

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
REVISIONIST HISTORIANS DEVISING NEW  
GAME PLAN TO CIRCULATE THEIR VIEWS**  
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- Revisionist historians are seeking to link their right to question the "historical reality" of the use of gas chambers by the Nazis during World War II to the principle of freedom of speech and the First Amendment, according to an official of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Moreover, these historians, some of whom claim the Holocaust was a hoax and others who call it a "Zionist plot," are currently engaged in a sophisticated effort to penetrate established organizations such as Cosmet, the Committee of Small Magazine Editors and Publishers, in order to circulate their views on the Holocaust to a wider and more influential audience.

"This new game plan," Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center explained to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview from Los Angeles, "is to hang their hat on the freedom of speech issue." Cooper, associate dean for the Center, also expressed concern over efforts by revisionists like rightwing publisher David McCalden and Bradley Smith, publisher of a revisionist newsletter, to gain membership in literary and other organizations.

**A New Newsletter Emerges**

Smith's newsletter is called "Prima Facie," and it has been sent to publishers, editors, reporters, public relations and advertising firms and other similar groups in major cities throughout the United States. It has printed two issues to date, one in October, the other last month, and claims to have distributed some 4,000 copies across the country.

Prima Facie, whose content is similar to other literature circulated by revisionists, claims to inform "the press and media about the censorship, suppression of free inquiry and the taboos used to stifle critical examination of the evidence commonly used to support the alleged historical reality of the German 'poison gas chamber' tales."

**ADL, Wiesenthal Center Denounced**

Continuing, it said the newsletter "reports on the intellectual corruption" of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Simon Wiesenthal Center "as it is revealed in their usage of fraudulent documents, slander, disinformation, and pathological lying to encourage the censorship and suppression of Holocaust-revisionists."

Prima Facie, the newsletter added, "will assist writers, whenever possible to research stories of mutual interest." It offers a subscription that can be obtained through a post office box number in Los Angeles. It includes a self-addressed envelope for this purpose, along with an order form. Yearly subscription rates are \$24 for 12 issues.

Accompanying the November issue, is a separate five-page, single spaced, typed letter dated June 20, 1984 on "the strange case of John Demjanjuk," the alleged Nazi war criminal in the United States now facing deportation proceedings.

The newsletter indicates that the story on Demjanjuk is written by his eldest daughter, Lydia Demjanjuk, although this could not immediately be verified.

The newsletter said that John Demjanjuk's case in the courts is "based on what she (Lydia) claims is fraudulent documentary evidence prepared by the Soviet KGB for the entry into the American judicial system." The newsletter is offering a booklet by Lydia Demjanjuk for \$11, including postage and handling.

**Trying To Use Freedom Of Speech**

The newsletter, however, attempts to focus primarily on the issue of freedom of speech. For example, Smith recalls an incident last October at which time he questioned a panelist at the Conference on Censorship and Culture sponsored by the National Writer's Union at the New School for Social Research in New York, on why the Union does not confront alleged censorship of revisionist materials in libraries and public schools by the ADL and the Wiesenthal Center.

The name Bradley Smith appears listed as "Mid-west regional director" on the masthead of the magazine "Spotlight," which is published by the Washington-based Liberty Lobby, a group with ties to the Institute of Historical Review, a primary purveyor of revisionist literature and books. It could not be confirmed whether the Bradley Smith listed in Spotlight is the same Bradley Smith who is listed as publisher of Prima Facie.

Otherwise, according to officials at the Wiesenthal Center and the ADL in New York, little appears to be known of Prima Facie or its Bradley Smith. But Cooper indicated that the theme stressed by Smith in his newsletter is similar to that being used by revisionists in recent months: freedom of speech.

**A Recent Decision Recalled**

Cooper recalled that last month, the California Library Association (CLA) revoked the decision to provide a forum at its state wide convention for McCalden, who was to be allowed to display his materials and address it under the auspices of a so-called "Truth Mission."

The American Civil Liberties Union argued that McCalden had a right to present his views to the convention's 3,000 delegates in the interests of "intellectual freedom," according to the Center. But the CLA backed down after it faced angry protests from Jewish and interfaith groups in Los Angeles.

Cooper noted that while the ACLU supported McCalden's First Amendment right to freedom of speech, the ACLU backed off when the issue was switched from a speech issue to a contractual agreement the CLA had with McCalden. Since it was a private agreement between two groups, the CLA was able to cancel McCalden's scheduled appearance, nullifying the contract, Cooper explained.

McCalden, in order to reach a larger audience, according to Cooper, has joined Cosmet, which is scheduled to hold its upcoming convention in February in San Francisco. Cooper said this is a "very serious" attempt by McCalden and other revisionists to seek "respectability."

#### SOVIET JEW SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN A LABOR CAMP

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA) — After a four-hour trial in Moscow Wednesday, Yuli Edelstein was convicted of allegedly "possessing drugs," and sentenced to three years in a labor camp, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Only his mother and his wife, Tanya, were permitted inside the courtroom during the trial.

Edelstein, a Hebrew teacher who had long been warned by the KGB to end his teaching activities, was arrested on September 4, after a house search in which Hebrew books and a small container were confiscated. Following the search, Soviet authorities claimed to have found drugs in the container, and claimed that Edelstein was involved with "foreigners who corrupt Jewish youth with medieval and mystical drug rituals."

Since his arrest, allegations that link Judaism with drug use were repeated, and religious articles were confiscated and torn apart in several house searches conducted under the guise of looking for drugs.

Edelstein, who has been on a hunger strike since December 1, and his wife repeatedly denied the charge against him, and maintained the drugs were planted in his apartment during the search to provide the grounds for his arrest. He is one of six Soviet Jewish Hebrew teachers and cultural activists arrested since July in a Soviet campaign seemingly intended to eliminate Jewish educational and religious activity.

#### REFUSENIK SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA) — Leningrad refusenik Nadezhda Fradkova was convicted Tuesday of "parasitism" and sentenced to two years in a labor camp, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today.

The 39-year-old Jewish activist, who first applied to emigrate to Israel in 1978, has been periodically confined to a psychiatric hospital since April 1983 because Soviet authorities insisted that "she must be suffering from hallucinations since she insists on receiving an exit visa for Israel."

Fradkova was denied a visa on the grounds of the secrecy of her father's work, although she has not lived with her father since she was six years old, the Conference said.

In March 1983 and again in December 1983, Fradkova went on a hunger strike, saying life in the Soviet Union had become intolerable for her, as she was being visited daily by the police and the KGB. While in the psychiatric hospital, Fradkova was brutally force-fed and drugged by hospital authorities. Fradkova is one of 10 Soviet Jewish activists recently arrested and imprisoned because of a desire to live in Israel, the Conference stated.

#### ISRAEL WARNS IT MAY NOT RESUME TALKS WITH LEBANON AFTER THE X-MAS RECESS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (JTA) — Israel warned today

that it may not resume the military withdrawal talks with Lebanon after the two week Christmas recess which began today.

Gen. Amos Gilboa, head of the Israeli negotiating team, spoke after the two sides held their 12th session at Nakura with no progress in sight. The talks are scheduled to resume on January 7, 1985. But Gilboa stated that unless there is a positive reply from the Lebanese to Israel's proposals "the government of Israel will find itself obliged to consider whether there will be any further purpose in continuation of the talks at Nakura."

Israel insists that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrol the region between the Zaharani and Awali rivers in south Lebanon, presently occupied by the IDF, after the IDF withdraws. It also demands that the zone immediately north of Israel's border be policed by the South Lebanon Army (SLA). The Lebanese refuse to recognize the SLA which they contend is a puppet of Israel and also claim that the Lebanese regular army is capable of maintaining security in all of south Lebanon.

Most observers here believe that Lebanon's response to Israel's terms will be determined not in Beirut but by Syria's leaders in Damascus.

#### TERRORIST NABBED IN THE MURDER OF ISRAELI DIPLOMAT IN PARIS IN 1982

PARIS, Dec. 20 (JTA) — The French authorities have in custody the alleged leader of a Lebanese terrorist organization who is believed to have master-minded the murder of an Israeli diplomat here more than two years ago.

The suspect, a Lebanese Christian identified as Abdullah Georges Ibrahim, is said to be the head of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Fractions which claimed credit for the slaying of the Israeli official, Yaacov Bar Simantov, in the lobby of his Paris apartment building on April 3, 1982.

French security sources also believe they know the woman who did the actual shooting, with a 7.6 mm. German-made handgun. She was identified as Josephine Abdo, 26, also a Lebanese Christian and said to be associated with Ibrahim's terrorist group. Her present whereabouts are not known but she may be in Italy, the sources said.

Bar Simantov, 42, was Second Secretary in charge of political affairs at the Israel Embassy in Paris. He was approached by a woman while waiting for an elevator in his building in a fashionable section of Paris. When she ascertained his identity she shot him twice in his head.

Ballistics experts said later that the bullet which killed Bar Simantov were fired from the same gun used to kill Lt. Col. Charles Ray, the Deputy U.S. Military Attache in Paris two months earlier. Ray too was shot in the head outside his home.

Ibrahim, who carried forged Algerian and Maltese passports when he was arrested, is presently confined at St. Paul's prison in Lyon. Police said he is also known as Abdel Kader Saadi.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — An Arab youth from the Gaza Strip was remanded in custody for five days Thursday on suspicion of throwing a hand grenade at a bus stopped outside Tel Aviv's wholesale vegetable market Sunday. Three persons were treated for slight injuries and shock caused by the grenade.

## COALITION CRISIS RESOLVED

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA) — A bitter dispute over portfolios between two religious parties that could have brought down the Labor-Likud unity government, was resolved Thursday.

But the crisis atmosphere generated by the imbroglio which involved two factions, each with only four Knesset mandates, reminded Israelis of the fragility of the three-month-old unity coalition and raised concern that it could founder easily if disputes arise over more vital and fundamental issues.

A compromise formula hammered out by Labor and Likud leaders at meetings that began Wednesday and lasted into the early hours of Thursday, allows Shas, a client of Likud, and the Labor-backed National Religious Party to share in the allocation of funds to local religious councils.

### Sharing In The Allocation Of Funds

The sharing will be between the Interior Ministry, assigned to Shas, and the smaller Ministry of Religious Affairs which the NRP agreed some time ago, albeit reluctantly, to accept. The dispute arose when the NRP demanded that certain religious functions, including the allocation of funds, be transferred from Interior to Religious Affairs. Shas refused.

Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz submitted his resignation from the Cabinet Sunday. It became official Tuesday. With the compromise in place, he agreed to return and was sworn into office as Minister of Interior. Previously, he had been a Minister-Without-Portfolio. NRP leader Yosef Burg, who had served as Minister of Interior in many previous governments, is now Minister of Religious Affairs.

### A Shock To The Political Establishment

But the entire episode, which Labor Party Secretary General Uzi Baram had termed "a storm in a teacup", shook Israel's political establishment. Likud, the patron of Shas, insisted that its honor and credibility would be destroyed if it failed to back up the small Sephardic religious faction formed only just before last July's Knesset elections.

Deputy Premier David Levy, a powerful voice in Likud, hinted in public statements during the week that if the Shas-NRP dispute was not satisfactorily resolved, Likud would abandon its coalition with the Labor Party.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, cut short a Latin American visit and cancelled an appearance in New York to return to Jerusalem Monday to deal with the crisis. Shamir, after a lengthy meeting with Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, told reporters that it was up to the Prime Minister to settle the matter or "he knows what we will do."

This seemed to be another hint that Likud might break up the coalition. It was re-enforced when Shamir summoned Likud ministers to meet in caucus Thursday. But the compromise reached prior to the meeting rendered moot what action Likud might have taken.

Apart from tough public statements on both sides, it appeared that neither of the two major

parties was inclined to break up the coalition at this time. The compromise was worked out by Levy and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, representing Likud and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Navon and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, both of Labor.

Peretz of Shas and Rafael Ben-Natan of the NRP remained in the background. Levy reportedly told Peretz afterwards that if he refused the compromise, Likud might not continue its support. Navon similarly lectured the NRP, stressing that the crisis must be ended so that the government can resume dealing with the "really important issues facing the nation."

### Rift Over Other Issues

The priority issue is the economic crisis. Also high on the agenda is withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from Lebanon, improvement of relations with Egypt and progress on the Palestinian problem.

Shamir stressed Thursday that the unity government was basically a union of two rival parties for a national cause. Likud and Labor, at the moment, appear to be in broad agreement over conditions for pulling the IDF out of south Lebanon.

With respect to the Palestinians, Shamir did not rule out contacts with King Hussein of Jordan, though the two parties are far apart on what Israel's negotiating stance should be if and when Hussein agrees to talk.

But there is a sharp rift over relations with Egypt. Shamir said he favored improved ties with Cairo but added that Israel's political initiative should not always center on what Israel should give up. He accused Egypt of violating every clause of the 1979 peace treaty dealing with normalization of relations. He made it clear that nothing would be done with respect to relations with Egypt without the approval of Likud.

Beyond these issues there is the long simmering conflict between Labor and Likud over settlement policies on the West Bank. It has been held in abeyance recently because the economic situation bars additional funds for settlement activity. But that issue, or any number of others, could erupt at any time. Meanwhile, the outlook for the unity government remains unclear.

### JEWISH VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO REPLACE CHRISTIAN ANTI-APARTHEID PROTESTORS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee has sent out a special call to Jewish volunteers to relieve Christian apartheid-protestors here who wish to worship and join their families on Christmas Day.

In a statement to the press today, the AJC said that "members of national Jewish organizations, organized by the American Jewish Committee," will hold a special vigil to protest South Africa's apartheid policies on Christmas Day from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy of South Africa.

In its statement, the AJC said that for many years, Jewish groups have volunteered to take over the public-service activities of their Christian friends and associates on Christmas Day, "thus assuring that their Christian allies can spend this major holiday with their families and loved ones while also assuring that vital public services continue." In asking for volunteers, the AJC said this would help make for "an impressive day both for the cause of South African freedom and for Christian-Jewish unity."

# ADL LEADERS AND MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA) — Braving a cold rain and carrying placards denouncing apartheid, more than 20 leaders and members of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith demonstrated yesterday across from the South African Consulate on Park Avenue in Manhattan.

Among the demonstrators were Kenneth Bialkin, the ADL's national chairman; Nathan Perlmutter, national director; Abraham Foxman, associate national director; and Gary Zaslab, chairman of the ADL's New York regional board. The demonstrators carried signs reading "Freedom and Human Dignity—End Apartheid Now" and "Apartheid Denies Liberty."

The vigil and demonstration began with the lighting of three candles on a large menorah, marking the second day of Chanukah. In a written statement issued at the demonstration, Bialkin and Perlmutter said:

"No government can in truth call itself free and democratic while at the same time denying millions of its citizens the basic freedoms of a democracy. Yet, this is the condition that exists today in South Africa where Black citizens are not accorded the rights which we who live in democratic societies take for granted.

"We call on the Pretoria government to immediately begin the implementation of substantive, rather than cosmetic, changes that will see its system of racial separation dismantled. We are under no illusions about this being an organized process, but the transition toward a change in which all South Africans will have a voice in their country's internal and external affairs should begin in earnest."

The demonstration, which lasted about 40 minutes, was concluded without incident. A large force of police was on hand to maintain order.

## 41 SOVIET JEWISH FAMILIES REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED EXIT VISAS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA) — At least 10 Soviet Jewish families from Moscow, all long-term refuseniks, have received exit visas to Israel this week, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. The news, which the NCSJ said it sees as a "small but significant reversal in annual emigration trends," marks only the second time in over eight months that Jews from the Soviet capital were granted permission to emigrate. The first visas issued in that city came in November, when 12 Muscovite Jews were permitted to leave.

Included in the report, and being confirmed by the NCSJ, is news that an additional 30 families from Tbilisi and one family from Kaunas, in Lithuania, have also received exit permits. All are long-term refuseniks, who have sought emigration to Israel for more than eight years.

Although the identities and the size of each family are unknown at this time, the NCSJ noted that the total number could well surpass the monthly emigration average of 73 which has distinguished 1984 as the "worst year for emigration in nearly 20 years." To date, only 805 Soviet Jews have been permitted to emigrate to Israel.

A spokesperson for the NCSJ suggested that the "sudden increase, most welcome by those involved, may be intended as a gesture of good will by the

Soviets" in advance of the meetings scheduled for January between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. He added it is "hopefully the first step in a trend which will continue well beyond those sessions."

## DUTCH ASHKENAZI COUNCIL, AFTER PROLONGED DEBATE, VOTES TO MEET WITH THE POPE DURING HIS VISIT NEXT MAY

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 20 (JTA) — The Council of the Ashkenazi Congregations after months of emotionally charged debate, decided by a single vote last Sunday that its representatives would meet with Pope John Paul II when he visits The Netherlands next May.

The 23-member Council split 12-11 in favor of the meeting. It imposed two conditions, however — that the Vatican must promise in advance that the Pope will utilize the meeting to announce the Vatican's recognition of the State of Israel; and that he must concede to the Jewish representatives the co-responsibility of the Catholic Church for the persecution of Jews for 2,000 years and specifically, for the absence of a public reaction to that persecution during World War II.

One of the 11 members who voted against the meeting said he did so because the conditions were too stringent. But the others opposed Jews meeting the Pope under any conditions as a matter of self-respect.

The issue has agitated Jewish circles here for months. The Executive of the Ashkenazi Congregations pointed out that Israel and the World Jewish Congress had spoken in favor of a meeting with the Pope. Israeli Premier Shimon Peres reportedly told the chairman of the Dutch Ashkenazi Congregation, Emanuel Winkler, in Paris two weeks ago, that such a meeting would be in Israel's interest.

It was noted further that representatives of the Jewish communities in Switzerland, Spain and Canada have met with John Paul II. But opponents argued that the Jews of those countries had suffered less from Nazi persecution than Dutch Jewry, of which 80 percent perished in the Holocaust. They maintained that a meeting with the Pope would only aggravate the anguish of Holocaust survivors.

## STREET TO GET A NEW NAME

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 20 (JTA) — A street in the town of Mengelo in eastern Holland will get a new name as a result of the initiative of Vienna-based Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal. The street was named 10 years ago in honor of the late Kuno Sterlingwill, a German-born organist who conducted the choir in Mengelo before World War II.

Wiesenthal called the attention of the local authorities to the fact that Sterlingwill joined the Nazi party in 1938 in Westphalia and later became a member of the SA. A portrait of Sterlingwill which his relatives presented to Mengelo after his death in 1967 has been returned to the family.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres has firmly denied reports that he had a secret meeting recently with King Hussein of Jordan. He was less unequivocal about reports that he had exchanged letters with the Jordanian ruler.