

## EXCLUSIVE TO THE JTA VETERAN SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER PROMISES PERSONALLY TO INVESTIGATE BRAILOVSKY CASE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Mikhail Suslov, secretary and veteran member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, has promised personally to investigate the case of Viktor Brailovsky, the Jewish refusenik sentenced to five years exile in central Asia.

Suslov gave the promise to Dr. Maurice Miller, one of 10 British Labor Members of Parliament visiting Moscow last week as guests of the Presidium of the Soviet Communist Party.

Miller, the only Jewish member of the delegation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he also presented Suslov with a file on Brailovsky, who was flown to his place of exile last week.

### The Yoffe and Yakir Cases

Miller also described a two-and-a-half hour private meeting he had with two eminent refuseniks and their wives -- Alexander Yoffe and Evgeniy Yakir. The meeting took place Monday, the last day of the six-day visit, at the Yoffes' apartment in southern Moscow.

Both men have been trying for several years to emigrate to Israel, but according to Miller they are "almost in despair" at the delays they have encountered. Miller said he raised their cases with academician Igor Lebedev, "who appeared to be sympathetic."

Yakir, 50, is the son of Gen. Maurice Yakir, a founder of the Soviet Air Force, who was executed with his brother, Army Gen. Ion Yakir, in Stalin's bloody purge of the Soviet military high command in 1937.

After applying to settle in Israel in 1973, Yakir lost his academic post and has made a living coaching tennis players, stringing tennis rackets and translating. He and his wife have a 26-year-old son.

Yoffe, a 43-year-old mathematician, was given a more junior job after applying to emigrate four years ago. Married, with two children, their emigration application comes up for review again in 1983.

### 1 Million Soviet Jews Would Go To Israel

According to Miller, both men estimated that more than one million Soviet Jews would try to leave for Israel if they were not frightened about the consequences of applying. Currently, some 300,000 people have been formally invited to join their relatives in Israel and are awaiting visas.

They also told Miller that in their view, Jewish would-be emigrants would benefit from an improvement in American-Soviet relations and that the present deterioration in East-West ties was to the detriment of Soviet Jewry. Before visiting Moscow, Miller, a member of the Western European Union, had talks in Washington with officials at the State Department and Defense Department.

## KHARKOV AUTHORITIES CLAIM TO HAVE UNCOVERED A 'ZIONIST CELL'

NEW YORK, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Authorities in Kharkov have called a series of meetings to "expose" a "Zionist cell" allegedly operating in the Ukrainian city, it was reported by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Workers are being urged to attend these meetings which are being held in work places throughout Kharkov.

This latest development, the Conference reported, follows the arrest on Aug. 28 of Alexander Paritsky, a 43-year-old doctor of engineering who is one of the leading figures of the Jewish emigration and culture movements in Kharkov. Paritsky and his wife Polina are two of the principals of the Kharkov "Free Jewish University," which instructs refuseniks and their children in secular and Jewish cultural subjects. The Paritskys and their two children have repeatedly applied to emigrate to Israel since 1976.

The Conference said that reports coming from the Ukraine speak of a general climate of fear gripping the Jewish community in that city. Eight Jews who had sent a letter of protest to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in September 1980, have been called to the Procurator's office and instructed to sign a statement confirming that the letter was, indeed, an "anti-Soviet" document. It is known that at least one of those Jews refused to sign the statement. According to the Conference the authorities intimated that refusal to sign the statement would lead to severe punishment.

## BEGIN DENIES HAIG BERATED HIM FOR OPPOSING THE AWACS SALE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin today vehemently denied a Newsweek magazine report that Secretary of State Alexander Haig "gave him hell" for lobbying against the Reagan Administration's proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft to Saudi Arabia. "There is simply no truth to that story," Begin told reporters here.

Newsweek claimed that Haig's last-minute meeting with Begin at Kennedy Airport in New York just before the Premier left for home Sept. 15 was to administer a sharp reprimand for Begin's public denunciations of the AWACS deal. Begin described the Secretary of State as "my personal friend" and "a very polite and sensitive person" who "would never have thought to give me hell." He said in fact that Haig had sent a message saying he took exception to this "unfortunate expression in Newsweek" and regretted it.

Neither Haig nor Begin have disclosed the subject of the unannounced airport meeting. It occurred a week after Begin completed his official talks with Administration officials and Congressional leaders in Washington. In that time, the Israeli Premier made numerous public appearances at which he never failed to express Israel's unreserved opposition to the sale of advanced American weaponry to the Saudis.

Begin said today that the fate of the AWACS deal is a matter between the executive and legislative branches of the American government. He said as an Israeli he could not interfere but as Prime Minister



"it is my right and duty to say this arms deal with Saudi Arabia constitutes a direct, serious danger to Israel's security."

On other matters, Begin praised Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to separate military and civilian functions in the occupied territories, a proposal he brought to the autonomy negotiations now under way in Cairo. But he took issue with Sharon's alleged remark recently that the Ben Gurion government had involved Israel in a Franco-British adventure in the Sinai campaign in 1956. Saying Sharon had been misquoted, Begin characterized Israel's first incursion into Sinai 25 years ago as one of the greatest military operations ever carried out by the Israeli army and a rescue operation.

#### REPORT ONLY 30% OF ARGENTINA'S JEWS BELONG TO JEWISH GROUPS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Only 30 percent of Argentina's 300,000-member Jewish community is associated in any way with Jewish organizations, according to Yitzhak Goldenberg, an advisor to the Jewish Agency on Latin American affairs. Goldenberg, who immigrated to Israel from Argentina seven years ago, attributed that situation to the high rate of assimilation among Argentine Jews. He briefed the World Zionist Organization Executive this week.

Goldenberg said the fact that unemployment in Argentina has reached 40 percent coupled with various political limitations, affected Zionist activities among Jewish youth there. He suggested the promotion of investment schemes in Israel by Argentine Jews through the creation of economic committees that would work with the local Zionist Federation.

At the same time, Goldenberg said, assistance should be offered to the Association of Latin American Immigrants in Israel to help the absorption of immigrants from Latin American countries.

WZO chairman Leon Dulzin said the situation in Argentina demanded dramatic action to promote aliya. He proposed a project similar to one which has had some success in France and suggested that it should be carried out in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry.

#### TWO-YEAR STUDY WILL ASSESS ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF U.S. JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- A two-year study that promises to be the definitive inquiry into the attitudes and actions of American Jews during the Holocaust has been launched here.

The American Jewish Commission on the Holocaust will "let the chips fall where they may," Arthur Goldberg, chairman of the Commission, said yesterday at a press conference prior to the first meeting of the group. The former U.S. Supreme Court Justice conceded that the conclusions of the report may be "unpleasant" to some Jewish organizations, but said that whatever "good, solid, research" is uncovered will in the end be published.

The Commission will consist of 26 Jewish leaders, including a diverse group of scholars, heads or former heads of Jewish organizations as well as rabbis from various sections of the religious community. This, according to Goldberg, will ensure that all viewpoints have been consulted.

Essentially, the Commission will explore the following:

\* When did the American Jewish leadership learn about the Nazi plan to exterminate all European Jews and when did they become alarmed about it?

\* Which Jewish groups were active on the American scene and what did they do or fail to do?

\* Why were so many American Jews passive or relatively unconcerned about the plight of European Jews? Regarding this point, the Commission will seek to explore whether it was the lack of information, interest, the inability to fathom the dimensions of the Holocaust or a preoccupation with other concerns.

\* Did prominent Jews try to influence U.S. policy, and if so, what impact did they have?

\* Was the Holocaust preordained by a cruel destiny so that nothing could have been done to prevent, stop, alleviate or limit it? Or, if the Jews in this country had shown greater concern and exerted their influence and power on the political body, could the tragedy have been prevented?

\* In retrospect, with the abundance of documentary material at the Commission's disposal, what is the truth about the possibility of saving great numbers of Jews? Why were these opportunities not fully explored, or neglected?

#### Dealing With Future Situations

The research team will work out of the Jack Eisner Institute for Holocaust Studies at the Graduate School of the City University of New York and be led by former UN Ambassador Maxwell Finger.

Finger, currently a professor of Political Science at the Graduate School, said there has not been a study dealing precisely with the American Jewish community perspectives during the Holocaust. He reported that the Commission has already accumulated 8,000 pages of information for the study provided by a source who has been studying the matter for 25 years. He refused to identify the person.

Finger said the studies will also provide future assessments of how the Jewish community should react now to issues such as the alleged high degree of anti-Semitism in Argentina or the new Jewish Agency plans for relocation of Soviet Jewish emigrants. He said the Commission will try to determine whether quiet diplomacy or "more hell raising" is the way to deal with situations such as the Holocaust and the current situation in Argentina.

According to Finger, the Jack Eisner Institute has provided a \$70,000 grant for the first year's funding of the project. During the second year, the project will seek broader support. He said that the funding for the second year will be available even if the "broadened" support is insufficient.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Jerusalem is now the largest city in Israel, with a total population of 407,000. It is followed by Tel Aviv with 335,000 and Haifa with 230,000. The Jerusalem figure includes the largely Arab areas of East Jerusalem and the Old City, so that Tel Aviv remains the largest all-Jewish center in the country.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Two members of the Arab students committee at the Hebrew University were sentenced Thursday to 90 days in jail for disseminating anti-Israel propaganda.

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REMINDER: There will be no Bulletins dated Sept. 29 and 30 due to Rosh Hashanah. To all the subscribers and readers of the Bulletin, a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



## CHINA DENOUNCES ISRAEL AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO MIDEAST PEACE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The People's Republic of China denounced Israel in the General Assembly last night, declaring that its "lawlessness was intolerable" and blamed it for the worsening situation in the Middle East during the past year.

The accusation was made in a speech by Zhang Wenjin, China's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. He charged that Israel continued to obstruct "a reasonable settlement" of the Mideast conflict. He said Israel committed further aggression against Arab countries, referring to its attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor last June and its invasions and attacks on Lebanon.

Zhang praised the Arab states and the European Economic Community (EEC) for their "positive efforts" to bring a settlement to the Middle East. He stated, "Our attitude is: we welcome all initiatives that are conducive to a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East question and to peace and stability in the region." China, in previous years, had expressed support for the Camp David process but did not mention Camp David this year.

### Israel Rejected Iraqi's Charge

In another development, Israel issued a statement last night rejecting a charge made yesterday by the current President of the General Assembly, Ismet Kittani of Iraq who, in his own statement, criticized Israel and Iran, the two countries which had denounced his election. Kittani said Israel and Iran should apologize to the General Assembly which elected him in the "democratic tradition specified in the rules" of the Assembly.

Replying to the charges, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum, reiterated his earlier statement noting that Israel had hoped Kittani would exercise his functions with impartiality. Blum said: "It is therefore both surprising and somewhat disturbing that the President of the General Assembly should have seen fit to release a statement polemicizing a member state that has placed its trust in the President's fairness and impartiality, despite the sad record of the President's home country in its behavior toward that state."

### CHIEF RABBINATE ANGERED BY RULINGS ON CITY OF DAVID DIG

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbinate, infuriated by the Supreme Court's and Attorney General's rulings that their halachic authority has no bearing under the laws of the state on the controversial archaeological digs in the City of David, demanded today that the government speed passage of Article 45 of its coalition agreement affirming rabbinical authority in the matter.

Article 45 is one of the many concessions made by Premier Menachem Begin to the religious parties in exchange for their support of his narrow coalition government. It gives the Supreme Rabbinical Council legal authority to declare a cemetery to be a holy place and thus block archaeological digs wherever the rabbis might decree that a Jewish cemetery exists.

The Council, meeting today, re-affirmed its ruling that an ancient Jewish cemetery was being desecrated by the digs undertaken last summer by a Hebrew University team licensed by the government's Department of Antiquities. The Council also proclaimed that "The Jewish halacha is eternal and not subordinate to any secular authority."

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, echoing an earlier Supreme Court ruling, stated this week that since Israel is not a theocratic state, halachic rulings are binding on individuals on a voluntary basis but not on the government or its institutions which owe their existence to secular law.

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren said today that he expected the Knesset to pass Article 45 into law before Dec. 31 when the current digs license expires. "That dig won't be renewed," Goren declared. The dig season ended this week. Prof. Yigal Shiloh, who heads the archaeological team, expressed confidence that the law would be upheld, the license renewed and the excavations resumed next summer.

### THREE JEWS IN CANADA'S CABINET

OTTAWA, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Jack Austin, a member of the Canadian Senate, was named yesterday by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau to a Cabinet post in the Prime Minister's Cabinet reshuffle, raising to three the number of Jewish Cabinet members.

Austin, 49, was named Minister of State with special responsibility for western Canada. The other Jewish Cabinet members are Herbert Gray, for Industry, Trade and Commerce; and Bob Kaplan, Solicitor General.

Austin, born in western Canada, lived in Vancouver and was a senior civil servant in the previous Liberal government. Sources said Austin was known as an influential bureaucrat in the Canadian government.

### BRITISH FIRM OFFERS COMPENSATION TO JEWISH EMPLOYEE IT DISMISSED

LONDON, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The leading British company which fired one of its senior Jewish employees while it was trying to raise Arab finance has offered to pay him compensation.

MEPC, Britain's second biggest real estate company, with net assets of 450 million Pounds Sterling made the pledge after announcing that it would not contest a court decision that it fired Anthony Simmons, its former company secretary, because he was Jewish. MEPC still denies that this was its reason for dismissing Simmons but said it had been advised by its lawyers that it should not take the case further.

Meanwhile, Greville Janner, MP, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, called on the British government to review its attitude towards the Arab boycott in the light of the Simmons case.

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GENEVA (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic slogans along with a swastika were painted on the windows of a building in Zurich where a Jewish artist is exhibiting her paintings. The slogans read, "Jews and freaks, out," and "Dirty Jews, out." Police are investigating the incident but say they are inclined to believe that the perpetrators are the same "angry young people" who have been staging violent demonstrations for the past year, causing a great deal of property damage and injuring many policemen. Their headquarters is directly opposite the building where the exhibition is being held.



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW THE JEWS OF SOUTH AFRICA

By Adele Asher

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The most impressive aspect of Jewish life in South Africa in the year 5741 was the intensification of religious life. There were more people than ever attending synagogues as well as religious classes, and there was a greater observance of kashrut.

The Lubavitch movement in Johannesburg made a concerted effort to become a vital force in the community. Its day school, the Torah Academy, acquired a large property on 22 acres of land which is rapidly becoming one of the most advanced educational complexes in the country. Apprehension has been expressed in certain educational circles that the project will have a detrimental effect on other Jewish educational institutions by drawing away the limited number of potential pupils whose parents are committed to intensive Jewish education.

### Acrimony Between Orthodox And Reform

A disturbing feature of religious life has been the emergence of acrimony between the Orthodox and Reform segments of the community as a result of Israeli Labor Party Knesset member and former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's statement that a Labor government would legalize the status of Conservative and Reform rabbis in Israel.

The Chief Rabbi of the Federation of Synagogues of South Africa warned that this touched the very core of Jewishness and threatened the very existence of the Jewish State. He was supported by the South African Rabbinical Association, the Lubavitch Foundation and the United Mizrahi Organization.

The Reform community in South Africa, which this year celebrated its 50th anniversary, responded to this view in a statement issued by Rabbi Walter Blumenthal, chairman of the Central Ecclesiastical Board of the South African Union for Progressive Judaism who said: "Any religious denomination which is worthy to survive and propagate does not need protection from civil law to confer upon it exclusive validity."

In other religious-related developments, the first Sephardi synagogue was established in Cape Town. It was consecrated by Dr. Solomon Gaon, the spiritual leader of the World Sephardi Federation. In addition, a notable innovation in the life of the Jewish community was the launching of a social action program by the Oxford Synagogue in Johannesburg to help improve the quality of life of Black people living and working in the vicinity of the synagogue.

The project is aimed at ameliorating living conditions, providing social and recreational facilities, adult education and insurance planning. A medical and dental clinic is also being contemplated.

### Little Evidence Of Anti-Semitism

There was little evidence of anti-Semitism during the year. Recently, the press devoted a great deal of publicity to the leader of an extreme rightwing group, Eugene Terreblanche, who made a number of anti-Semitic statements. But neither he nor his group, the Afrikaanse Weerstand Beweging, whose rowdies sport Nazi-type uniforms and display Nazi emblems as they scurry around on motorcycles, is taken very seriously by either the Jewish community or the government, although

both are maintaining a careful watch on the group's activities.

Relations between Israel and South Africa continued to be satisfactory and to improve in certain areas, particularly trade. Israel is South Africa's fastest growing trade partner, together with Switzerland. Bilateral trade, which amounted to 10 million Rand in 1970, grew to 127 million Rand by 1980.

In other developments, Yosef Mendelevich, a former Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience who now resides in Israel, made a profound impact on audiences throughout the country when he, together with Rita Izakson, chairman of the World WIZO, came to South Africa for the 24th biennial congress of the South African Women's Zionist Organization. Mendelevich was the subject of a number of profiles in leading newspapers throughout the country.

### South African Jews Honored

A number of plays and books by South African Jews appeared this year. One of the books, "Jew and Gentile: The Philo-Semitic Aspect," by Prof. S. Rappaport was well received by both the general and Jewish press. The book dealt with relations between Jews and Christians. Rappaport is the former head of the Department of Hebrew Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Also, a number of Jews received awards for outstanding achievements. Dr. Percy Amoils was awarded the Medal of Honor for his research in cryosurgery by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Edward Epstein, another specialist in this field, received international recognition for his research. The American Intra-Ocular Implant Society established a Research Fellowship in his name in recognition of his modification of lens implants to restore the sight of persons suffering from cataracts.

Prof. Philip Tobias, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand, was the recipient of the highest award of the Rotary Foundation. Prof. Margaretha Isaacson was awarded the country's top scientific honor for her work in Marburg on Haemorrhagic Fevers research. Helen Suzman, member of Parliament, was awarded a medal for "heroism" by Mayor Edward Koch of New York City who lauded her as a "hero" who has "continuously spoken out for the nation's disenfranchised non-white majority."

And last, but not least, there was a new communal development with the establishment of the Association of Jewish Communal Professional Executives to promote the interests of the professionals involved in the operation of Jewish communal institutions.

### AUSTRALIA WILL OPPOSE ISRAEL'S SUSPENSION FROM THE IAEC

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Anthony Street of Australia told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that his country would oppose the suspension of Israel from the International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) based in Vienna. There have been reports in recent days that the Arab states and their supporters are trying to muster a majority of votes to suspend Israel from the IAEC.

Street also told Shamir in the course of a 30-minute meeting yesterday that Australia would continue to support the Camp David process for a Middle East settlement. Shamir also met yesterday with the Director General of the Belgian Foreign Ministry, Alfred Cahen, who promised that his country too would oppose any move to suspend Israel from the IAEC. Similar assurances were given Shamir Tuesday by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson of France, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and Foreign Minister M. Van der Stoep of Holland.