

## FRENCH JEWISH LEADER ACCOMPANIES MITTERRAND TO MOSCOW, WILL PRESS ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWS ON ALL LEVELS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 20 (JTA) — Theo Klein, president of the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF), is accompanying President Francois Mitterrand on his official visit to Moscow as the President's personal guest. They arrived in Moscow late today and are due back Saturday.

Klein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency before his departure that he was invited by the President and that he intends to raise the question of Soviet Jewry at "all possible levels" in the USSR and to press the Soviet authorities to ease the restrictions that have reduced Jewish emigration almost to nil this past year and to release imprisoned Jewish and non-Jewish dissidents.

Official sources here said Mitterrand will do all he can to facilitate the CRIF leader's meetings with top level Soviet authorities during the trip.

There has been considerable pressure on Mitterrand to cancel his visit to Moscow and meeting with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko because of the exile of Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Laureate in physics and his wife, Yelena Bonner in Gorki, nearly five years ago. Sakharov, the most prominent dissident in the Soviet Union, was reported to be seriously ill after a hunger strike.

But Mitterrand reportedly accepted at face value Soviet claims that the Sakharovs are in good health and "leading normal lives." French sources said he believes his trip can help improve East-West relations and ease the human rights situation in the Soviet Union.

## ISRAEL, U.S. FORCES HOLD FIRST JOINT MEDICAL EXERCISE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force and U.S. armed forces have held their first joint exercise under an agreement by both countries to provide medical assistance in cases of accident or natural disaster to the forces of either in the region.

Voice of Israel Radio, quoting an IDF spokesman, said the exercise involved the transportation of hypothetical wounded American servicemen from a U.S. vessel at sea in the Eastern Mediterranean to an Israeli hospital ashore.

The agreement between the two countries, concluded several months ago, came about after Israel reproached the U.S. for not using its nearby medical facilities for marines wounded in the truck bomb attack on their headquarters in Beirut last October.

## ECUADOR TO BAR PLO OFFICE

QUITO, June 20 (JTA) — The government of Ecuador has no intention of allowing the Palestine Liberation Organization to open an office in this country, an official of B'nai B'rith International was told here yesterday.

The assurance was given Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, at a meeting with Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez. Thursz is on a seven-nation tour of Latin America.

The Ecuadorian diplomat said that while his government is concerned with the rights of the Palestinian people and opposes the acquisition of territory by conquest, it is also opposed to terrorism.

Thursz also met with Vice President-elect Blasco Penaherrera Padilla to discuss the problem of the huge international debts owed by South American countries. Later he met with the U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador, Sam Hart, the Israeli Ambassador, Eleazer Arnan and addressed meetings of the Quito Jewish community and the local B'nai B'rith lodge.

## BIALKIN, NEW PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE HEAD, SEES ORGANIZATION AS 'ONGOING BODY'

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) — Kenneth Bialkin, the chairman-elect of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, does not anticipate any dramatic or significant changes in the functions and methods employed by the umbrella group of 38 national Jewish organizations of which he will assume the chairmanship next month.

Describing the Presidents Conference as "an ongoing body," Bialkin said yesterday that "a change in the chairman doesn't mean one era has ended and a new one begins. The conference has an established role and position as the place where the Jewish consensus opinion is developed and articulated."

The 54-year-old Bialkin, a senior partner in the prestigious New York law firm of Willkie Farr and Gallagher and national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, will succeed Julius Berman, the president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, when he completes his second one year term as chairman of the Conference on June 30.

## Represents Consensus

Interviewed in his law office in the Citicorp Building by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Bialkin said: "The objective of the conference is to represent from a consensus basis the organized American Jewish community" and to be effective in communicating a position on issues at hand in the general area of Israel-U.S. relations.

"That means," Bialkin continued, "that we try to relate to the American government ... to provide advice and consultation whenever asked to do so." Speaking in measured terms, he added, "It would not be very effective and possibly chaotic" if the 38 Jewish secular and religious groups comprising the Conference "each tried to do the same thing with a slightly different resonance."

While the Conference does attempt, and generally succeeds in speaking in one unified voice, the ADL chairman also pointed out that no group within the Conference "surrenders its independence or sovereignty in its ability to act" on an individual basis.

On the relationship between the Conference and Israel, Bialkin maintained that the Conference will seek to assist in relations between the American Jewish community and Israel as well as in the relationship between Israel and the U.S. government, "by way of mediation or consultation." He added: "Our objective is to permit the communities to fulfill each others objectives."

A familiar face in conference meetings over the past years with Administration officials such as Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz, Bialkin noted that the change in chairmanship at the Conference is "not abrupt" and will not affect the continuity of the organization.

With regard to dealing with the Administration in Washington, Bialkin stressed that the "multiplicity and diversity" of the American Jewish population cannot lead anyone group to claim to speak or represent all of American Jewry.

"But to the extent that American Jews come together in organizations who represent them, the Conference reflects those Jews who care enough to be represented, and to the extent that those organizations come together in consensus... it more nearly represents the opinion of American Jewry more than anything else," Bialkin explained.

"If you're asking whether the Conference represents the opinion of every American Jew," he said, "obviously not. But I have no reason to think that the statements generally coming out of the consensus of the Conference does not substantially represent the American Jewish community."

The Conference stresses those areas where a consensus can be achieved, he said. "Where there is no consensus the Presidents Conference does not act." Its informational role, he continued, aids those parties interested in knowing where the organized American Jewish community's opinion is situated on specific issues.

Asked whether the Conference maintains any "real political strength," Bialkin asserted that the Conference does not seek to influence votes, nor does it seek to exercise political power. "We seek to have our views communicated and expressed. If our views have any influence then I think that's entirely appropriate. We are not politically identified. We don't support or oppose candidates in the general sense. That's not our function," he maintained.

One new initiative Bialkin may pursue is an attempt to "reach out to the unaffiliated Jew in the United States." He indicated that he will try to attract to the Conference those elements of the Jewish community that may not now be participating. "I think that by doing that you tend to strengthen not only the Conference and the voice we have, but may also tend to give a greater sense of participation to groups that have not joined with us," he said.

Bialkin, through his work for the ADL and his law practice, has also been an adjunct professor at the New York University School of Law for the past 16 years. He is a member of the Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York and first vice president of the New York County Lawyer's Association.

He is a trustee at large of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York and vice chairman and a director of the Jerusalem Foundation established by Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and former editor of the Business Lawyer, and served for five years as chairman of the Federal Regulation of Securities Committee of the American Bar Association.

#### REFORM RABBIS BACK AWAY FROM CLASH WITH LUBAVITCH

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, of Toronto, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the association of American Reform rabbis, said today that the conven-

tion delegates had decided to table a motion assailing the Hasidic Lubavitcher movement's out-reach program "to reduce the tensions within the Jewish community and to re-emphasize the needs of Klal Yisroel at this critical hour."

Plaut, who was re-elected to a second term as president at the CCAR 95th annual meeting at Grosinger's Hotel in Liberty, N.Y., prepared his statement at the request of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The vote yesterday to table, 88 to 65 was for a motion that said there were growing strains between Jewish students involved in the Lubavitch College out-reach program and their non-Orthodox parents.

An earlier version of the resolution was sharply critical of the Lubavitch out-reach program, comparing its methods to those of cult groups and accusing its leaders of driving wedges between young non-Orthodox Jews and their families. The resolutions committee submitted a milder statement, noting the alleged conflict and urging talks between the Reform and Lubavitch movements to resolve the conflict.

Plaut's complete statement was that "despite a discernible desire on the part of many members to assert the authenticity of Reform, there was a larger overriding sentiment that prevailed; to reduce the tensions within the Jewish community, and to emphasize the needs of Klal Yisroel at this critical time."

#### Lubavitch Call It 'Regrettable'

Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, a spokesman for the Lubavitch movement, declared at the movement's headquarters in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, after the vote to table, that he was "glad the matter has been put to rest," adding it was "regrettable it had ever come up." He called the harsh original version, which had been widely publicized before the CCAR convention opened, "outrageous, libelous and very divisive."

Krinsky added that he had not seen any public statement from any Jewish organization "countering this slur." He compared it with Jewish reaction to the "Hymietown" remarks of Democratic Presidential aspirant Rev. Jesse Jackson, which he said he felt were "innocuous," while the Reform resolution, in its initial version, was "very divisive" and one which could have caused "irreparable harm" to the Jewish community.

He said the Lubavitch outreach program on campuses throughout the world, much of it aimed at unaffiliated or disaffected Jewish students, "has been successful with every kind of Jews" and that many Reform students had been helped.

#### REFUSENIKS' SON ARRESTED ON DRAFT CHARGE

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- Aleksandr Yakir, the 29-year-old son of long-term refuseniks Evgeny and Rimma Yakir, was arrested in Moscow on Monday, according to the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Yakir, an electrical engineer, is being charged with refusing military service.

The Yakirs first applied for exit visas to Israel in 1973, and were refused on the grounds that Evgeny's routine work as a mechanical engineer was secret. Evgeny was subsequently fired from his job, and the family has been subjected to considerable KGB harassment throughout the past decade.

In spite of Soviet persecution, the Yakirs have participated in informal Jewish cultural and religious activities with fellow Moscow refuseniks. They remain committed to their dream of a life in Israel. If convicted on the charge of refusing military service, Aleksandr Yakir could face from one to three years in prison.

## MOVEMENT OF JEWS TO SMALL CITIES PUTS NEW LIFE INTO CONGREGATIONS

**LIBERTY, N.Y., June 20 (JTA)** — The movement of American Jews from large urban centers to smaller cities signals a new growth pattern for American Jews and new life for many congregations until now too small to engage a rabbi, according to a survey presented at the 95th annual meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the rabbinical branch of American Reform Judaism, which is meeting at Grossinger's Hotel here.

The survey, made over a number of years by Rabbi Mark Winer of Commack, N.Y., focused on Jewish population shifts and what it means to Reform Judaism. He said his findings are based on personal interviews and the evaluation of data produced by the National Jewish Population Study and several large and small city Jewish Federations.

Winer told the 4,400 delegates attending the meeting that many Jewish professionals such as computer scientists, business specialists and hospital administrators have moved to cities like Durham, N.C.; Amarillo, Texas; Johnstown, Pa.; and Rockford, Ill. In most cases, small synagogues of about 60 families, were doubled in size, he said.

### Many Young Women

He pointed out that among these young professionals there is a noticeable increase of women in their thirties having children, thereby maintaining the stability of the Jewish birth rate. "They are going to the southwest and southeast parts of the United States in many cases, thus moving to areas where frequently the Reform synagogue is the only congregation in the community," he said.

Winer also noted that intermarriage is a characteristic of some of these families and that "overwhelmingly, couples of intermarriage that join synagogues affiliate with the Reform Movement. Add to this our efforts to involve the unaffiliated and we have large numbers of perspective Temple members," he said.

### Pessimism Rejected

Projecting a future growth of American Jews, Winer cited higher fertility rates, a longer life expectancy, increased conversions to Judaism and the identification of mixed marriage families with Jewish life. Those who view a reduction of the Jewish population in the U.S. below the present six million "may be more pessimistic than warranted," he said. "In my opinion, we will at least maintain our present level and probably increase our numbers by the 21st century."

In that connection, Winer said "We will need more Temple planning for day care centers and early childhood education programs such as nursery schools." In many parts of the country such facilities are already showing an increase in Reform synagogues, he said.

## ARAB MAYOR CHALLENGES TESTIMONY OFFICER DID NOT KNOW ABOUT BOMB

By Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA)** — Ibrahim A-Tawil, the deposed former Mayor of El Bireh, has challenged the claim by Israeli army Capt. Aharon Gilla that he did not know that Jewish terrorists had planted a bomb in the mayor's car in June, 1980 and could not have warned Druze border police sapper Suleiman Hirbawi who lost his eyesight trying to defuse the lethal device.

Gilla is one of two Israel Defense Force officers implicated in the car bombings that maimed Mayors Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khallaf of Ramallah four years ago. Tawil was also a target of the assassination attempts. Gilla and Maj. Shlomo Levytan have been indicted but will be tried separately from the 22 suspected members of a Jewish terrorist underground whose trial began here last Sunday.

Gilla maintained that he escorted Hirbawi to Tawil's garage and therefore could not have known the car was booby-trapped because his own life would have been at risk. But police officer Shimon Sharvit testified in Jerusalem District Court today that Tawil told him at the time that Hirbawi entered the garage alone, not escorted by Gilla.

## ADL ASKS U.S. COURT TO TAKE SUIT AGAINST ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL

**NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA)** — A United States District Court has been requested by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to accept jurisdiction in a civil suit by five Holocaust survivors seeking damages against an alleged Nazi war criminal living in the U.S.

The case marks the first time a civil suit for damages has been brought in this country against an alleged Nazi war criminal, according to Abraham Foxman, the ADL's associate national director. The court has scheduled a hearing on the suit July 9.

The ADL filed a friend of the court brief with the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California in support of the five Holocaust survivors from Yugoslavia against Andrija Artukovic, a former official of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia.

In their class action suit, the five—all of them were confined in concentration camps or lost relatives during World War II — asked for unspecified damages from Artukovic, 80, who resides in Surtside, Calif. The five, now American citizens are Leo Handel, Leon and Shri Kobiljo and Isaac and Hanna Handy. They said they were filing the suit not only in their own behalf, but for "all other similarly situated persons."

### Artukovic Has Resisted Deportation

Artukovic, whose family is believed to have amassed a fortune in this country, has since 1951 successfully resisted U.S. attempts to deport him based on falsification of his past when he entered the United States.

Artukovic is accused in the suit of being instrumental in creating and pursuing Croatia's genocide directed against Serbs and Jews during the War. "As Minister of Interior, he masterminded the deportation, torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of Yugoslavs," said Foxman. "It is estimated that 1.2 million persons were slain, the overwhelming majority of whom were Serbs."

The ADL brief pointed out that Artukovic has evaded criminal prosecution and added: "May he also evade even the minimum accounting provided under U.S. law for his crimes — restitution to his victims."

The U.S. District Court, the brief continued, has jurisdiction because the case is based on crimes against humanity. These are covered under international law to which this country is legally bound, the brief added.

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**TEL AVIV (JTA)** — Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said here that he did not transfer classified material to lawyers in New York representing him in his libel suit against Time magazine.

## MANDEL URGES FULL COMMITMENT TO JEWISH EDUCATION AIMED AT SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL, JEWISH PEOPLE

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA) -- The "role that Jewish education must play if we are to realize the future creative potential of the Jewish people" was stressed by Morton Mandel, chairman of the World Leadership Conference for Jewish Education which opened here last night.

"The time has come to add a commitment to Jewish education to the economic commitment, social commitment and political commitment we have already made to the survival of Israel and the Jewish people," Mandel told some 260 invitees to the opening plenary of the Conference at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel.

The three day conference has brought together some 180 Jewish community leaders and Jewish educators from more than 60 countries around the world and 80 of their counterparts from Israel. The conference is expected to concentrate on the survival of Jewry in a secular age when assimilation and intermarriage are rampant.

"There is no more appropriate place in the world for serious Jewish leaders and educators to reflect on the future of the Jewish people than in the spiritual center of our people -- Jerusalem," Mandel asserted. "The challenge we face is an impressive one. We meet at a time when even the best of statistics indicate an erosion of identification and an increasing number of Jews not receiving any form of Jewish education."

### Leadership Skills Needed

Mandel, a Cleveland businessman and philanthropist, said he viewed the make-up of Jewish community leaders as a most important step because "most of us are builders... in commerce and industry and in other professions. We have brought the leadership skills, honed in the workplace, to the service of the Jewish community."

In that, he said, those attending the conference have helped to build Jewish communities in the many lands from which they had come and had also been helpful in building bridges to Israel.

The Conference chairman underscored the addition of a commitment to Jewish education to the economic, social and political commitments already manifest by noting that "Jewish communities throughout the world committed to these values and principles, are the best assurance that Israel will survive. The future of Israel is linked to the quality of Jewish life everywhere," Mandel declared.

"We, each of us," Mandel said, "come to this meeting with a different set of life experiences, experiences shaped in a world different than the one in which we live and even more distant from the one in which our grandchildren will live."

### Appreciating Jewish Values

He explained that in his own family upbringing, he had been imbued with a commitment to service and caring but "the afternoon Heder to which I went out of a sense of duty to my parents" he had left with a feeling of liberation.

"Jewish education was not central to my Jewish experience," he said, adding that he knows now he did not appreciate the options available to Jewish families and young people in a free society, which permit one to be Jewish or to walk away from Jewish life.

Continuing, Mandel added: "I am convinced that our families and young people need an appreciation

of Jewish values, need an intellectual understanding of our heritage and need personal identification and experience of the meaning of Jewish life. Without these, we cannot meaningfully compete in a free and open society."

## NYC POLICE GIVEN GUIDANCE ON NEW LAW COVERING AUTOPSIES

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- The New York City Police Department has distributed an order to all patrol officers designed to give them guidance on autopsy problems when they are called to the scene of a death which may be that of an observant Jew.

The order was issued by Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward, to help assure cooperation by the policeman on the beat with a recently-enacted state law signed last August by Governor Mario Cuomo, which limits the authority of medical examiners to perform autopsies on the bodies of observant Jews.

The measure was drafted by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and introduced in the state Assembly by Assemblyman Sheldon Silver (D, Manh.), who helped get the measure approved by the State Senate.

### Law Protects Orthodox

The law requires that, except in unusual circumstances, a medical examiner may not perform an autopsy after next-of-kin or close relatives have asked him not to do so. Exceptional circumstances include the possibility of homicide and/or a threat to public health. Even when the medical examiner determines there is such "a compelling public necessity," he will afford the objecting party at least 48 hours to start a court action to determine the need for an autopsy.

The order was the result of a meeting in April between Police Chief of Operations Robert Johnson, Jr. and Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America.

Shmuel Prager, Agudath Israel counsel, said the order also provides that a police officer responding to the scene of a death should not volunteer information but if he is asked, the officer should advise the "interested parties" that they have the right to communicate with the medical examiner and tell the examiner about their objections to an autopsy contrary to their religious beliefs.

Prager said there have been occasions when an officer, unacquainted with the needs of observant Jews, will say to next-of-kin, on coming to the scene of a death that "there is definitely going to be an autopsy here."

Prager said that when the family hears such a statement from a person of authority, they often in fact do not register a complaint. The police advisory explains the autopsy law to the policemen and policewomen and informs them that the best course in such circumstances is to say nothing.

Prager said that the order is the first of its kind in New York City and, accordingly, in New York State.

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WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The House unanimously adopted a bill by a vote of 403 to 0 Tuesday instructing the United States delegation to raise the issue of Soviet violations of international laws governing the mails at the 19th Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) which opened in Hamburg, West Germany this week. The bill also asks the UPU to consider the violations and possible sanctions against the violators.