

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## EX-NAZI STRIPPED OF CITIZENSHIP IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND, June 23 (JTA) -- Federal Judge Frank Battisti ruled today that the citizenship of John Demjanjuk be "revoked, vacated and cancelled" because the 60 year-old Ukrainian-born automobile worker lied about his Nazi activities in World War II when he applied for naturalization in 1958. The judgement, handed down in writing, cleared the way for U.S. authorities to initiate deportation proceedings against Demjanjuk.

Battisti's decision was the final act in a legal drama that began in August, 1977 when the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) brought charges against Demjanjuk, an employee of the Ford Motor Co. and a resident of the Cleveland area since 1952. His trial opened in Federal Court here last February 10.

A parade of witnesses, many of them concentration camp survivors living in Germany, Israel and Uruguay, identified the defendant as a guard at the Treblinka and Sobibor camps in Poland in 1942-1943 who was known to the inmates as "Ivan the Terrible" because of his gratuitous cruelty and atrocities. He was charged with torturing thousands of Jewish and other prisoners and herding them into the gas chambers.

Demjanjuk maintained that he was a German prisoner-of-war at the time. His trial last winter was the occasion of a near confrontation between Holocaust survivors and the local Ukrainian community which supported Demjanjuk. The latter contended he was innocent and the victim of Soviet-inspired persecution.

## REAGAN PLEDGES SOVIET JEWS REMAIN ON U.S.-U.S.S.R. AGENDA

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- President Reagan gave his personal assurances today that the fate of Soviet Jews will continue to be on the United States' agenda in any negotiations with the Soviet Union. In a telephone call to Theodore Mann, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), the President said he has already communicated this fact to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in a personal note.

The President's telephone call was in response to a letter of June 16 from Mann, in which the American Jewish leader conveyed a message given him on his recent trip to the Soviet Union by 15 Jewish emigration activists from several cities in the USSR. The message expressed gratitude to the President for his recent meeting with Avital Shcharansky, wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, and a recently released former prisoner Josif Mendelevich.

In his discussion with Mann, the President said he was "working on the issue" of Soviet Jewry, but believed it was sometimes wiser not to deal in headlines, but in a more direct manner. Mann told the President that the plight of Soviet Jewry was of great concern to many American citizens, and a priority for the Jewish community, a fact acknowledged by Reagan, who also indicated his concern for some Christians struggling to leave the Soviet Union because of persecution.

Following the conversation with the President, Mann expressed his belief that "this Administration has a strong interest in the fate of Soviet Jewry" and supports their right to emigrate, to be repatriated to Israel and to be reunited with their families.

## STATE DEPT. REITERATES U.S. HAS NO EVIDENCE OF IRAQ BOMB PLANS

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- The State Department continued to maintain today that the United States has "no definitive evidence" that Iraq was moving towards a nuclear bomb before its reactor was destroyed by Israel June 7.

David Passage, a State Department spokesman, stressed this position in the wake of a report that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin told a Knesset committee yesterday that he received a document from the U.S. last January expressing American concern that Iraq was planning to build a bomb. Begin reportedly said the document, based on intelligence reports, was given to him by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

Passage said the U.S. has discussed its "concerns" about nuclear proliferation with a number of nations in the Middle East. He stressed the "conclusions" did not differ from that expressed by senior State Department officials when they testified before Senate and House committees last week that they did not hear about Israel's belief that Iraq planned to build a nuclear weapon.

But Passage refused to comment directly on Begin's reported revelations. "We do not discuss the nature of sensitive exchanges that we have with foreign governments including friendly foreign governments," the Department spokesman said. "We specifically cannot discuss the nature of intelligence exchanges." He added that even if "Prime Ministers" or other "heads of government" were prepared to discuss private exchanges they had with the United States, "I am not."

Passage also would not comment on an Israel radio report that Begin told the Knesset committee that the situation in Lebanon was not as serious as he has contended. Begin reportedly said he has used his threat against the Syrian missiles in Lebanon to divert attention from Israel's planned attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Passage said that the U.S. efforts over the past weeks particularly the mission of special U.S. envoy Philip Habib "have been motivated by the seriousness in which we view events in that area, the tension in that area and our recognition that there was an urgent need for undertaking some action which would help defuse those tensions and restore a degree of normalcy."

But Passage stressed that the U.S. is not urging any specific action, "such as the removal of the Syrian missiles," because Washington believes the best way to help ease the situation is not to make any specific suggestions on which way the parties involved should move. Meanwhile, Habib, who was in Saudi Arabia over the weekend, was in Beirut today. (By David Friedman)

## JEWS SCHOLARS URGED TO IGNORE BIDS TO MOON'S CONCLAVE IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Two major American Jewish organizations urged Jewish scholars today not to accept invitations from the Unification Church of the Rev. Sung Myung Moon to a conference under



its auspices to be held in Israel in August. A letter signed by Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, and Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, noted that "The writings of Rev. Moon are distinctly anti-Semitic," a fact they said was "documented in a study done by Rabbi James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee."

The letter, sent to a large group of prominent Jewish scholars, said the purpose of the Unification Church in holding conferences in Israel and elsewhere to which distinguished persons in the arts, sciences and professions were invited, all expenses paid, was "to gain respectability through the association by the Church with names of well-known and respected scholars."

Gold and Siegman said the Unification Church was objectionable because "Numerous Jewish homes have been thrown into turmoil and parents subjected to severe suffering as a result of the activities of the Unification Church." They were referring to its intensive proselytizing among Jewish and other youth. Additionally, the letter noted that the monies expended by the Church for its conferences are largely derived from the labor of its followers "under conditions of exploitation and the suppression of free choice." They pointed out that although the scholars who attend the conferences do not endorse the Church, the association of their names serves the Church's purposes.

#### PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE SUPPORTS EXTENSION OF RUMANIA'S MFN STATUS

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, told a Congressional panel yesterday that the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations supports another one-year approval of most favored nation (MFN) status for Rumania in view of its record on Jewish emigration. But he said continued close scrutiny was necessary, as well as changes in the procedures required by Rumania for applicants for emigration permits.

Spitzer, testifying on behalf of the Presidents Conference before the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Trade which is considering extension of Rumania's MFN status, said, "We find the agreement (on freer Jewish emigration from Rumania) is being substantially fulfilled and we have received cooperation from the Rumanian government, but many problems are still to be resolved."

Testimony was also given by Jacob Birnbaum, director of the Center for Russian and Eastern European Jewry, who told the subcommittee that Rumania should revert to an exit rate of 3000-4000 Jews a year, as was the case in the early 1970s. He noted that after Rumania obtained MFN status, Jewish emigration was cut from 4000 in 1973 and 1974 to 1000 in recent years. He said that "Just as Rumania's migration in West Germany and the United States has been somewhat regularized at 11,000 and 3,000 yearly respectively, so too a reasonable arrangement should be made for Jewish emigration at the earlier rate of 3000 to 4000 annually."

One problem cited by Spitzer with respect to Rumanian emigration procedures was the requirement that prospective emigrants must appear at a police station to request the appropriate

forms. He contended that such a procedure is "intimidating." He said the Presidents Conference recommended that the government allow applicants to request the forms through the offices of Rumania's Chief Rabbi, Moses Rosen.

#### Some Delays Called Unreasonable

Spitzer also cited delays of longer than five months between initial application and the issuance of passports which, he said, was "an unreasonable period for a would-be emigrant to wait." He said in some cases, applicants and their families had to wait for years, an undue hardship that deterred other Jews from applying for exit permits.

According to Spitzer, a backlog of 527 cases presently exists of Rumanian Jews seeking to emigrate. He said that of a list of 520 names he presented to the Rumanian authorities when he visited Bucharest last April, the government recently informed him that 170 persons have been granted permission to leave. "This still leaves a backlog of 350 persons, 112 of whom have been waiting for approval for more than a year," he said. There are 177 new applications filed since January 1, 1980 that have not been acted upon favorably as of June 2, of this year, he said.

Spitzer acknowledged however that "a number of difficult cases have been resolved with the Rumanian government since the agreement was reached in 1979" and that the pool of potential emigrants is diminishing because of the advancing age of much of the Jewish population.

Birnbaum noted that only 282 Rumanian Jews reached Israel during the first five months of 1981, an average of 56 a month, in contrast to the 250-350 who were arriving monthly several years ago.

#### KENNEDY RAPS REAGAN FOR SALE OF ARMS AND FOR UN RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) sharply attacked the Reagan Administration last night for its treatment of Israel in the aftermath of the Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor June 7. He charged that the United States vote in the Security Council against Israel not only hurt Israel but also damaged America's strategic interests in the Middle East.

Addressing more than 500 people at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here, sponsored by the American Friends of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Kennedy justified the raid declaring, "I consider the State Department's criticism of Israel's decision in this difficult situation to be unwarranted, unwise and unjust."

"The United States should not second-guess Israel in a dilemma that potentially involved a threat to the very survival of our best friend and ally in the Middle East. This issue is central to the security of Israel. It is an issue for the Israelis to determine for themselves," Kennedy said, to the applause of the audience. "Instead of assailing Israel," Kennedy added, "we should criticize the failure to forestall European suppliers from providing sensitive nuclear technology to Iraq."

#### Assails Iraqi-U.S. Cooperation On Draft

Kennedy took particular exception to the fact that the resolution condemning Israel's raid was drafted jointly by the U.S. Ambassador to the UN and Foreign Minister Saadoun Hamadi of Iraq. He said, "Never again should an American Ambassador to the United Nations sit down with the Foreign Minister of Iraq and write a resolution to condemn the people of the State of Israel. Never again should our UN Ambassador, in front of all the world, compare Israel's ef-



fort to protect its very survival with the Libyan invasion of Chad....compare what Israel did in its own defense to the Syrian occupation of Lebanon. And surely our UN Ambassador should never again compare what Israel did to the brutal Soviet invasion and destruction in Afghanistan."

Kennedy, also derided President Reagan's decision to suspend the deliveries of four F-16 aircraft to Israel as "bad in principal and bad in practice." He called on the President the end the suspension "without further delay." He stressed strong opposition to the Administration decision to sell advanced military planes and equipment to Saudi Arabia. "America must never give Saudi Arabia or any other nation the power to overwhelm Israel's air defense," he said. He vowed to "vote and speak and work against the AWACS sale and the other part of this dangerous arms deal with Saudi Arabia."

#### Carmi Named by CJF as Executive Vice President

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Morton Mandel, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, has announced that Carmi Schwartz had been appointed to the position of executive vice president of the CJF, effective Sept. 1.

Schwartz, CJF associate executive vice president since 1979, will succeed Robert Hiller, who served in CJF's top management position for the past two years and who will continue as a consultant.

Prior to joining the CJF, Schwartz spent four and a half years as executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan New Jersey. Previously he had been associate director and director of social planning for the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore and held various executive positions in the Jewish Federations of Utica (N.Y.) and Miami and Montreal.

Schwartz said that "today Federations are directing increasing attention to the process of community building. Helping Jews in North America develop a sense of Jewish identity and responsibility is now a high priority in the Federation program."

Schwartz asserts that "the local Federations and the local community is where Jewish life is acted out. Facilitating the enactment of Jewish life in our local communities is the goal of CJF."

#### Tadmor, New Jewish Agency Director General Cites Goals

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- Dr. Shlomo Tadmor, the newly appointed Director General of the Jewish Agency, wants Jews throughout the world to share equally in meeting the social and humanitarian needs of Israel's immigrant society.

Speaking to representatives of the Agency's 4300 employees, Tadmor said, "My task will be to bring together the component parts from Israel and the diaspora in order to enhance the organization and ideological functions of the Jewish Agency."

Tadmor, 55, was born in Yugoslavia and came to Palestine in 1937. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University and holds a doctorate in educational administration from Columbia University in New York. The Jewish Agency Executive named him Director General earlier this month. He is regarded as a specialist who cannot only administer the multi-million dollar organization but get along as well with its thousands of employees.

#### 142 Congressmen Ask Reagan to Work for Syrian Jews Rescue

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- A bi-partisan group of 142 members of Congress has sent a let-

ter to President Reagan urging him to work for the release of some 5000 Jews in Syria. The letter, initiated by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY), noted that the Jews still in Syria are "the remnant of a once flourishing community" and now "face a number of deprivations and handicaps, the most serious of which is denial of the right to emigrate."

The letter stated that "Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of Syrian Jews want nothing more or less than the opportunity to leave Syria so that they can live in freedom in other lands, the Syrian government, in violation of its obligations as a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has refused to let them leave."

The signatories added, "We recognize that the U.S.-Syrian relationship is a strained one, and that the prospects for significant improvement in the near future are uncertain. Nevertheless, we feel it is important for Syria to know that how they treat the Jewish community, and more specifically, their position with respect to Jewish emigration, will be one of the factors the Reagan Administration will take into account in assessing its policy toward Syria."

Solarz said the only exception to Syria's refusal to allow Jews to emigrate occurred in 1977 when he succeeded in getting permission from Damascus for 15 unmarried Jewish women to come to the U.S. so they could marry Jewish men here. "I was pleased to act as matchmaker or 'shadchen' for these women, almost all of whom married in Brooklyn," Solarz said. "The Syrian government has stymied all of our efforts since that time to bring freedom to Jewish citizens who remain in that country, including about 500 single Jewish women who cannot find husbands due to the fact that most unmarried Jewish men have long since left Syria. In the face of Syrian obstinacy on this issue, I believe the U.S. must redouble its efforts" for the release of Syrian Jews, Solarz said.

#### House Unit Cancels \$500,000 Grant for UN 'Decade of Women'

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- The House Appropriation Sub-Committee eliminated today the \$500,000 appropriation for the United Nations "Decade of Women" and placed the funds instead in a bi-partisan fund to assist poor women in developing countries. The "Decade" started in 1976 and will continue until 1985.

Rep. William Lehman (D. Fla.), who proposed the action, said that the UN Decade of Women Conference held in Copenhagen last July "was practically run by the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose goal was to politicize it in the same way it did at the Mexico City Conference in 1975" which was "the first international effort to identify Zionism with racism."

Rep. Lehman stressed that "as long as any UN agency insists on violating its rules so that it can ostracize Israel and promote anti-Semitism or pervert western values, our subcommittee will have something to say about it."

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Thousands of Jewish sportsmen taking part in next month's eleventh maccabiah will participate in a symbolic tree-planting ceremony on July 6, the maccabiah opening day at the maccabiah forest near Modi'in. The site is close to the grave of the original maccabee family.

Every maccabiah participant will be asked to contribute a small sum -- and will receive a tree-certificate attesting to a tree having been planted in the forest, a JNF spokesman explained.



## FLATTO-SHARON: A KNESSET CURIOSITY, A CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM

By Hugh Orgel

(This is the 10th in a series of articles describing the political parties running in the Knesset elections June 30.)

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA) -- Shmuel Flatto-Sharon's one-man "Development and Peace" party is probably the most curious of the more than two dozen lists that will present themselves to Israeli voters in the Knesset elections next Tuesday.

When he first stood for election four years ago, Flatto was a new immigrant who neither spoke nor understood Hebrew. Hanging over his head was an extradition request from France where he was wanted to stand trial on charges of illegal financial transactions, embezzlement and fraud. To everyone's surprise, he won an unexpected large vote, almost sufficient in fact to obtain three seats in the ninth Knesset. The votes were largely wasted inasmuch as Flatto was the sole candidate on his "list."

His entry into the Knesset granted him automatic immunity from extradition. The French tried him in absentia, found him guilty and pronounced sentence to be enforced if he ever returned to France.

But Flatto's troubles with the law were not ended. The large vote he garnered in May, 1977 aroused suspicion. While part of it could be attributed to sympathy for an underdog, "persecuted" by the French, investigations found irregularities. He was found guilty of bribing voters, for which a Jerusalem district court has sentenced him to one year in jail.

His Hebrew now greatly improved, Flatto insists he is innocent. His claim is that whatever he did in his election campaign four years ago was done by every other party. The haste with which his fellow-MKs voted -- at the final session of the outgoing Knesset -- to bar him from the chamber may indeed show a measure of guilty conscience on their part. In any event, Flatto, a loner, was always regarded as something of an upstart by his colleagues.

The vote, which froze his Knesset salary even before he had a chance to appeal the court's verdict, was regarded by some as vindictive. But Flatto says he never took his salary but donated it to special projects. He is, in fact, a multi-millionaire by Israeli standards and his lifestyle corresponds. His expensive villa in the exclusive Savyon suburb of Tel Aviv has been described as palatial. It is filled with priceless paintings and sculptures line its imported marble floors.

During the past four years, Flatto has established a number of free or nearly free dental clinics throughout the country. Those who utilize that service may vote for him as indeed may others who still see him as an underdog, persecuted this time by the Israeli establishment.

The platform of the "Development and Peace" party is couched in general terms. Flatto promises that if re-elected, he will utilize his financial expertise to set Israel's economy on the road to recovery. His financial acumen is hardly to be questioned. It raised him from the status of a poor Polish immigrant to a multi-millionaire in France over a period of a few years. In light of the subsequent developments, he may be too talented in the murkier areas of high finance. Should Flatto win re-election, Israel will face a difficult con-

stitutional problem: What happens to a one-man party if its lone member is in jail? Can the Knesset sit with 119 members when the mandatory number is 120? The legal experts may soon be called upon to solve that dilemma.

## HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS PLEDGE AT WESTERN WALL NEVER TO FORGET

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- A massive four-day gathering of more than 10,000 Holocaust survivors from all over the world ended during the weekend in front of the Western Wall with a testament that they would never forget the Nazi genocide.

The testament was read in six languages -- Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, English, French and Russian -- by six survivors, residents of Israel, Australia, the United States and France.

The testament included the following vow: "In the name of dead parents and children ... never to let the memory of the six million be erased ... We take this oath to be handed down from father to son, from mother to daughter, from generation to generation ... remember what the German killers and their accomplices did to the Jewish people ... Remember what an indifferent world did to us. Remember the kindnesses of the Righteous Gentiles. We shall also remember the miracle of the rebirth in the land of our ancestors of the State of Israel."

The Testament was signed by all participants on 36 long sheets of parchment. It was deposited in the Yad Vashem.

Five children of survivors responded in five of the six languages. As a symbol of the plight of Soviet Jewry, no second generation Russian Jew responded.

"We are the first generation born after the darkness," they said, pledging to repeat and hand down the story of their parents, to support Israel, and to further Jewish culture and education. Each of the six survivors lit a memorial torch on a candelabrum.

Premier Menachem Begin told the throng that "Israel will never allow an enemy to develop weapons of mass destruction to be used against the Jewish people -- never again." He urged the guests from abroad to come on aliya, noting the fate of Europe's Jews who had remained in their native lands until it was too late.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who spoke in Hebrew, Yiddish and English, said he had not remembered any event since the reunification of Jerusalem "that says so much to the Jewish people" as the assemblage of the survivors in Israel.

## CAMPUS CALLED 'DISASTER AREA' FOR IMPACT ON JEWISH STUDENTS

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., June 23 (JTA) -- Declaring that the college campus is "the disaster area" for mixed marriages and assimilation, the president of the Rabbinical Council of America announced a major move today to reach out to college groups and offer them advice and support to strengthen Jewish life in the universities. Rabbi Sol Roth told the 45th national convention that the Rabbinical Council would sponsor "Yavneh," a college campus organization comprised of Orthodox Jewish young people. Yavneh has its headquarters in New York City.

Rabbis at the convention were called on by Rabbi Roth to visit college campuses in their areas to meet with Yavneh on action programs. Each region of the Rabbinical Council will organize an advisory board to consult with Yavneh "to direct our attention to the intolerable erosion of the Jewish community through mixed marriages whose proportion is exploding at an unacceptable rate of 40 to 50 percent," Rabbi Roth said.