

## PERES LAYS WREATH AT JEWISH MEMORIAL MONUMENT AT BERGEN-BELSEN Fights To Hold Back Tears

By David Kantor

**BONN, Jan. 27 (JTA)** — Premier Shimon Peres of Israel laid a wreath at the Jewish memorial monument on the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near Hannover today. A cantor recited Kaddish, the prayer for the dead. The Israeli leader visited the documentation center where he examined photographs and fragments of literature attesting to the atrocities committed there more than 40 years ago.

Peres walked along the rows of deserted barracks, vestigial remains of the Holocaust. He said little. He was visibly moved and fought to hold back tears. At least 20 members of his family were among the hundreds of thousands of Jews and others who perished at Bergen-Belsen.

Peres' visit to the site was described as private, something quite apart from the political and economic aspects of his official three-day visit to West Germany.

Although he was accompanied by a ranking politician, Prime Minister Hans Albrecht of the federal state of Lower Saxony, on his tour of Bergen-Belsen, their conversation concerned the past and plans to expand the documentation center into a research and educational facility that will serve as a meeting place for German youth, the post-war generation with no memories of the Third Reich.

### To Promote Understanding And Reconciliation

Peres said after the visit that he went to Bergen-Belsen in part to promote understanding and reconciliation with the German people. He spoke of the new democratic Germany with which Israel wants to establish cooperation and promote understanding.

The Israeli Premier said he was primarily interested in launching a dialogue but this could not be done unless memories of the past are kept alive. In an interview yesterday with the German newspaper Bild, Peres said of the Holocaust that Israelis and Jews all over the world "cannot forget or let this be forgotten." He added that "a new Germany has arisen from that hell and that gives me reason for hope."

Peres' words about reconciliation were reminiscent of those spoken by the last prominent visitor to Bergen-Belsen, President Reagan, though in a different context. Reagan, who visited West Germany last May, went to the death camp site in a last-minute change of itinerary in order to deflect criticism and outrage over his plans to place a wreath at the German military cemetery at Bitburg, where about 50 members of the notorious Waffen SS are buried among other German war dead. Reagan's visit to Bergen-Belsen was boycotted by Jews, as was his appearance a few hours later at Bitburg.

Peres arrived in Bonn early yesterday evening and met with Germany's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He postponed his other official meetings until after the visit to Bergen-Belsen. But he hosted a breakfast for West German Jewish leaders this morning at the Schloss Giennich near Bonn, the official residence for guests of the government.

This afternoon, Peres was greeted by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the two reviewed a military guard of honor outside the Chancellor's office. A military band played the Israeli and German national anthems and the two leaders met privately for half an hour. They will meet again for three hours tomorrow afternoon.

German sources said Peres' talk with Genscher last night was focussed largely on Bonn's reluctance to join the American-imposed sanctions against Libya, which the U.S. insists was behind the terrorist attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports last December 27. Genscher will report on their meeting to his colleagues of the European Economic Community (EEC) who are meeting in Brussels today.

Peres said in a newspaper interview that he failed to understand why Europeans fight terrorism in their own countries but refuse to join the battle against international terrorism.

Peres is scheduled to meet separately this evening with former Chancellor Willy Brandt, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), and with the conservative Prime Minister of Bavaria, Franz-Joseph Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU) which is part of Kohl's ruling coalition.

On Wednesday, Peres will visit West Berlin, the first Prime Minister of Israel to visit the city that was the capital of the Third Reich. He is the second Israeli Premier to come to West Germany. Yitzhak Rabin, when he was Prime Minister, came here in 1975.

### ISRAEL AND SPAIN FORMALLY ANNOUNCE AMBASSADORS TO EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)** — Israel has formally named Shmuel Hadass, a career diplomat, as its first Ambassador to Spain. The announcement followed yesterday's Cabinet meeting where the Ministers were informed that Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain has already assured Premier Shimon Peres that his government would welcome Hadass' appointment.

Hadass is no stranger to Madrid. He has been Israel's representative for the past four years to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which is headquartered in the Spanish capital. As such he was in effect the shadow ambassador of Israel to a country with which it had no diplomatic relations.

Spain and Israel established formal diplomatic ties on January 17. Last Friday the Spanish Cabinet approved the appointment of Spain's first Ambassador to Israel, Pedro Lopez Aguirrebenaga, who is currently Ambassador to Greece. A Spanish government team is expected in Israel shortly to find suitable premises for their Embassy and an Ambassadorial residence.

### Good News Shortly About Black African Nations

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, meanwhile, predicted last night that there will be "good news" shortly with respect to Israel's efforts to re-establish diplomatic ties with more Black African nations. Israel already has relations with Liberia and Zaire, and last month Ivory Coast agreed to renew diplomatic relations with Israel, though so far it has not implemented that decision.

Shamir, addressing 700 delegates to the 19th world WIZO convention in Tel Aviv, denied speculation that a diplomatic breakthrough with the Soviet Union is imminent. On the contrary, he said, Moscow has informed

Arab governments it has no intention of restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, Shamir said. Recent unconfirmed reports from Washington said the Reagan Administration has been urging the Soviets to renew ties with Israel to facilitate convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. Peres has said repeatedly Israel would agree to Soviet participation only if it first re-established diplomatic links with the U.S.

Both Israel and the U.S. have opposed the idea of an international peace conference. But apparently both countries are willing to go along provided the international forum serves as the stage setting for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordanian-Palestinian representatives.

#### PERES' VISIT TO BRITAIN A SUCCESS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Israeli Premier Shimon Peres sealed the success of his official visit to Britain by convincing many of his hosts that it is up to Jordan rather than Israel to take the next important Middle East peace step.

After years of being cast as an intransigent obstacle to peace, Israel was convincingly portrayed by Peres as being genuinely anxious for an end to the conflict, ready to compromise on procedural matters, and sensitive to the needs of its Arab neighbors.

On the bilateral level, he secured Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's agreement to be the first British Premier to pay an official visit to Israel. Thatcher is also reported to have agreed to terminate the British government's processing of Arab boycott documents, a long-standing bone of contention between London and Jerusalem.

Such achievements were all the more remarkable as the visit last week coincided with a major British government crisis, culminating on Friday in the resignation from the Cabinet of Leon Brittan, Secretary for Trade and Industry, with whom Peres had himself conferred.

#### Outcome Of Peres-Murphy Talks

At a packed press conference on Friday to mark the end of his official visit, Peres also shed light on the outcome of the parallel talks he had been holding here with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy, who has been mediating between Peres and Jordan's King Hussein.

As a result of these talks, Peres said, King Hussein in the next few days would make a final approach to Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization over the terms and composition of the Arab delegation for a Middle East peace conference.

Peres saw little prospect that the PLO would agree to meet the requirements for its participation in international talks to be proposed by Hussein. But he got the message from his talks with Murphy that whatever the outcome of Hussein's soundings with other Arabs, the door would be kept open for further discussions.

He also spoke of a common feeling that time was running out and that whatever should be done should be done in a very short time.

In a hint that the diplomatic action may return to London, Peres said Murphy would return here or to the Mideast to continue his contacts. The problems on the road to negotiations with Jordan

and a Palestinian delegation were the composition and procedure of an international conference. For the Soviet Union to participate, it would have to meet Israel's requirement that it restore diplomatic relations with her. But there was no indication that this would happen.

#### Processing Arab Boycott Documents To Stop

On bilateral matters, Peres said he had seen no sign of Britain relaxing her arms embargo on Israel. However, on the Arab boycott, it was reported here that Thatcher has agreed to stop the Foreign Office's practice of authenticating lawyers' signatures on documents certifying that goods sold to the Arabs do not originate in Israel.

Such a practice, regarded as discriminatory against a friendly country, has been strongly criticized by a House of Lords Committee, which recommended its discontinuation. But Arab trade circles have frequently warned that it would damage Britain's business in the Middle East and so far the Foreign Office has taken such threats seriously. It now remains to be seen how quickly Thatcher's reported promise will be implemented.

Besides his political talks, Peres had lunch with Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales, and met Jewish communal organization leaders and groups of academics. His only trip outside London was to All Souls College, Oxford, to dine with philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin.

#### LAVIE JET FIGHTER PLANE MAY NEVER FLY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Israel's second generation jet fighter plane, the Lavie, may never fly. Although Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), its manufacturer, promises a prototype will be ready for test flights by the end of the year, the multibillion dollar project could be grounded for budgetary reasons.

Hirsch Goodman, The Jerusalem Post's defense correspondent, says opposition to the Lavie is growing as politicians and planners examine the Israel Defense Force's proposed development program for the period 1985-1990.

While the Air Force must keep pace with the rapidly growing air forces of the Arab confrontation states, it could be better served by purchasing sophisticated aircraft abroad at less cost than the home-built Lavie. This is the opinion of many senior Air Force officers.

IAI must sell at least 300 Lavies to the Air Force in order to break even. But cuts in the defense budget have reduced prospects for orders anywhere near that number. Over \$1 billion has already been spent by IAI on research and development.

Most of the money has been provided in the form of special grants from the U.S. But U.S. military aid to all recipient countries including Israel must be cut this year to stay within the limits of the new Gramm-Rudman law.

The Lavie still has powerful supporters, notably Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy, and Likud Minister Moshe Arens. The latter, an aeronautical engineer by training, was one of the originators of the Lavie project. The plane is supposed to replace Israel's first generation jet fighter, the Kfir, built in the seventies. Some military observers suggest that supporters of the Lavie are insisting the project be carried through for reasons of prestige rather than military value.

## TRIAL DATE SET FOR ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- The deportation hearing of alleged Nazi war criminal Karl Bruno Blach, a Czechoslovakian native accused of serving as a guard and dog handler at both Dachau and Wiener-Neudorf concentration camps, will take place this September, it was announced here by United States Immigration Judge James Patrick Vandello.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) has charged that Blach, 65, of La Habra, Calif., voluntarily joined the Nazi Party in 1939 and in June 1940 became a member of the Waffen SS, Hitler's corps of storm troopers. In addition, the OSI charges that Blach participated in the spring 1945 evacuation march from Wiener-Neudorf to Mauthausen, in which numerous persons died, in an effort to flee advancing forces.

At a hearing last week, Blach's attorney, Ronald Parker of Fullerton, Calif., stated that there were 30 charges made against his client and that of the 30, Blach admits to only three: that he is not a U.S. citizen, that he was born in Czechoslovakia, and that he is presently stateless.

Judge Vandello explained to Blach that the alleged crimes of which he is being accused are of a deportable nature, and that if he doesn't choose a country, the court will have to decide. Blach was given until July to file any papers which might block his deportation order.

Officials of the Simon Wiesenthal Center here attended last week's hearing and continue to monitor the case. "We are gratified that (the OSI) is finally forcing people like Karl Bruno Blach to stand before the bar of justice," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Center. "It is unfortunate, however, that the inevitable and just conclusion of such cases very often takes years rather than months to resolve."

## HISTADRUT THREATENS GENERAL STRIKE IN HAIFA OVER SHIPYARDS SITUATION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Histadrut announced last night that it will call a general strike of several hours' duration in Haifa next week to be followed by a countrywide general strike, if the financially ailing Haifa Shipyards is shut down by the government-appointed receiver.

The government-owned shipbuilding and repair facility on Haifa Bay has ordered its 650 employees on a payless furlough of indefinite duration. The workers responded by barricading themselves inside the gates.

They are maintaining a 24-hour sit-in in shifts to prevent a lock-out by management. Some carried coffins through Haifa streets today, symbolizing the "death" of the shipyards. Coffins were towed around Haifa port on barges to make the same point to waterfront workers.

The receiver, Amiram Blum, announced today that he has gotten permission to re-employ about 60 workers for repair work on ships. The Haifa Labor Council says the Shipyards could undertake other types of repair work not associated with the maritime industry to keep its work force busy.

The yards have been losing \$600,000 a month because of the lack of orders for new ships, partly a consequence of the worldwide shipping slump. The

Israel Navy has cut back orders for budgetary reasons. The Navy, in any event, has its own building and repair facilities. Blum, who claims credit for rescuing El Al, the national airline, when it was on the verge of liquidation several years ago, says the Shipyards can be salvaged by drastic cost-cutting and a much smaller payroll. But the Haifa area is highly sensitive to unemployment. More than a thousand workers were rendered jobless when the Ata textile mills were closed permanently last year.

## JEWISH LAWMAKER DIES FIVE HOURS AFTER TAKING NEW POST

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Jacob Salvador Zweibil, a four-term member of the Sao Paulo State Legislature who was long active in the Jewish community, died of a heart attack earlier this month only five hours after taking office as Secretary of Culture in Sao Paulo's municipal government. Zweibil, 65 at the time of his death, had been a member of the board of directors of Hebraica and Maccabi. He was born in Brazil.

Janio Quadros, Mayor of Sao Paulo and a former President of Brazil, who appointed Zweibil, promptly nominated Helio Dechtiar, another Jewish community leader, to replace him.

In an unrelated development, Jose Goldenberg, a professor of physics, was elected President of the University of Sao Paulo, the largest university in Brazil. Goldenberg is also active in the local Hebraica.

## FOUR WEST BANK ARABS FACE DEPORTATION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Deportation orders were issued against four Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the weekend. Security authorities said they were suspected of hostile activities. Three of the four were serving prison sentences for terrorist acts when they were released in a prisoner exchange deal last May.

Two of them, Hassan Mahmoud Ahmad Al-Amudi and Jallal Hafez Hisham Azaize, both residents of the Gaza Strip, were ordered deported for activities on behalf of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine subsequent to their release. Both had been serving life terms. Similar charges were brought against Mahmoud Fanoun of the West Bank.

Adnan Ghanem of Hebron faces deportation because he is allegedly a citizen of Jordan who infiltrated into the West Bank, not a legal resident of the territory. All four can appeal to the Military Appeals Board and, if rejected, may appeal to the Supreme Court. Israel has ordered five Arabs deported since the May exchange. One of them left voluntarily. The cases of the others are still before the courts.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Shoah, the nine-and-a-half hour epic documentary on the Holocaust by Claude Lanzmann, was Sunday night awarded the prize for best documentary of 1985 at the first Rotterdam Film Festival. More than one-third of the 70 judges, including international film critics and festival directors, voted for Shoah. Lanzmann was present to receive the award during the televised ceremony. Shoah was broadcast earlier this month on Dutch television on two consecutive Sunday nights.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA A TARNISHED HERO By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- In 1985, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation won accolades for its television special, "Charlie Grant's War." The program, which related the adventures of a young Canadian businessman in Vienna before and during World War II, singled out Grant as an outstanding example of a Canadian gentile who did so much to help Jews escape from the Third Reich.

One of the reasons the television docu-drama was so warmly received by both Canadian Jews and the general population of Canada was because it seemed to serve as a counter-balance to the horrendous official policy followed by the government of Canada before, during and after the war in excluding Jews from immigrating.

One of the most gripping scenes in the film, moreover, showed Grant's mother petitioning Prime Minister Mackenzie King and immigration official Charles Blair for a more liberal policy towards potential Jewish immigrants. Their refusal to open the doors for persecuted Jews was stressed in the video drama.

In depicting the heroism of Grant (who died just a couple of years ago in Canada) the CBC program placed him in a concentration camp where he befriends an old Jewish acquaintance. The latter teaches Grant the Kaddish because he feels that death is imminent and wants the prayer said for him.

### A Controversy Surfaces

A year after the program was aired, a controversy has surfaced in Canada regarding the factuality of the Charlie Grant saga. A recent article in the TV supplement of The Toronto Star (January 18) by Gerald Levitch indicates that the author of the television script based her information on Grant's life on stories which he told people before he died and on his widow's recollections. She is still alive and was feted by the Jewish community on the occasion of the film's release.

According to the film, Grant is said to have saved some 600 Jews from death by arranging for the procurement of passports and exit visas in Vienna. It has been noted, however, that not one of those 600 has ever come forward to acknowledge Grant's role in their rescue.

The Star's columnist also noted that at Israel's Yad Vashem, where careful records are kept regarding the role of "Righteous Gentiles" during the Holocaust (and where Raoul Wallenberg and Oskar Schindler are mentioned), there is no record of Charlie Grant.

Irving Abella, co-author with Harold Troper of "None Is Too Many," the historical study of the Canadian government's anti-Semitic immigration policies before, during and after World War II, says he heard about Grant in researching his book and was anxious to include information about him in order to offset the depressing picture of Canadian government complicity in shutting the door against European Jews.

Levitch wrote: "But because he (Abella) could find no evidence of his deeds in Europe, Israel or the U.S., he decided he couldn't use the story."

In trying to determine the authenticity of Grant's exploits, Abella suggests that a passport and an exit visa were not sufficient to permit a Jew to leave Vienna during the period in question. A whole slew of official documents was required, and for Grant to

have assisted 600 people in acquiring them would have necessitated access to a small factory. Anna Sandor, the film's writer, now admits that certain parts of her work are "fictionalized history." She describes as poetic license her placement of Grant in a death camp at the end of the war. The story of Grant learning to say Kaddish for a deceased Jewish comrade is also an invention, she says. The latter, known as Jacob in the film, is a composite drawn from Grant's description of several Jews he knew in Vienna.

"I don't know if Charlie Grant really did what he said he did," Levitch wrote, "but I do need more than his word for it. Therefore, I have to re-evaluate this movie for what it really is: a piece of cheap fiction, full of clichés, hackneyed characters, and corny melodrama. By hiding behind its claims of authenticity and truth, it sleazily has exploited our emotional need for real heroes."

### HADASSAH MEDICAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN PARIS MARCH 8-10

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- A historic first will take place in Paris March 8-10 when Hadassah Medical Relief Association (HMRA), Hadassah's new international organization, convenes its first conference for members from four continents.

Bernice Tannenbaum, chairman of the two-year old organization, announced that the conference would be a great step in promoting the goals of HMRA—which are to improve the quality of life in Israel through involvement, education and fund-raising.

"HMRA was started in October 1983," she said, "to accommodate the growing international demand for support for the work of the Hadassah Medical Organization. Through HMRA, those living outside the United States can support the vital care-giving programs of the HMO which have molded the character of medical services in Israel."

The first group was formed in Israel in 1983. It consisted of American Hadassah members who had made aliya and were delighted to continue their support and commitment to the Hadassah Medical Organization. The second group was formed in Lausanne, Switzerland. Today there are HMRA members and groups in France, Switzerland, Spain, Malta, Gibraltar, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Luxembourg, Finland, the Caribbean, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

### Attracts Leading Medical Authorities

HMRA's devotion to the pace-setting work of the Hadassah Medical Organization has attracted the involvement of leading medical authorities and civic leaders in the respective countries, Tannenbaum said.

The overall structure of HMRA permits a constant high-level exchange of ideas between professionals and lay persons, sometimes involving formal medical study and exchange programs between the doctors and personnel of the Hadassah Medical Organization with doctors, visitors, and students of countries where HMRA has emerged, she said.

Some countries have even gone beyond the general support of HMO operations to adopt sponsorship of HMO special projects or programs. Currently these special commitments include France's support of pioneering work in ophthalmology, Argentina's commitment to innovative work in bone-marrow transplantation; and Hadassah-Israel's activities benefiting the Pediatrics Department, Tannenbaum said.