 1948, he was called from his hotel by an official. He was mowed down by a truck, and although his death was reported an accident, it is generally believed that the KGB killed him. The Soviet government made an extraordinary funeral for Mikhoels, attended by tens of thousands of Jews.

At Monday's event, he was remembered by former students Emil Gorovets, Margarita Polonskaya, Rita Karin and Rosa Kurtz, who emotionally recalled his funeral.

The film, accompanied by slides and sketches, was presented by New York University Prof. Mel Gordon, who spoke about Mikhoels' life and turbulent times. Included in the slides were shots of the scrim which artist Marc Chagall designed for the theater after consulting with Mikhoels.

Monday's program inaugurated a week commemorating the murder in 1952 of the Yiddish poets. After a trial of 25 Jews, begun on July 11, 1952, whose charges and proceedings have not to this day been made public by the Soviet government, 24 were killed on the night of August 12 in the basement of Moscow's Lubyanka Prison.

The only reports of the trial came from a book by Esther Markish, widow of Peretz Markish, who in turn drew her accounts from Academician Lina Shtern, a biochemist who was part of the group tried in 1952 but found not guilty. Although Jewish, Shtern was not a part of the Yiddish movement.

To this day, the names of 12 of those poets killed remains a secret. The only names known

are those of Markish, Feffer, David Hofshateyn, Dovid Bergelson, Eliahu Spivak, Doar Nestor, Solomon Lazovsky, Leyb Kvitko, Shmuel Persov, Yehezkel Dobrosan, Itzik Nusinov and Binyamin Zuskin, an actor who was Mikhoels' successor in the theater.

Jewish cultural leaders across the political spectrum have been asking Soviets for an accounting of what happened at that trial.

On Wednesday, the 35th anniversary of the poets' murders, a memorial ceremony took place at the City Council Chambers at City Hall, sponsored by the United Yiddish Culture Committee of the Workmen's Circle, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish Labor Bund, Labor Zionist Alliance, Jewish Forward Association and the I.L. Peretz Yiddish Writers Union, in cooperation with the New York City Council leadership and the NCSJ. The groups called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to meet with them "when you come here to meet our President" in order to discuss the "padlocking of Jewish cultural institutions since the 1950s."

In addition, the YIVO Institute for Yiddish Culture opened an exhibit, "Shattered Dreams," featuring some of the poets' books, letters and photographs, and an evening program was held at the Workmen's Circle including the murdered writers' poems, songs and writings.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONTINUES 1985 ACCORD WITH SOVIET LAWYERS

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Bay Area Soviet Jewry activists are disturbed but not surprised that two efforts to end a formal agreement between American and Soviet lawyers failed this week.

And although the American Bar Association (ABA) overwhelmingly refused to abrogate its 1985 "Declaration of Cooperation" with the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL), a local Jewish lawyer is hopeful for a turnaround next year.

Attorney Ephraim Margolin, one of the strongest opponents of the ABA-ASL agreement to speak at the ABA convention here this week, contended that "we won the debate but lost the vote."

He and other activists pushed abrogation on the grounds that the ASL is an arm of the KGB and not an equivalent of the ABA. The activists said they were sure many ABA leaders were educated on the plight of Soviet Jews during the week.

On Monday, the ABA assembly voted 156-32 to reject a resolution to abrogate the ABA's agreement with the ASL, a group charged directly with Soviet rights violations and anti-Semitic policies.

Denunciations reached a fever pitch at that session, when a representative from the American Foundation for Resistance International called for an "economic boycott" of lawyers who supported the ABA's cooperative agreement with the Soviets. AFRI members include former UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, conservative columnist William Buckley and Republican presidential hopeful Rep. Jack Kemp (NY).

On Tuesday, the ABA's House of Delegates killed by voice vote a resolution by the Arizona Bar Association that sought to delete what its supporters saw as anti-human-rights portions of the pact between the two legal associations. David

Waksberg, director of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews (BACCSJ) and vice president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, which Sunday staged a protest calling for cancellation of the ABA-ASL agreement, said the abrogation defeat was "a tragic mistake, and my feeling is that innocent victims are going to pay for the arrogance and ignorance of the ABA leadership."

Appearing at the BACCSJ protest outside the Fairmont Hotel here, where the ABA convention was held, former Prisoner of Conscience Zachar Zunshain told approximately 60 supporters that the American-Soviet agreement would be used as a pretext to prosecute more Soviet Jews.

The next day, at the assembly, he repeated that notion to a hushed crowd of lawyers.

OVIR OFFICIAL SAYS USSR IS EASING FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESS

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The head of the Moscow OVIR emigration office said that the Soviet government is acting in accordance with its "international obligations" to ease family reunification procedures for emigration, and that Soviet Jews with relatives in the West will be permitted to join them without obtaining an invitation from relatives in Israel, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Rudolf Kuznetsov told the weekly Soviet journal *Novoye Vremya* that "in keeping with the Constitution and the international obligations of the USSR, the letter and spirit of the documents of the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and also of last year's conference in Bern, the Soviet government is making human contacts and issues of reunification of families easier."

Bypassing Current Requirements

In effect, according to Kuznetsov, Soviet Jews with relatives living in the West will be allowed to join them, thus bypassing the current requirement that an invitation must be obtained from Israel. He said that former Soviet Jews residing in countries that have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union can invite their relatives to join them.

Kuznetsov also said that it will be possible for trips to be made to and from the Soviet Union, "for meetings not only with close relatives but also with other relations and even with friends."

The publication's interviewer, Lev Yelin, asked if a former Soviet Jewish national could invite a Soviet Jewish relative for permanent residence in the West, to which Kuznetsov replied "Yes, he can." However, Kuznetsov subsequently took a swipe at Soviet emigres who applied to go to Israel and then went to other countries instead. "Those people assured us that all they ever wanted was to live in that country (Israel) and nowhere else -- but in fact they never even put one foot on Israeli soil . . . But that is their business," said Kuznetsov.

Meanwhile, hopes that cellist and Hebrew teacher Aleksei Magaryk might win early release from his three-year sentence in labor camp were dashed on Aug. 5 when his wife, Natalya Ratner, telephoned the camp in Omsk where her husband is imprisoned, and was told that he would have to serve his full sentence. Last April, his term was cut in half, and he is due for release sometime in September.

**TRUDEAU DEFERS ANSWER TO CHARGE THAT HE AIDED WAR CRIMINALS**

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau refused to comment on allegations by Alti Rodal, author of a semi-secret report on Canada's immigration policy, that he privately vetoed taking legal action against suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada.

Interviewed here by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Trudeau suggested that Robert Kaplan, who was solicitor general in the early 1980's, could better explain the government's decisions on the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals.

"I know what the story says," Trudeau said. "The facts speak for themselves. I think you should speak to Robert Kaplan. He was the minister at the time, and he knows the facts."

Since April 1987, Kaplan, a Liberal Member of Parliament, has been prodding the Progressive-Conservative government to honor its commitments and introduce legislation which would allow prosecution in Canada for atrocities committed elsewhere.

Unable To Convince Trudeau

Kaplan held the same views while Solicitor General in the Trudeau government, but he was unable to convince Trudeau to proceed with an investigation in the case of alleged Nazi war criminals.

Kaplan was also among the first to call for release of the Rodal Report, the unpublished portions of the Deschenes Commission research into Canadian policy regarding alleged war criminals.

Last December, Justice Jules Deschenes recommended prosecution of 20 suspected war criminals in Canada and continued investigation of allegations against 218 others. However, Rodal's report was made public only last week in censored form after reporters' requests under the Freedom of Information Law.

Rodal told the JTA that sections of her 560-page study detailing Trudeau's opposition to the prosecution of Nazi war criminals were censored when her report was made public. Kaplan was unavailable for comment.

HISTADRUT LEADER ORDERS ALL FIRMS CONTROLLED BY THE UNION TO END ALL TRADE LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar has ordered all industrial enterprises controlled by the trades union federation to break all commercial ties with South Africa, once present contracts have expired.

His move followed a complaint by Civil Rights Movement Knesset member Ran Cohen that Iskoor, a company owned by the Histadrut's giant Koor Industries, last year bought \$25 million worth of steel and scrap iron from South African.

Cohen charged that Iskoor had set up a front company in Switzerland called Talronics to conceal its dealings with South Africa. The Jerusalem Post wrote Thursday that Kessar had ini-

tially refused to respond to Cohen's charges, but Wednesday summoned heads of Hevrat Haovdim, the Histadrut's holding company, and of Koor Industries to impress on them that they must follow the Histadrut's policy of ending all trade links with South Africa.

They reportedly told Kessar they had already given such instructions but noted that Iskoor last year signed a five-year contract with South Africa which would be too expensive to cancel.

Cohen said he would continue his investigations into the Iskoor affair, claiming that other European countries had broken even more expensive contracts with South Africa. He said he also understood that the last Iskoor contract was for three years with an extra three-year option, and not a five-year deal as Koor had reported.

WIESEL 'SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING' VATICAN INVITATION TO MEET THE POPE

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel said Thursday that he is "seriously considering" a long-standing invitation from the Vatican to meet privately with Pope John Paul II later this month and will probably accept. Wiesel said he would decide on the meeting within a week.

Wiesel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he received the invitation weeks ago, before any discussion arose of a meeting between other Jewish leaders and the Pope at the Vatican.

The Pope has invited a delegation of five Jewish religious leaders to meet with him in Rome on Sept. 1. Wiesel's meeting, should he accept the offer, would be prior to Sept. 1.

Wiesel said he will not represent any delegation or organization in his meeting with the Pope but will be speaking to him as a private person.

Critical Of Pope-Waldheim Meeting

Wiesel has been critical of the Pope's granting of an audience on June 25 to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, accused of complicity in Nazi war crimes. But Wiesel has also censured Pope John Paul II for misinterpreting the Holocaust by denying its uniqueness as a Jewish tragedy. Instead, the Pope has acknowledged that Jews suffered more than other peoples but consistently stresses the Catholic victims of Nazism.

Wiesel said he would discuss his view of the Holocaust among other issues with the Pope but refused to elaborate on a possible agenda. He said he hopes the meeting will be private and the discussion will remain a secret.

The Vatican had arranged a meeting between the Pope and Jewish religious leaders on Sept. 11 in Miami during his visit to America. After the Pope's audience with Waldheim, however, many of the Jewish groups scheduled to participate in the meeting withdrew in protest.

Many of the same organizations are now reconsidering their participation pending the outcome of the Sept. 1 meeting with the Pope. The Jewish groups are troubled, among other things, by what they perceive as the Pope's insensitivity to the Holocaust reflected in the Waldheim audience and by the failure of the Vatican to grant diplomatic recognition to Israel.

SIGNIFICANT FINDS UNEARTHED AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Activities by ultra-Orthodox zealots to disrupt archaeological digs in Caesarea have diverted attention from significant finds unearthed at other digging sites throughout Israel this season.

They included a unique 1,800-year-old mosaic floor uncovered two weeks ago at Tzipori, in lower Galilee, and the ruins of a Bronze Age port dating back 5,000 years at Tel Rami, south of Atlit.

The six-by-five-meter floor at Tzipori, once the most important city of Galilee, seat of the Roman governors and a major Jewish center where the Sanhedrin officiated after the destruction of the Second Temple, shows an almost lifesize portrait of a beautiful young woman and of 15 Greek gods, including Dionysus, all named in Greek.

A Rare Find

The pictures are picked out in tiny colored mosaic stones, with the young woman's cheeks in four shades from flesh color to rouge. The gods are depicted in motion, regarded as rare for ancient mosaics.

The archaeologists, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Duke University of North Carolina, believe the portrait may have been of a woman guest of the governor who was entertained in this very room which, from its size and position, may have been the Roman governor's reception hall.

Tzipori was the home of Rabbi Yehuda Hannassi, who compiled and edited the Mishnah, second only to the Pentateuch in Jewish holy writ, for the last 17 years of his life, at the beginning of the Third Century.

Oldest Known Port City Uncovered

The third season of digging at Tel Rami brought to light Israel's oldest known port city, dating back 5,000 years.

Excavated by a Haifa University team aided by researchers and students from the U.S. and Europe, this year's work turned up a wide range of stone and clay tools, jewelry and weapons "showing that in the late Bronze Age Tel Rami was an important sea traffic station," according to Dr. Michal Artzi, head of the university's maritime civilizations department.

This season's important finds here included a storehouse dating from 3000 BCE, the first of its kind found in the country, as well as a sewage system.

Archaeologists in Ashkelon uncovered a large dog cemetery and what appeared to have been a Philistine brothel, with erotic wall decorations.

The Atra Kadisha Jewish cemetery protection association which halted the Caesarea dig apparently decided that work at these three sites did not endanger Jewish graves, and the researchers were not molested there.

PROJECT HELPS TO PROVIDE CARE AND SHELTER FOR ANIMALS IN ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- There is a growing awareness in Israel of the "need to provide care and shelter for animals" in that country, according to Eytan Bentsur, Israel Consul General in Los Angeles, but Israelis need help

from abroad to follow through with activities and projects to improve the animals' situation.

Speaking recently with West Coast members of the Advisory Board of CHAI (Concern for Helping Animals in Israel), Bentsur pointed to Israelis' increasing sensitivity to the problem of homeless and injured dogs, cats, horses, donkeys and mules in the streets.

Israelis are now starting to recognize the need to address this problem in the spirit of the Jewish principle of preventing "tsaar ba'alei chayyim," the suffering of animals, he said.

Bentsur, who himself has two dogs, said that help is desperately needed from abroad to support spaying and neutering programs to decrease animal overpopulation, for shelters and veterinary care for homeless and injured animals; and for humane education in the school system, to ensure that the next generation deepens the commitment to animal welfare.

Background Of CHAI

Rabbi Sidney Jacobs and Betty Jacobs, CHAI Board members who are also active in animal rights/welfare work in the U.S., explained to Bentsur that CHAI was established in 1984 to help improve existing shelters, create new shelters where none exist, provide veterinary medical equipment and supplies, and sponsor human education projects.

CHAI, at POB 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302, includes on its Advisory Board, in addition to Sidney and Betty Jacobs, Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer; Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) and Annette Lantos, both long active in causes on behalf of animals; and Israeli SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Directors Joan Comay (Jerusalem) and Hilda Friedstein (Tel Aviv).

Since its founding, Rabbi Jacobs said, CHAI has carried out several important projects in pursuit of its overall goals. Last year, CHAI sponsored a Humane Education contest in the public schools to award pupils who performed outstanding acts of kindness to animals or who wrote outstanding essays about humane attitudes towards animals.

CHAI, added Betty Jacobs, has also initiated a campaign to increase public understanding of spaying and neutering, not yet widely understood or practiced in Israel.

It has provided Israeli shelters with funds to improve their facilities, such as putting a roof on the new shelter in Raanana, an autoclave (machine to sterilize veterinary instruments and drapes) for the Jerusalem SPCA, and funds for humane drugs to replace the strychnine poison used in municipal pounds.

It is also raising money for a Humane Education Center at the Tel Aviv Jaffa SPCA's new site, where the shelter will soon be relocated.

* * *

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Social education instructors from religious-governmental schools have refused to participate in joint workshops with Arabs in a two-week summer course conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture's youth division, according to media reports.

Organizers of the course were forced to establish a separate workshop for the religious participants, while the Arabs were assigned to the workshops of the secular Jewish participants.

DEFENSE DOCUMENTS EXPERT IS SEVERELY SHAKEN AT DEMJANJUK TRIAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The credibility of the defense documents expert who claims that John Demjanjuk's alleged SS identification card is a forgery has been severely shaken.

Just two weeks ago defense counsel Yoram Sheftel confidently predicted at the Jerusalem war crimes trial that his experts' testimony would "pulverize" the prosecution's claim that the ID was authentic.

But after three days of cross-examination, American documents expert Edna Robertson of Panama City, Florida, seemed shaky and battered and trying to defend the vestiges of her expertise.

Gently leading Robertson to trip herself up, prosecuting counsel Michael Shaked chipped away at her professional standing. He referred to Robertson's 1984 opinion given at Demjanjuk's hearings in the U.S. and asked how, as a "self respecting expert," she could base her opinion on a photo of the ID card.

Witness Is Shaken

Robertson insisted that was only a "provisional and qualified" opinion. "I never give an opinion based on copies," she said firmly. Whereupon Shaked referred to an unrelated case in the U.S. where Robertson had been called for her opinion regarding signature authentication. There she had given an opinion based only on photos.

"I should have been more careful," she admitted. "You acted against the principles of your profession," Shaked pressed on. "Yes," Robertson had to concede, "In this one example."

The witness became agitated several times, her intermittent dry cough growing stronger. Judge Dov Levin, concerned for her condition, broke for recess early on one occasion, and another time gave her a few moments outside the court.

Hard Questioning About Photo On ID Card

Wednesday's questioning centered around Robertson's opinion that the photo on the ID card was not the card's original picture.

The defense claim that the ID card, allegedly Demjanjuk's identity document from the Trawniki Nazi training camp, is in fact a Russian forgery.

According to Robertson, the official swastika stamp over the photo was in fact a clever forgery comprising two halves of two different stamps, one half on the photo and the second half on the document.

She based this on an infra-red analysis of the ink in the stamps which, she said, showed a "luminescence" only in the portion of the stamp on the photo. That was the result of the use of two separate types of ink and therefore, she concluded, it was two separate stamps.

The Issue Of Luminescence

At this point Shaked suggested that maybe the luminescence occurred because of the quality of the paper under the stamp rather than because of the quality of the ink. Maybe shiny photographic paper causes luminescence, whereas absorbent regular paper does not.

"Professional literature would have to be rewritten" if that was the case, Robertson replied. Had she tested Demjanjuk's driver's license, a document of unquestioned authenticity, with a

photo and an official stamp over it, for the same effect? Shaked asked. She had not.

But apparently a prosecution witness, U.S. documents expert Dr. Tony Cantu, had. He had found the same luminescent effect on the driver's license, concluding that photographic paper and not necessarily ink, causes luminescence.

Another Embarrassing Scene

Robertson was further abashed during an embarrassing scene when Shaked asked her to display her professional knowledge in court through the use of the Israel police video spectral scanner equipment. She had used the same equipment at the police laboratory to test the ID card. Robertson seemed to fumble and show unfamiliarity with the equipment, and found it difficult to obtain the luminescent effect that she had mentioned.

Shaked asked why she had not used a far more sophisticated piece of equipment, an electron microscope in her examination, especially regarding places in the document where lines crossed. She said she does not own one and only uses such expensive equipment when specifically requested by her client.

But she did not even request it when doing her checks on the document at the police headquarters even though she admitted that she was given any equipment she requested, Shaked persisted. And then to her further embarrassment, Shaked quoted a forensic textbook which stated that use of the electron microscope "was the only way to examine" crossed lines.

Meanwhile, the Soviet government has supplied Israel with three more ID cards from the Nazi training center at Trawniki. These were submitted as evidence by the prosecution Tuesday. The cards were conveyed to Israel by oil magnate Armand Hammer -- as was the original Trawniki card which is allegedly Demjanjuk's own. That card has been the subject of extensive examination during the trial.

ZIONISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN 'COMBAT ANTI-ZIONISM WEEK'

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Bernice Tannenbaum, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, hailed "Combat Anti-Zionism Week" -- Project CASAZ -- as an important continuation of the campaign to condemn as a shameful canard the 1975 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism.

"The WZO-American Section is pleased to join the sponsors of CASAZ, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, in declaring November 7 through 14, 1987, to be Combat Anti-Zionism Week. We will help in every way to promote the observance of this project as an effective public education and counter-propaganda effort."

She added: "I will call upon our American Jewish communities everywhere to conduct events during this week, and to invite their non-Jewish neighbors to join them."

Noting that the WZO's worldwide campaign against this nefarious UN resolution is achieving major results, Tannenbaum praised the chairwomen of CASAZ, Judge Hadassa Ben Itto and Frances Bernstein, for their leadership. Project CASAZ events are being planned for New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston and Orlando, and college campuses.

BAR ASSOCIATION AGENDA WITH SOVIETS TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The American Bar Association (ABA) resolved in a voice vote at its national convention here Wednesday that human rights will be on the agenda during any meetings it has with a Soviet lawyers group.

Those human rights issues will include permission to monitor trials, release of political prisoners, an end to punitive psychiatric hospitalization and adherence to the Helsinki Accords.

These points have been stressed by Jewish activists pushing for ABA recognition of the plight of Soviet Jews. The activists also had urged the ABA to abrogate its two-year-old formal agreement of cooperation with the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL). The ABA declined to do so during a 156-32 vote on Monday.

Soviet Jewry activists said later that they were skeptical that the ABA's position on human rights would have any effect on the anti-Zionist Soviet lawyers group. However, local attorney Mark Schickman, a member of the ABA's Council on Individual Rights, which sponsored the human rights resolution, called it a victory and a "necessary step" toward improving human rights within the Soviet legal system.

Schickman, a member of both the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco and the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, added, however, that he will be watching the ABA carefully "to see what kind of progress will take place over the next year" in terms of willingness to raise the human rights issues.

Another San Francisco attorney and Jewish activist, Ephraim Margolin, downplayed the ABA action, and cited two other defeated attempts at the convention to abrogate or amend the formal agreement between American and Soviet lawyers.

Margolin and the other activists had been pushing abrogation on the grounds that the ASL is an arm of the KGB and not an equivalent of the ABA. He said there is clear evidence that many ABA leaders have been sensitized to the plight of Soviet Jews.

Patience Huntwork of Phoenix, founder of the Independent Task Force on ABA-Soviet Relations and co-author of Monday's failed resolution, termed its defeat "a setback." Earlier, she had charged that ABA leaders are more interested in economic opportunities than human rights, producing documents that showed high level meetings were held last month between U.S. corporation executives and members of the ASL, arranged by outgoing ABA president Eugene Thomas.

But, Huntwork added, she was encouraged that her group's message that the ABA's cooperative agreement gives undue legitimacy to the ASL has been sounded from other quarters. Those other quarters included Attorney General Edwin Meese, who said Monday that the ABA "should not be afraid to break away from the agreement if the Soviet group is using the accord for propaganda purposes."

NUDEL: NO SECRETS

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Long-time refusenik Ida Nudel has produced a lengthy and detailed account of her work as an economist in the technical evaluation section of a microbiolog-

ical institute concerned with the needs of agriculture and the food industry, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Employed there 16 years ago when she applied to emigrate, Nudel, 55, writes that if her section was concerned with issues other than food and agriculture, "I was not and am not aware of them." She adds that although some sections of the institute were "closed," her own work was based on general areas, which the authorities have classified as merely "second-degree security."

Told in 1971 by an official at the Moscow OVIR, "You had a second-degree security clearance until September 1971... we know that you do not possess any secret information, but you could have overheard something," Nudel was advised that her emigration "is undesirable until 1977."

In 1978, Nudel hung a banner from her Moscow apartment window which stated "KGI, give me my visa." When agents tore the banner down, she replaced it with others, and finally with a cloth bearing the Star of David. For this, she was arrested, imprisoned and sent into exile on charges of malicious hooliganism. She has been living in the Moldavian city of Bendery, where she has been frequently followed and harassed. On occasion, she has been able to visit friends in Moscow.

Nudel seeks to join her sister, Elana Fridman, in Israel. Lilith magazine has mounted a national women's campaign for Nudel's freedom, asking that individual petitions be sent to Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the Soviet leader, via Lilith, 250 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR SOVIET YIDDISH CULTURE, SAYS YIVO DIRECTOR

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- There are "fledgling signs that a dismal picture" of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union are getting better, says Samuel Norich, executive director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Norich was addressing a commemorative ceremony Wednesday evening at the Workmen's Circle here for the 24 Yiddish poets murdered Aug. 12, 1952 in Moscow's Lubianka Prison.

Norich said that since the 1960's, books by the murdered writers have been published sporadically, albeit with no biographies underneath the authors' photographs. Publication of these writers' works indicates "exoneration without rehabilitation," Norich told JTA.

He spoke of publication of Yiddish papers in the USSR as a positive sign, signalling the Soviatische Heimland, published in Moscow, and the Birobidjaner Shtern, published several times a week in the Soviet Jewish autonomous region of Birobidjan. Whereas Heimland publishes book and theater reviews, commentaries and Yiddish translations of declarations by the Communist Party, said Norich, "the Jewish content of the Birobidjaner Shtern is even more interesting," Norich said.

He also referred to a claim by the Heimland editor that a Russian-Yiddish dictionary was being published. This assertion was made in a New York Times interview in 1984. Although publication of Yiddish books now pales in comparison to what it used to be through the 1940's and ending in 1948, Norich is cautiously optimistic. "I expect that what has happened (with glasnost) in other fields of Soviet life will happen in Yiddish life, as well."

DEBATE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER WHO SHOULD REPRESENT AMERICAN JEWRY AT THE SEPT. 1 MEETING WITH THE POPE

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- An increasingly bitter debate within the American Jewish community over who will attend the Sept. 1 meeting with Pope John Paul II at his summer home in Castel Gandolfo points to a lack of consensus on who represents American Jewry, according to observers.

Representatives of at least eight Jewish organizations vying for a place on the delegation to the Vatican met here Wednesday night in an unsuccessful attempt to resolve what appears to be the last outstanding issue for the meeting: Who will attend the scheduled one-and-a-half hour dialogue with the Pope?

Wiesel Postpones Meeting With The Pope

In a related development, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday he will postpone a visit to Rome to meet with the Pope which he characterized last week as a "long-standing invitation" that he received before the Vatican issued its invitation to other Jewish representatives.

"When the news of my invitation to the Vatican reached members of the Jewish groups that have asked to meet with Pope John Paul II, some of them requested that I postpone my journey to Rome. Since they represent various Jewish organizations and I represent no one, I chose not to create the impression that I interfere with their plans and thus informed the Vatican of my wish that my visit be rescheduled at a later time.

"I hope the meeting between the Jewish groups and Pope John Paul II will bring much needed results," Wiesel said.

At the same time, some Jewish officials welcomed the publication Wednesday of a letter from the Pope to an American Catholic leader on the Holocaust which was widely viewed as a gesture to mollify Jewish anger over his audience with Austrian President and accused Nazi war criminal Kurt Waldheim in June.

Seeking A Place In The Delegation

The Vatican issued an invitation about two weeks ago formally to the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) which comprises five Jewish organizations: the Synagogue Council of America (SCA); World Jewish Congress (WJC); B'nai B'rith International; American Jewish Committee (AJC); and Israel Interfaith Association (IIA). The Pope has requested no more than five representatives attend the meeting.

Initially, IJCIC intended to compose a delegation from its member organizations. But shortly after news of the meeting became public, a number of other organizations requested that they be included in the delegation.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), American Jewish Congress, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith all sent representatives to the meeting Wednesday night in

hopes of carving out a place for themselves on the delegation.

Some of the representatives at the meeting Wednesday night suggested a larger delegation be sent to meet with high-ranking Vatican officials during the two-day visit while only five or six would meet with the Pope.

Lay leaders have complained that the delegation would not be representative of American Jews because only rabbis would be included. The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has castigated IJCIC for failing to include any Zionist representatives in the delegation. The Labor Zionist Alliance (LZA) has called on the American Jewish community to "boycott any meeting with Pope John Paul II" in light of his granting an audience to Waldheim.

Milton Shapiro, ZOA president, criticized IJCIC for neglecting the input of major American Jewish organizations and the entire Zionist movement in forming the agenda for the meeting. A more appropriate forum for establishing an agenda would have been one of the major umbrella organizations like the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Shapiro said.

The issue of Jewish representation is further complicated by the injection of political issues into a dialogue traditionally centered on theological and interfaith concerns.

A Four-Point Agenda

Although the groups have not and probably will not work out a solution which is satisfactory to all, the four-point agenda for the meeting has widespread support. The delegation will raise the concern over rising anti-Semitism in Europe and especially in Austria in light of the Waldheim controversy. The Holocaust and the Vatican's refusal to establish diplomatic relations with Israel will also be presented as issues of concern.

The fourth item on the agenda, contradictory Vatican statements on Jews and Judaism, goes to the heart of the historical antagonism between the two faiths. According to one participant in the formation of the agenda, the Pope has alternately made positive statements on Jews and Judaism when speaking to an interfaith audience but has made some distressing references in meetings with Catholic audiences.

Last year during an Easter Mass in Rome the Pope quoted from the Gospels, thereby reviving a theology denounced two decades ago within Catholicism that the Jews were to blame for the death of Jesus.

On the other end of the spectrum have been statements not unlike the Pope's letter released Wednesday promoting mutual respect and friendship between the two faiths.

Significance Of Pope's Letter

The Pope's letter to Archbishop John May of St. Louis released Wednesday took on increased significance in light of the tension between the two religions caused by the Waldheim meeting. The Pope's letter thanked Archbishop May for preparing a book entitled "On Jews and Judaism 1979-1985," which chronicled the Pope's statements on the topic.

The cover letter which accompanied the Pope's letter noted that it was "most appropriate following recent events involving the visit of the President of the Federal Republic of Austria, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, to the Holy Father."

The Pope recounted in his letter his efforts to "develop and deepen our relationships with the Jews, 'our elder brothers in the faith of Abraham.'" But he devotes the greater part of the letter to a discussion of the Holocaust and its meaning.

"With our hearts filled with this unyielding hope, we Christians approach with immense respect the terrifying experience of the extermination, the Shoah, suffered by Jews during the Second World War, and we seek to grasp its most authentic, specific and universal meaning.

"As I said recently in Warsaw, it is precisely by reason of this terrible experience that the Nation of Israel, her sufferings and her Holocaust are today before the eyes of the Church, of all peoples and of all nations as a warning, a witness and a silent cry."

Before the vivid memory of the extermination, as recounted to us by the survivors and by all Jews now living, and as it is continually offered for our meditation within the narration of the Pesah Haggadah -- as Jewish families are accustomed to do today -- it is not permissible for anyone to pass by with indifference. Reflection upon the Shoah shows us what terrible consequences the lack of faith in God and a contempt for man created in His image can lead."

The Pope concluded with his wishes for furthering the "spirit of peace and universal fraternal solidarity" with American Catholics and Jews in his upcoming visit.

A meeting with Jewish officials has been scheduled for Sept. 11 in Miami. Many of the organizations originally participating in the meeting considered boycotting it after the Pope met Waldheim. The groups have called on the Pope to make some statement defining his views on the Holocaust as a prerequisite to their participation in the Miami meeting.

IRANIAN PARLIAMENT SPEAKER SUGGESTS SWAP OF ISRAELI-HELD LEBANESE SHIITES FOR U.S. HOSTAGES By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- In a rare interview on American television, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojatolislam Hashemi Rafsanjani, has proposed that the United States pressure Israel to swap Lebanese Shiites being held in Israeli prisons for American hostages. The interview was telecast on the "Today" show Thursday.

Rafsanjani told NBC foreign editor Henry Champ that although "Iran does not interfere in other countries," he agreed that Iran has influence among Lebanese Shiites because they do, in fact, turn to Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini "for guidance."

But, said Rafsanjani, responding to Champ's question on the possibility of Iran interceding with the Lebanese Shiites for the American hostages' release, "Why should we do it when you have hostile attitudes toward us and such a naval build-up in the Persian Gulf?" Rafsanjani then suggested that the U.S. put pressure on Israel to

release Lebanese prisoners being held in Israel. "You have done this before. Why don't you repeat that?"

When Champ asked him, "Are you suggesting a trade?" Rafsanjani succinctly replied, "Yes, we do."

Rafsanjani said, "I don't think I have absolute power to do that (release hostages). I only promise I will do my best."

A commentator on NBC News following the interview said that the Israeli government had publicly responded to the suggestion by saying it would not negotiate with Iran over release of Lebanese prisoners in Israeli prisons. But CBS News later claimed that Israeli spokespersons indicated that Iran had not made such a direct offer to Israel for any consideration of it to be made.

Barukh Binah, press spokesperson at the Israel Consulate in New York, said, "We don't take this very seriously. He (Rafsanjani) can say whatever he likes on television. Our stand concerning terrorism is known."

Rafsanjani also said that "The Islamic way of thinking should be propagated everywhere. This is what we believe in, and this is what we work for."

Rafsanjani said he is not optimistic about an early end to the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq. However, he also suggested that if the U.S. came out with a statement that Iraq had started the war, "Iran would end the war. I think we could expect that."

REITERATING BOYCOTT DENIAL, SAFeway SAYS IT BUYS FROM ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Safeway Stores, Inc., reiterating its claim of innocence of 449 alleged violations of the U.S. law against boycotting Israel, said Wednesday that it has consistently purchased Israeli products.

In addition, the Safeway statement said that company officers including chairman and chief executive Peter Magowan "have demonstrated strong personal commitment to the State of Israel and have received many awards from American Jewish organizations."

The Northern California Jewish Bulletin reported August 7 that Magowan "has a personal track record of support for the Jewish State," including the hosting of luncheons for visiting Israeli dignitaries and visiting Israel twice with groups of businesspeople.

In the statement, Magowan noted that Safeway has "bought and sold millions of dollars worth of Israeli products." Safeway general counsel Bernat Rosner added that the company "has a long history of resisting all demands to participate in boycotts wherever they take place and regardless of the intensity of pressure."

According to Magowan, the boycott charges by the U.S. Commerce Department's Office of Antiboycott Compliance involve 10 supermarkets in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that Safeway has never owned, but with which Safeway has had service agreements.

If found guilty by a Commerce Department administrative law judge, Safeway could be fined more than \$4 million, or \$10,000 per violation. Rosner said "potential fines are ludicrous, and we intend to defend ourselves vigorously."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES GOING AFTER WAR CRIMINALS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- An effort by a group of 50 British Parliamentarians to put the issue of war criminals living in the United Kingdom on the government's agenda has gained substantial ground in recent months.

The All Party Parliamentary War Crimes Group (APPWCG) crystallized last November shortly after the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles furnished the British government with a list of 17 alleged Nazi war criminals thought to be living in the UK.

Britain is the only one of the four English-speaking World War II Allied nations which has not set up some form of commission of inquiry into fugitive war criminals who found refuge within its borders. Canada, the U.S., and Australia have all within the past decade established some kind of inquiry. But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her government have not responded to the demands for a similar effort.

Parliamentarians Decide To Act

When the government failed to respond to the list of 17, a group of Parliamentarians decided to form the voluntary, non-partisan and independent organization to lobby the government for prosecution and deportation of war criminals and related war crimes issues.

Labor MPs Merlyn Reese, and Greville Jenner, one of the strongest Jewish activists in Parliament, head the war crimes group.

Philip Rubenstein, the group's secretary and only staff member who is not a member of Parliament, recently visited New York on a fact-finding visit to the U.S. and Canada. Rubenstein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that one of the group's most substantial achievements to date was persuading the government to change its position regarding the opening of the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC) archive to wider access.

The Israel UN Mission requested that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar make the files -- now available only to UN member governments -- publicly accessible. Perez de Cuellar in turn called on the 17 governments that composed the original War Crimes Commission, including Britain, to vote on Israel's request. Although originally only one government supported Israel's petition, most have since changed their position.

The British government now supports less restricted access, which would include bona fide researchers as well as UN member-governments, Rubenstein said. "We are raising the issue constantly," he said.

For about two months, the group concentrated on eliciting some kind of statement from the British government on the war criminals list. The feeling was that the government should take responsibility for investigating and bringing action against those listed.

The group has sought the establishment of a government agency parallel to the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which investigates and prosecutes suspected war criminals living in the U.S.

After months of little movement, a breakthrough came in January 1987 when Scottish Television aired a half-hour program on a man named Antanas Gecas who lived at the time in

Edinburgh, Scotland. Gecas, inter alia, admitted on camera that he had protected Nazis who were killing Jews when he was the commander of a wartime Lithuanian police battalion.

Gecas was part of a "mobile killing unit," according to Eli Rosenbaum, a Washington attorney and former prosecutor for the Office of Special Investigations. Between 1942 and 1943, Gecas' unit "went on a rampage through Byelorussia, from town to town, shtetl to shtetl, wiping out every Jewish man, woman and child they could lay their hands on," Rosenbaum said. Thousands were murdered in this onslaught, he said.

Scottish Television interviewed comrades of Gecas while gathering evidence for the documentary in the Soviet Union. The witnesses said Gecas had personally ordered hangings and was involved in mass murders. The documentary, titled "Britain: A Nazi Safehouse," raised interest in the war crimes issues despite receiving little advance publicity and being aired at 11:30 p.m., when relatively few people watch. The producers had difficulty finding a network that would air the show.

Despite the difficulties, the program had some impact, Rubenstein said. Finally, in late February, the APPWCG met with Home Office Secretary Douglas Hurd. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher charged the Home Office, which handles immigration and naturalization matters, with the responsibility for the war criminals list.

Possibilities For Legal Action

Hurd outlined a pessimistic list of possibilities for legal action against the war criminals, Rubenstein said. Hurd also informed the group that the Home Office had found that six of the people on the Wiesenthal list were alive and residing in the UK.

"There was an explosion in the press-- front-page articles -- radio and TV," Rubenstein said. A week later in March, Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center met with Hurd in London.

"The Home Office had been forced to change their tune" as a result of the heavy press coverage, Rubenstein said. The government indicated that the Gecas case had produced strong enough evidence to merit action.

Hurd told Cooper and Hier that the only thing they would rule out was extradition or deportation to the Soviet Union. The British would, however, consider extradition to Israel and West Germany. The Home Office favored denaturalization and deportation for war criminals, Rubenstein said.

Thatcher preferred to fall back on extradition rather than criminal prosecution. But this passive approach to the demands for action against war criminals will have little practical effect, Rosenbaum said. The United States has received only three extradition requests ever from countries with whom it has a treaty (excluding requests from the Soviet Union, which has no extradition treaty with the U.S. or Britain).

The Home Office pledged to gather immigration records and documentary evidence about the 17 people listed by the Wiesenthal Center. Any possible action would depend on the weight of the evidence presented. To date, the British government has taken no action against any suspected Nazi war criminals living in the UK. The British elections put the group's activities on hold temporarily but in July they returned to their work for a month until the Parliament recessed for

summer. In the meantime, Scottish Television aired on July 22 a follow-up documentary on the Gecas case. This time, the station held a press conference. The program ran an hour, received advance publicity and had a much greater impact on the public, Rubenstein said.

The Wiesenthal Center submitted evidence to the British government against Gecas (who was on its list of 17 suspected war criminals in the UK) which Scottish Television obtained in the Soviet Union and evidence on two others on the list. To date, the Home office has determined that nine of the 17 are alive in the UK.

Scottish Television provided the APPWCG with a list of 34 additional suspected Nazi war criminals living in the UK which they obtained from the Soviet Embassy in London. The Home Office determined that at least seven of the 34 are alive in the UK. The Home Office, in a few short months, has determined that 16 suspected Nazi war criminals are living in the UK, most of them from Baltic states and the Ukraine.

The APPWCG has received an enormous amount of mail, according to Rubenstein, the great majority of it strongly in favor of their activities.

"The people are outraged that Nazis came into Britain," Rubenstein said. "British are very proud that Britain was one of the few countries that withstood the Nazi occupation of Europe."

The group has also received what Rubenstein called "standard hate mail" from neo-Nazis who claim that "(Menachem) Begin and (Ariel) Sharon are the real war criminals."

England's Jewish community of about 400,000 usually maintains a low profile, Rubenstein said. But the attention focussed on war crimes issues in recent months has received national attention that makes some in the community a bit nervous, he said.

EL AL IN FINANCIAL TURNAROUND

By Haviva Krasner

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- El Al, Israel's national airline, has posted its first annual profit in nearly a decade. Rafi Harlev, president of the airline, said that "As a result of managing operations carefully, El Al Israel Airlines has substantially reduced its debt burden and is showing a net profit of \$15.2 million on revenues of approximately \$567 million for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 1987. For the same period last year, El Al reported a loss of \$6.7 million on revenues of \$491 million."

The announcement of El Al's financial turnaround led to speculation on Wall Street that the Israel government-owned airline will soon go public and sell its stock on the New York Stock Exchange. The speculation was fired by the fact that a number of other government-owned airlines, such as British Airways and Japan Airlines, have recently gone public or announced plans to do so. In addition, the speculation was also prompted by the practice of airlines trying to improve their profitability and announcing management operations improvements before a public sale.

"We can reasonably project that in the next two or three years it would make a lot of sense for the Israeli government, if El Al continues to show a profit, to sell its stocks," said Aviva Lavi, director of public relations and advertising for El Al. "But it is the government's final decision."

David Schein, general manager and vice president of El Al in North and Central America, said it is the policy of the Israeli government to sell its companies, and since El Al is now showing a profit there are many financial organizations that have expressed interest in purchasing the company. El Al is among 600 government-owned companies that could be sold, Schein said.

Factors In Improvement

The airline, in a statement by Harlev released in Tel Aviv, cited many factors that have contributed to its improvement. According to Harlev, El Al managed operations very carefully during the past year, resulting in a whole line of scheduling improvements, which include expanded non-stop service, aggressive cost-cutting measures and the streamlining of operations, Harlev said.

The airline also reported a 77 percent North Atlantic route load factor (percentage of the plane filled) compared to the International Airline Transport Association's industry average of 63 percent. Improvements also included an 84 percent on-time performance record for the year, which, Lavi said, is higher than most, although she could not compare it to an industry average since until now airlines have not been required to register their percentages.

Over the year, El Al's permanent staff was reduced from 3,568 to 3,538. "The employees at El Al are really committed," Lavi noted. "They had to cope with less personnel, and it was difficult, but they really care. El Al is a Jewish airline and they are proud of it."

Another accomplishment was that in the past year El Al carried over 1.5 million passengers. The company has started offering package tour deals to expand its market penetration. These include the "Milk and Honey" tours to Israel; special programs to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Israel; and extensions to London, Cairo and Eilat. El Al recently inaugurated services to Israel from Madrid, Toronto and Boston.

DEMJANJUK TRIAL RECESSED UNTIL SEPT. 7

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- The trial of John Demjanjuk has recessed until Sept. 7 following a request by the defense at the end of Wednesday's session.

Court President Dov Levin had announced some weeks ago that the court would recess from Aug. 25 to Sept. 7, because of prior commitments on the part of the bench. However, he had refused to allow any extra time, in addition to that week, for the defense to prepare its case.

Defense Counsels John Gill and Yoram Sheftel had claimed that Mark O'Connor, the former head of the defense team who was dismissed by the Demjanjuk family, had left them unprepared.

On Wednesday, after the credibility of the two expert witnesses for the defense was apparently shaken by prosecutor Michael Shaked, the defense appealed again for more preparation time, and on this occasion the request was granted.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has called on Secretary of State George Shultz to close the Palestine Information Office in Washington, saying "continued operation of that office is contrary to our national interest."

THE CHOSEN ONES

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A minyan of Jewish representatives has been chosen to attend an historic meeting with Pope John Paul II and high-ranking Vatican officials next week, according to a spokesman for the delegation.

Representatives of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), the organization of five Jewish groups which received the Vatican's invitation, would not release the names of the delegates until Monday. IJCIC scheduled another meeting Monday night to finalize the list of those who will meet with the Pope.

But representatives of the organizations involved said members of IJCIC and several other organizations met repeatedly last week to debate who would meet the Pope at his summer home in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome. The Vatican had requested that no more than five Jewish officials attend the meeting with the Pope scheduled for September 1.

Gunther Lawrence, the spokesman for the delegation who will attend the Vatican meetings as press officer, said the group hoped that more than five would be admitted to the session with the Pope.

The nine other Jewish officials set to attend the meeting include: Mordechai Waxman, chairman of IJCIC, who will lead the delegation; Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, Synagogue Council of America (SCA) president; Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, American Jewish Committee director of international relations; Seymour Reich, president, B'nai B'rith International; Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of interfaith affairs, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress governing board; Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive director, American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC); and Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder of the Israel Interfaith Committee.

All the delegates are affiliated with one of the five IJCIC member organizations which include: Synagogue Council of America, World Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International, Israel Interfaith Committee and American Jewish Committee.

A Sign Of A Thaw

The meeting in Rome is one of several signs of a thaw in Vatican-Jewish relations, which soured after the Pope granted an audience to accused Nazi war criminal and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim last June. Last week, Catholic American officials released a letter from the Pope to the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops highly sympathetic to Jewish suffering in the Holocaust and conciliatory in its tone on Catholic-Jewish relations.

Pending the outcome of the Rome meeting, representatives of major Jewish organizations may meet the Pope in a ceremonial meeting in Miami Sept. 11 during his 10-day visit to the U.S.

Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate, announced last week that he will postpone a visit to the Vatican

until after the Pope's meeting with Jewish leaders because he did not want to interfere with their mission. Wiesel said he received his invitation to meet the Pope before the Vatican invited the IJCIC members but decided to postpone his meeting on request from some Jewish officials to do so.

**A YEAR AFTER ARRIVING IN U.S.,
DAVID GOLDFARB WANTS TO RETURN
TO MOSCOW TO VISIT DAUGHTER**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Nearly a full year after Prof. David Goldfarb arrived suddenly in the U.S. from Moscow on board the private jet of billionaire industrialist Armand Hammer, he wants to go home for a visit. On Monday, Goldfarb held a press conference here in the apartment of his son Alex to announce that on Tuesday morning he and his wife Cecilia will go to the Soviet Consulate in Washington to ask for a temporary visa to see their daughter Olga "for a few weeks."

As was the case last October, when the ailing retired geneticist arrived on a stretcher to the glare of intense publicity, Goldfarb was once more turning to the media to advance the cause of family reunification.

Goldfarb, 69, seated in a wheelchair and speaking very softly, told the crowd of reporters that he and his wife "miss our daughter and granddaughters very much and cannot go on any longer without seeing them. They cannot come here, so we decided to go there." He read from a carefully prepared written statement and then answered questions from the press as hot television lights beat down on him, his wife and son.

The elder Goldfarb said he wanted to make it clear "that it is not interpreted as our disappointment in the United States or rejection of any aspect of our life here. The reasons for our decision are not political but personal."

Although it has been variously reported by private individuals that some Soviet emigres have been permitted to visit the Soviet Union and return to the U.S., Goldfarb's case is different because he and his wife still retain Soviet citizenship.

When he was abruptly taken from his hospital bed last October and flown here in a private deal between Hammer and high Soviet officials, Goldfarb, a seven-year refusenik, did not go through the normal procedure in which Soviet emigres must relinquish their citizenship. Goldfarb came to this country as a medical emergency under a provision called "humanitarian parole," and he and Cecilia still retain their Soviet passports. "As Soviet citizens, we need Soviet permission both to go in and get out of the Soviet Union," Goldfarb said.

Olga Goldfarb, now 34, was permitted to visit her father here last November when he underwent surgery for lung cancer. The move was unexpected from Soviet authorities and lent hope to the family that they would soon be reunited in New York. However, Olga's emigration is still pending along with that of her two daughters, Katya, 10, and Nadia, 4, and Olga's husband, Yuri

Lev, 37. In June, Goldfarb suffered a transient stroke in which an embolus traveled from his heart to his brain. At the time, he was unable to speak, but after about two days his symptoms were dispelled, said his physician Kenneth Prager of Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. Prager sent a cable to the Soviet Embassy asking that Olga again be permitted to visit as she had last year after the doctor sent a similar cable. This time, said Alex, "the conditions have changed," and their situation is not considered special.

Goldfarb said he is aware of his precarious medical condition, but "I do not have the time to wait for years. I do not have the strength to wage a war of attrition to get them out." He acknowledged that he "will not get there proper medical attention if needed. I do not know whether we will be allowed back out. But life without our girls is unbearable and we decided to take this risk."

Prager told JTA that "It's a damn good thing he came when he did" last year, suffering as he did from acute diabetes and an ulcerated foot that threatened his remaining leg. He lost the other in World War II. He has been fitted with a prosthesis, which is not yet comfortable. His leg problem has cleared up and he has had "no sequel from lung cancer," Prager said. "He can travel, but there is a risk," the doctor said.

Goldfarb said he would risk the chance of being allowed into the Soviet Union without the promise that he could return to the U.S. Ideally, his desire is that Olga and her family be allowed to join them in New York.

In 1984, Goldfarb was purportedly offered visas for himself, his wife, daughter and her family if he would help the KGB entrap American reporter Nicholas Daniloff of U.S. News and World Report in some form of espionage. Alex said they received postcards announcing that visas awaited them. However, Alex admitted, they never saw the visas.

SHAMIR IN SUPPORT OF MFN FOR RUMANIA By David Landau

JERUSALEM. Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has come out in support of Washington's restoring Rumania's Most Favored Nation status of which it was recently deprived by the U.S. Congress because of American concern over human rights violations in Rumania.

Shamir, who paid an official visit to Bucharest last week, told visiting U.S. Sen. John Breaux (D. La.) this week that he wished the Jews in the Soviet Union received the same treatment as the Hungarian minority in Rumania.

It is the treatment of this minority that has been the focus of much concern in Washington.

Shamir added that Rumania was the only country in the Communist bloc which enabled its Jewish community to enjoy a full Jewish life. Bucharest, moreover, had permitted free Jewish emigration over the years and indeed the great bulk of the community had gone to live in Israel. Shamir said these aspects of Rumanian policy should be taken into account in Washington.

During his visit to Bucharest, Rumanian officials denied that President Nicolae Ceausescu was seeking Shamir's help in Washington. But observers nevertheless felt this was one of the important factors involved in the Rumanian President's invitation to the Israeli Premier.

HESS BURIED IN SECRET TO PREVENT FURTHER NEO-NAZI DEMONSTRATIONS

MUNICH, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, was buried Monday in secret at an unknown location. German Radio said the federal government ordered his immediate burial to prevent further neo-Nazi demonstrations and efforts to try to turn the former Spandau prisoner into "some sort of martyr."

The Mayor of Wunsiedel, Hess' home town where the burial was scheduled to take place Wednesday afternoon, said that Hess has not been buried anywhere in or near the city.

It is not known whether Hess' widow, Lisa, 87, attended the ceremony. His son, Wolf-Ruediger, 50, is still in the intensive care unit of a Munich hospital after suffering a stroke Saturday evening at his Munich home.

Hess died last Monday in Berlin's four-power Spandau Prison for war criminals where he had been serving a life term. A British military coroner had said the 93-year-old Hess died of asphyxiation after choking himself with an electric wire in a suicide attempt.

The four-power allied control over Spandau Prison is scheduled to end Monday when the U.S. guard will march out. The red brick fort will be razed to prevent it from becoming a neo-Nazi shrine.

Secret Burial Ordered

The federal government ordered Hess buried secretly and without delay as neo-Nazi demonstrations took place throughout West Germany over the weekend. In Wunsiedel alone, 75 neo-Nazis were arrested after a crowd of several hundred massed outside the cemetery gates. Police said sympathizers had come from as far away as north Germany, Bavaria and nearby Nuremberg to attend a banned demonstration. Police found Nazi flags, armbands and Nazi posters in some of the searched cars.

After the news of Hess' burial broke, local state and city police increased patrols near the city and cordoned it off from the main highways. Entrance into the cemetery itself was banned and local officials confiscated flowers and wreaths placed outside the cemetery wall.

Many West German papers Monday continued printing lengthy reports, often in a sympathetic tone, on Hess' life and the 40 years he spent in prison.

Hess' former Nuremberg trial lawyer, Alfred Seidel, Monday accused the four Western Allies of having kept Hess in prison in spite of his age and poor health. Seidel, who gave a press conference in Munich, said that the Allied claim that it was the Soviet Union which had vetoed Hess' liberation "was only an excuse -- taking refuge behind the skirts of the Soviet Communist Party."

MUSICIANS PROTEST AGAINST WALDHEIM AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL

SALZBURG, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Two internationally-renowned musicians wore yarmulkes during a concert appearance at the Salzburg Festival, saying they intended the gesture as a protest against Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Violinist Pinchas Zukerman and pianist and composer Marc Neikrug made no statement on stage, but told reporters during the intermission

that they did not normally wear the religious head coverings while performing and that "We don't normally perform in a country which has a President who was sufficiently suspect not to be allowed into our country."

The U.S. Justice Department has placed Waldheim on its "Watch List" of undesirable persons, citing evidence that he was involved in atrocities while serving in the German army from 1942 to 1945.

Israeli-born Zukerman said of his decision to perform in the yarmulke: "It's not a political statement but a feeling from inside that I must speak. I wear this as a symbol of the Jewish people."

U.S. Ambassador to Austria Ronald Lauder was among those attending their performance of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Richard Strauss.

Neikrug, a native of New York, counts among his own compositions the musical theater piece "Through Roses," about a violinist forced to perform while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp.

WORKERS STAGE LOCK-IN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- More than 1,000 workers of the giant Soltam arms and munitions factory at Yokneam in the Emek returned from an enforced five-week vacation Sunday and locked themselves and heads of the plant and its Histadrut Koor industrial complex owners inside the building.

The factory area was still closed and fenced off by Monday afternoon, with no sign of a break in the dispute on imminent dismissals.

The Histadrut's central committee was scheduled to meet Monday night to discuss the standoff but demanded that the management "hostages" first be released.

The employes have been angered by a Koor decision to dismiss many of the workers in the wake of sharp reductions in military and civilian orders. Soltam has been a major producer of heavy military equipment for the army and repairer of tank and personnel carriers.

But cuts in the defense budget have led to the cancellation of many orders, and demand for the company's civilian products has also fallen off.

Meanwhile, across the Carmel range, workers at the Rom Carmel factory on the outskirts of Haifa Monday continued their 10-day lock-in at the plant. They are protesting a decision by the Ordan Metal Works, which bought Rom Carmel some years ago, to dismiss many workers in a retrenchment move, also due to an empty order book.

DAY SCHOOL WON'T ADMIT BOY WHOSE MOTHER IS NOT HALACHICALLY JEWISH

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A Jewish day school here has refused to admit a 13-year-old boy because his mother is not halachically Jewish.

The board of the Jewish Maimonides Lyceum, the only Jewish secondary school in Amsterdam, has stated it will not admit Aram Bruckner for the upcoming school year despite his parents' desire to give the boy a Jewish education. The school denied Bruckner admission last year also. The boy's father, Robert Bruckner, said he will

present his son for admission despite the board's statement. He has already initiated legal proceedings to force his son's admission.

The father filed suit in the Amsterdam Lower District Court which ruled in favor of the school. He then appealed to the Amsterdam Higher District Court which ruled that the boy must be admitted because barring him would be tantamount to racial discrimination, a punishable offense under Dutch law.

The court also ruled that for each day the boy is not admitted, the school must pay a fine of about \$500.

The Maimonides Lyceum appealed the second ruling to the Supreme Court which will not hear the case for at least a month. In the meantime, the school has filed for an injunction to reduce the fines.

Local press has given considerable attention to the Bruckner story, depicting it as an example of Orthodox Jewish rigidity. One Amsterdam daily ran an interview with Aram in which he said he wanted to attend the Jewish day school because he experienced much anti-Semitism during the six years he attended a village elementary school in the province of Voralsberg in Austria.

AJCONGRESS WINS REVERSAL OF OPINION THAT THE U.S. IS A 'CHRISTIAN NATION'

CHICAGO, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Hailing the decision by the United States Court of Appeals last week holding Chicago's City Hall creche unconstitutional as a major victory, Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that "the court's ruling is a welcome and much needed reversal of the District Court's holding that 'America is a Christian nation'."

Pointing out that the decision is not hostile to religious celebration, Mann said that the court's opinion "does not mean that religious symbols must be invisible, or confined to the home, church or synagogue. It means only that they may not be placed in a public context which connotes an alliance between church and state."

The lawsuit, American Jewish Congress vs. City and County of Chicago, was filed in 1985 by American Jewish Congress lawyers on behalf of itself, other Jewish organizations and residents of Chicago to challenge the city's long-standing practice of having a creche displayed in City Hall at Christmas time.

"The court's ruling is especially gratifying as the latest in a series of opinions reflecting judicial recognition of the dangers of an overly broad reading of the Supreme Court's disturbing 1984 decision allowing a municipality to sponsor a creche," Mann said.

"We are pleased that municipal authorities in Chicago have indicated that they will not appeal, and therefore that the court's decision will be allowed to bring an end to what has long been a deeply divisive practice in this city."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The number of Jews worldwide fell by one million from 1970-1985 but rose by almost the same figure in Israel, a demographer said here. Dr. Roberto Bach, professor of statistics and demography at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said the world's Jewish population now stands at 12.881 million.

FIRST TAKE-OUT KOSHER RESTAURANT IN USSR TO OPEN NEXT MONTH IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The first kosher take-out restaurant in the Soviet Union will be opened on the grounds of the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow next month, it was announced here by Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Schneier said approval for the kosher food service had been given by Konstantin Kharchev, chairperson of the Council of Religious Affairs, USSR Council of Ministers.

At a recent meeting with Kharchev in Moscow at which they discussed plans for the new facility, Schneier said, it was agreed that the take-out restaurant would be established as an interim step prior to the opening of a full-fledged kosher restaurant.

Earlier this year, on his return from the Soviet Union, Schneier reported that Soviet government approval had been given for a kosher restaurant to be opened in Moscow. Because of problems in finding a suitable site for the restaurant, the provisional step of a take-out service was suggested by Schneier and accepted by Kharchev.

The Soviet official, who was the guest of Schneier in the U.S. late last year, is currently part of a Chautauqua Society "people-to-people" delegation of Soviet citizens, including an inter-faith group of Russian Orthodox, Baptist, Catholic, Jewish and Moslem religious leaders, that arrived in the United States last Friday.

The Jewish member of the delegation is Rabbi Adolph Shayevich, spiritual leader of the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow. The visitors will be in Washington Sunday, August 30.

Kosher Food From Hungary

Kosher food for the Moscow take-out service will be imported into the USSR from Hungary under the terms of an agreement Schneier worked out with Imre Miklos, chairperson of the Hungarian Church Office, a post equivalent to that of Minister of Religion.

Schneier pointed out that a wide variety of kosher foods was currently produced in Hungary, including cured meats, fruit preserves, wine and cheese. The only rabbinical seminary in Eastern Europe is located in Budapest, he noted.

All of the kitchen equipment that will be used for the take-out facility and also for the kosher restaurant when it is opened will be furnished by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Schneier said.

The Foundation will also provide "seed money" for the initial supply of foodstuffs that will be made available in the take-out restaurant, he added. The Appeal of Conscience leader, who is the rabbi of Park East Synagogue in Manhattan, said he expected "strong interest" among Moscow Jews in the kosher take-out restaurant and expressed the hope that, after the initial investment in food and equipment was made, the facility would become self-supporting.

The take-out restaurant will be located in a small building on the grounds of the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow. It is currently used for kiddush (refreshments) following Sabbath and holiday services in the synagogue.

In a related development, Schneier reported that 5,000 copies of a Hebrew-Russian Pentateuch (chumash), shipped to the Soviet Union from New York, were now being made available to syna-

gogue-goers in Moscow and other Jewish communities in the Soviet Union. The chumash was originally printed in 1902 in Vilna (now Vilnius, capital of Lithuania) and reprinted by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Five thousand copies were shipped to the USSR in 1977 but another 5,000 copies were held up by the deterioration of U.S.-Soviet relations. Schneier won permission to complete the shipment in a meeting in Moscow earlier this year with Kharchev, to whom he presented a copy when they met in Moscow.

YONA BOGALE DEAD AT 79

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Yona Bogale, the Ethiopian Jewish scholar and leader, died in Israel last week, it was reported here by the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. He was 79 years old. Those who witnessed the funeral in the Givat Shaul Cemetery in Jerusalem described it as an "incredible" scene. Busloads of Ethiopian Jews followed the body as it was transported from Bogale's home in Petach Tikvah to Jerusalem where he had requested to be buried.

About 4,000 mourners came to pay their respects to the great patriarch of the Ethiopian Jews. Among them were the Speaker of the Knesset, Shlomo Hillel, who delivered one of the main eulogies. Another one was delivered by Prisoner of Zion Gedaliah Uria, who survived terrible torture from the Ethiopian secret police for continuing to teach Hebrew and Jewish subjects against the government's wishes.

Bogale left Ethiopia as a youngster with Prof. Jacques Faitlovitch, a French social scientist who spent many years working to help the Ethiopian Jews. Faitlovitch took Bogale to Palestine to study Hebrew and other Jewish subjects, and then to Germany for study at an Orthodox school in Frankfurt-Am-Main. He later studied in both Switzerland and France. Ultimately, Bogale spoke nine languages fluently.

When he returned to Ethiopia in 1932, he taught at the school Faitlovitch opened and eventually became principal. In addition, after World War II, Bogale was hired by the Ethiopian government to work in the Ministries of Finance and Education.

In the 1950's, he supervised more than 20 Jewish schools opened in villages in Ethiopia by the Jewish Agency and he remained involved with Jewish education in his homeland until 1979, when he and his wife, Tayitu, were brought to Israel by the American Association for Ethiopian Jews (AAEJ).

On Nov. 15, 1979, Bogale went to Montreal where he addressed the General Assembly of the Council of the Jewish Federations, appealing to 2,500 North American Jewish leaders. He had become convinced that immigration to Israel was the only way his people could be saved.

* * *

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The two Chief Rabbis and the aged Hasidic Rabbi of Gur were among Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox figures who took part Monday evening in a mass pray-in at the Western Wall against Sabbath desecration in Jerusalem. The turnout -- many thousands -- was somewhat less than the organizers had hoped for but nevertheless impressive. The prayers ended with the sounding of the shofar.



AN HISTORIC MEETING

By Edwin Eytan

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- An international Jewish delegation met Tuesday for over one hour with Pope John Paul II for what a member of the delegation described as "a historic meeting which would have been inconceivable to previous generations."

The Pontiff and the nine Jewish representatives discussed all the issues which have been troubling Jewish communities throughout the world, including the Waldheim affair, relations with Israel and recent revisionist trends in western Europe.

Although the Pope did not respond directly to all the subjects according to one of the participants, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, he "listened carefully and patiently and responded in general terms."

Pope Approves Three Decisions

The Pope also approved the three decisions reached by the delegation in its meetings Tuesday morning with Agostino Cardinal Casaroli and during its negotiations with high ranking church officials Monday.

*The elaboration and the release of a Church declaration explaining its stand on the Holocaust, its condemnation of revisionist tendencies and tracing the roots of anti-Semitism. The Pope praised this decision and said he hoped it will have important consequences. The Pope also reminded the delegation that Tuesday, Sept. 1, was the 48th anniversary of Poland's invasion by Nazi Germany: "I know what a tragedy this meant. It is fitting we meet today."

* Providing for a mechanism which would enable the Catholic Church and the Jewish community to keep in closer contact so as to prevent such "surprises" as the Pope's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, his invitation to Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and the beatification of Edith Stein. This mechanism will also provide for regular meetings between representatives of the Jewish community and the Vatican State Secretary.

* Access to the Pope "whenever the need arises" for further frank discussions.

'A Historic And Moving Occasion'

All the nine Jewish representatives seemed emotionally moved as they left the Papal palace. Rabbi Henry Siegman of the American Jewish Congress said after the meeting, "it was a historic and moving occasion. It is the first time in history that the head of the Catholic Church engaged in a general conversation with members of the Jewish community, something which would have been inconceivable to earlier generations."

Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said the meeting with the Pope "makes new relationships with the Catholics now possible."

Tanenbaum, director of International Relations of the American Jewish Committee and one of the veterans of Jewish contacts with the Vatican, said after the meeting, that the Pope responded to all the issues raised though not

always directly and more in a generalized sort of way.

About Israel, the Pope responded, according to Tanenbaum, "in careful and even circumspect words, he did not want to go beyond the official Catholic church's known position."

Klaperman, who raised the issue once again towards the end of the meeting said the Pope, who had visited Jerusalem as a Bishop of Cracow some 15 years ago, said he "would like to revisit it." The delegation assured him he would be warmly welcomed.

The Pope also went out of his way to stress his deep understanding of the role Israel played in the consciousness and sentiments of the Jewish people. Tanenbaum said the Pope spoke with what seemed like personal affection about the Jewish State.

Joint Recitation Of A Psalm

The delegation had what some Jewish delegates described as "a strong conversation" on this subject earlier in the day with Casaroli. The nine Jewish representatives and the Pope started their historic meeting by reciting in turn, in Hebrew and in Latin, a psalm in front of an open Bible.

Both Jewish and Catholic spokesmen said this joint reading was meant to symbolize their joint heritage. As if to further stress the informal nature of the meeting, the Pope sat apart but on the same level with the other participants.

The long awaited meeting, which many hope will mark a turning point in the often tortuous relations between Jews and Roman Catholics, took place in the Pope's summer residence, a 17th century palace 20 miles south of Rome.

A Ceremonial Beginning

The nine Jewish representatives and six high ranking Catholic officials arrived together aboard a cavalcade of Vatican limousines. The Swiss guards, in their yellow uniforms with blue and red stripes, raised their lances, a traditional gesture of welcome, and Vatican officials greeted them at the gate.

The delegates were introduced into one of the Pope's private rooms on the fourth floor of the palace. The 15, nine Jews and six Catholics, sat in a semi-circle facing a throne from which the dais had been removed. Between the two lay an open Bible on a low table.

Emotion-Laden Atmosphere

The Pope, dressed in his usual white robes and a red skullcap, entered the room at exactly 12 noon. He moved slowly along the line of Jewish delegates shaking hands and greeting each one of them starting with Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), who headed the delegation.

The formal and at times emotion-laden atmosphere was broken by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. As the Pope walked up to him Schindler said "my only claim to fame lasts from your visit to New York (in 1979). I was at St. Patrick's Cathedral and held up a little boy saying: 'Remember for the rest of your life that

it was a rabbi who helped you see the Pope'. Vatican spokesperson Joaquim Navarro who was present told reporters that the Pope burst out laughing dispelling the tension in the room.

The conversation took place in English which, some of the participants said, "is obviously not the Pope's main language." The Pontiff replied generally to several of the delegates but often after a short pause as if trying to better formulate his words. To a certain extent this turned the otherwise free and frank conversation into somewhat of "a dialogue on the Jewish side and a monologue on the part of the Pope," some participants said.

Miami Meeting Looming As A Success

The Pontiff showed, however, a definite understanding for Jewish worries and preoccupations. He indicated that he intends to use his Miami Sept. 11 meeting with representatives of the Jewish community for "a substantial statement and not a formal address," in the words of one of the participants. Most of the participants were convinced that the Miami meeting will be a huge success.

After the one-hour-and-five minute formal meeting, the delegates and the Pontiff spent another 10 minutes in what was described as "a friendly exchange." Tanenbaum told him that Polish friends who remember the Pope from his Cracow days had assured him that John Paul II "was the best Polish bishop with whom the Jews had ever to deal." The Pope, known for his continued contacts with his native country, seemed pleased.

Pope Cites Continuing Source Of Hope

The Pope concluded the meeting by citing the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt as continuing source of hope. He also expressed his conviction that "with the Lord's help, evil can be overcome and even the awesome evil of the Shoah overcome and somewhat repaired."

Earlier the delegation conferred with Cardinal Casaroli, the second highest ranking Vatican official. Tanenbaum later said that Casaroli "agreed to meet with us again as the opportunities demand to prevent further surprises from taking place, such as the Pope's meeting with Waldheim, his invitation to Arafat and the canonization of Edith Stein. Such contacts would prevent Jewish-Catholic relations from being shocked and disturbed. Such consultations would also help the church understand what is happening in the Jewish community."

Tanenbaum added "obviously we shall also have access to the Pope if and when circumstances warrant it."

Joint Communique Issued

The two delegations issued a joint communique reiterating their decisions and expressing the hope for a future better understanding.

At a joint press conference, Bishop William Keeler, Bishop of Harrisburg and chairman of the American Bishop's Conference for Inter-religious Affairs, said that Jews and Catholics will work together in elaborating and drafting the Vatican document on the Holocaust and the roots of anti-Semitism.

Keeler said American Catholics "need such a document as much as our Jewish brethren." Waxman explained that the Jewish delegation has expressed its shock and outrage over the Wald-

heim affair and the Vatican expressed its own reasons for the meeting.

He concluded: "Now that we have all made our position clear it is time we move forward."

CAMPAIGN TO PERSUADE THE VATICAN TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles stepped up its campaign this week to persuade the Vatican to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel by taking out full page advertisements in major national and international newspapers.

The ads which appeared in the International Herald Tribune, The New York Times, and Los Angeles Times on Monday and Tuesday note that 250,000 Americans have signed a petition calling upon Pope John Paul II to reverse Vatican policy and establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The ads coincided with a top level meeting of Jewish leaders and Vatican officials including the Pope on Monday and Tuesday. But the Wiesenthal Center has also increased efforts on this front in anticipation of the Pope's visit to America beginning next week. The Vatican's absence of diplomatic relations was one of four central topics raised by Jewish leaders at their meetings in Rome this week.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center, said "Not since the days of Pope John XXIII's historic Vatican II Council's message of reconciliation has there been a higher level of expectation by world Jewry in connection with our relationship with the Vatican."

While noting that the Pope has been a victim of Nazism and has spoken out against anti-Semitism, Hier said "this is also the Pope who met with Yasir Arafat and Kurt Waldheim and who, in 1988, will meet with Waldheim again in Vienna"

Hier also noted the inconsistency of the Vatican's relations with dictatorships like Fidel Castro's Cuba, Agosto Pinochet's Chile, Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran and "scores of other military juntas" while virtually singling out Israel as a country not worthy of such ties.

"It is time, then, to also focus on symptoms that made possible Pope John Paul II's stepping to the front of the line to rehabilitate Kurt Waldheim, and what makes possible a return visit with Waldheim next June," Hier said. "It is, in our view, in large measure due to the long silence with which the Vatican has treated the Jewish people, a long silence which was deadly during the Holocaust years, and which continues through the Vatican's refusal to accept the reality of Jewish renewal."

* * *

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force soldier was slightly injured in south Lebanon Tuesday, when a roadside charge was exploded as he passed by. The incident took place inside the security zone, near the village of Bint Jbail.

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REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 7, Labor Day, a postal holiday.

SOME 2,000 WORKERS TO BE DISMISSED IN WAKE OF CANCELLATION OF LAVI By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Senior defense sources said Tuesday that no more than 1,500-2,000 Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) employes will be dismissed as a result of the cancellation of the Lavi warplane project.

The sources, according to Maariv, said that IAI in any event had intended to soon dismiss about 1,500 employes as part of efficiency measures. Also, any IAI employe who is fired because the Lavi project has been scrapped will receive an average compensation of \$55,000, according to Defense Ministry data that has been conveyed to the Ministries of Finance and Economy and Planning. Yediot Ahronot reported that about 500 employees of IAI's engineering division who saw the writing on the wall are currently conducting negotiations with South African firms interested in their skills. These companies have offered the engineers monthly wages of about \$7,000, most of which is to be deposited into Swiss bank accounts.

According to Maariv, IAI employs 22,392 persons, including 4,007 engineers, 4,558 technical engineers, 8,142 production workers, and the rest -- no fewer than 5,685 -- are services and administration employes, or 25 percent of the IAI work force.

The paper said there is a feeling in some circles that this ratio is too high, and that IAI, which is operating at a loss, can make personnel cuts. In fact, IAI management had intended to dismiss 1,500 workers without any connection to the Lavi project.

Unemployment Not Expected To Increase

The Lavi project itself employed 5,085 persons, of whom only 1,592 were engineers and scientists. The rest were 1,230 technical engineers, 1,495 production workers and no fewer than 758 service employes.

Maariv commented that according to Defense Ministry figures, the alternatives to the Lavi are supposed to provide work for 3,700 persons in 1988 and 5,000 in 1989.

The conclusion is that unemployment will not grow because of the cancellation of the project. Normal unemployment will be generated, and there will be a need to retrain workers, who would in any case have undergone retraining in another two or three years.

According to Defense Ministry figures, 7,090 persons have been dismissed from defense industries in the past two years, inter alia because the Ministry's budget was cut in other areas beside the Lavi. Since April 1985, 1,910 employes have been dismissed from Israel military industries, 1,300 from IAI, 1,200 from Tadiran, 620 from Beit Shemesh Engines, 500 from Rafael (armament development authority), 450 from Ordan, 300 from Ashot Ashkelon, 250 from Elop, 220 from Elbit, 180 from Ilisra, and 160 from Cyclone.

VANUNU AND POLICE STRUGGLE AT COURTHOUSE DOOR By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- A struggle erupted Monday in front of Jerusalem District Court between former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, on trial for alleged espionage and treason, and police escorting him. The tussle

arose when Vanunu tried to remove the motorcycle helmet which he has been forced to wear to keep him from communicating with the press.

Upon entering the court and upon his departure, Vanunu tried to take off the helmet to yell something to the press. Police guarding him thwarted him by force, and operated their sirens to drown out his voice.

The trial of Vanunu, charged with leaking detailed plans of the Dimona nuclear facility to The Times of London, began Sunday behind closed doors. If convicted, he faces life imprisonment.

On Sunday, Vanunu was brought to the courthouse in a blue police van with the windows painted over to prevent his being seen or communicating with reporters. The van entered the court compound Sunday out of sight of the dozens of journalists waiting to get a glimpse of the defendant. On Monday, however, journalists were able to get closer to the van.

Vanunu's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, told the press Sunday that his first aim would be to have at least part of the trial opened to the public. Feldman contended that the "circumstances under which Vanunu was brought to Israel" negated the admissibility of confessions which were presented to the court, as well as the court's jurisdiction in the case. Vanunu's confessions were admitted as evidence on condition that the court would eventually reject Feldman's argument.

Vanunu's younger brother, Asher, was not allowed into the courtroom and stood in the corridor of the courthouse, waiting for word of the trial's proceedings. He said that although the rest of the family would not come to the court, the family stood behind the defendant.

The first prosecution witness called to the stand Sunday was Shimon Savir, head of the police unit investigating serious crimes. Savir reportedly testified on the police interrogation of Vanunu. The last prosecution witness completed his testimony on Monday, and Vanunu was to begin his own testimony Tuesday.

The first stage of the trial is expected to end this week. The defense will then call in experts from abroad to testify on the general dangers and alleged illegality of nuclear weapons.

There were press reports Monday that Vanunu had been nominated for the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize.

SCHOOLBELLS ARE RINGING

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Some 1.4 million schoolchildren -- about one out of every three Israelis -- returned to the classrooms Tuesday, at the end of the summer vacation. The figure of 1,370 million students was some 20,000 more than at the start of the last school year. University students begin their academic year in October.

The Education Ministry reported fewer than usual problems with the start of this school year. Teachers decided not to implement a threatened strike Monday night, saying that sufficient progress had been made in salary negotiations to allow them to start work on time.

Schools in the Arab sector, with some 200,000 pupils, will open Wednesday in a demonstrative move against the shortage of classrooms.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon explained his Ministry had not been able to keep up with a great increase in the number of Arab pupils which, he said, was mainly due to greater acceptance on the part of Arab fathers of education for their daughters.

CHARNY CASE HIGHLIGHTED BY MASS. ATTORNEY GENERAL

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The Attorney General of Massachusetts, James Shannon, has added his voice to that of a host of Massachusetts lawmakers, religious and communal figures in asking the Soviets to permit the emigration of cancer patient Benjamin Charny of Moscow, whose brother Leon lives in Needham, Mass.

Shannon held a meeting in his Boston office several days ago at which he initiated an effort to make the Charny case a priority with attorneys general across the country, according to the New England regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which has been instrumental in efforts on behalf of Charny. Shannon said he will urge a representative group of U.S. attorneys general who will be traveling to the Soviet Union in October to raise the Charny case in specific, and human rights in general, with prosecutors general there.

Benjamin Charny, an eight-year refusenik, suffers from malignant melanoma (skin cancer), as well as neck and thyroid tumors which Soviet oncologists agree cannot be surgically treated because of severe heart failure and chronic hypertension.

Could Be Treated In U.S.

Appraisal of his condition by a Montreal oncologist, Gerald Batist, who saw Charny last year in Moscow, has lent credence to the belief that Charny could avail himself of advanced medical techniques available in the West. The New England Medical Center in Boston has had a long-standing offer to treat Charny free of charge if only he would be allowed to emigrate.

The 49-year-old mathematician is unable to work because of his medical condition and because of his refusenik status, accorded him in 1979 by virtue of knowledge of "state secrets." His published papers on mathematical formulas have long been part of the general international mathematical literature and reveal no secrets, says Leon, 34, who emigrated in 1979 just weeks before his brother's cancer was diagnosed. Benjamin has been a father figure to Leon since the early deaths of their parents.

The younger Charny, a doctoral student in computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been pleading his brother's case vigorously. In May, he stood solitary vigil in front of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. He was joined in his demonstration one afternoon by several members of Congress. At that time, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) circulated a petition in Congress that was signed by virtually all lawmakers present, asking the Soviets to allow Benjamin to emigrate.

Leon has also appeared with Batist in front of Congressional committees on health to discuss his brother's case as well as that of other cancer patients in light of a U.S.-Soviet cancer research agreement on the books but not in practice.

The cancer refusenik's case has also been championed by the Junior Sen. from Massachusetts, John Kerry (D.), as well as Rep. Joseph Kennedy Jr. (D. Mass.), Speaker of the House Jim Wright (D. Texas), who was in Moscow earlier this year; by Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis (D.) and his wife Kitty, who works personally on behalf of Soviet Jewry; by Bernard Cardinal Law of Boston, and by the entire New England ADL

office under the helm of regional director Leonard Zakim, who urged the attorney general's attention to the Charny case.

Shannon, a key supporter of a resolution drafted at the June 1987 meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General, titled "Legal Exchanges with the USSR -- Human Rights Statement," has reportedly also agreed to contact the president of the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL) to personally request the latter's intervention in the case as demonstration of the ASL's stated commitment to human rights.

In 1985, the American Bar Association (ABA) entered into a "declaration of cooperation" with the ASL to promote the development of international law for "peace and human rights through law," which was reaffirmed last month at the ABA's annual convention in San Francisco despite arguments against the agreement by a special task force formed to oppose U.S.-Soviet legal ties and by Soviet Jewry activists.

Shannon, who as a Congressman visited the USSR in January 1982, is also asking the ABA itself to join with him in seeking Charny's emigration. This week, the ABA sent a delegation to the USSR to meet with the ASL.

Earlier this month, Benjamin's daughter, Anna Blank, and her husband, Yuri, and two-month-old daughter, Sima, received permission to emigrate. They applied to emigrate with Anna's parents Benjamin and Yadwiga in 1979 and individually in '83.

The Blanks are reluctant to leave the Charnys behind, fearing Benjamin's medical condition and a repeat of the situation in 1979 when Leon emigrated, believing his brother and family would be joining him shortly. Earlier this year, Benjamin was told by OVIR authorities "not to bother them" until 1995.

At last week's meeting, attention was also drawn to other cancer patient refuseniks: Sophia Bravve, 38, who suffers from cancer of the thyroid gland, and whose sister-in-law, Rimma Bravve, died of metasthetized ovarian cancer in July in Rochester, NY. Sophia received permission but her parents, both ill, have not. Naum Meiman, 76, former dissident, has been diagnosed as having leukemia. His wife, Inna, who was a cancer patient refusenik, died in February in Washington. The Soviets would not let her husband accompany her.

Other cancer patients requesting permission to emigrate include Mariana Simantova, Boris Furman, Fayima Kogan and Eduard Ehrlich, 8.

Charny was among a group of five original cancer patient refuseniks organized in Moscow and publicized in the West by Batist in Montreal as the International Cancer Patients Solidarity Committee. Of the five, Tatyana Bogomolny is now in San Francisco, and the other three--Bravve, Meiman, and Lea Maryasina -- died in the West after long waits for their visas that delayed their treatment.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Tuesday that 782 Jews were allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union last month. August marks the second time this year that Jewish emigration decreased: in July, 819 emigrated; and in June the figure slipped to 796, after reaching 871 in May.