

PERES IS CAUTIOUS ABOUT RAISING EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS AND AN EARLY BREAKTHROUGH IN CONTACTS WITH JORDAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres briefed the Cabinet today on his just-ended 12-day trip to Europe. No details were released, but Peres reportedly avoided raising expectations with respect to the Middle East peace process and said he did not foresee an early breakthrough in contacts with Jordan.

There were reports from Cairo today that President Hosni Mubarak has invited King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat to meet with him there next Saturday. Hussein apparently was unable to persuade Arafat to accept terms for PLO representation at future peace talks during their meetings in Amman last week.

There was also a report from Washington that Secretary of State George Shultz might consider a personal visit to the Middle East next month after a further shuttle mission to the region by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy. Murphy had three meetings with Peres while the Premier was in Europe, once in Holland last Sunday and twice in London during the week. He also met in London with Hussein, who left before Peres arrived there.

Faces Differences With Likud

Peres, who returned home Thursday after three days in West Germany and a visit to West Berlin, faces serious differences with his Likud coalition partners over Israel's position on the Middle East peace process in general and efforts to improve relations with Egypt in particular. The most immediate problem is a settlement of the Taba border dispute.

The Inner Cabinet agreed on January 13 to Egypt's demand to put the matter to international arbitration, but with an initial try at conciliation, insisted on by Likud. The process is linked to an overall package deal aimed at normalizing relations with Egypt, including the early return of the Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv. The Israeli concession had a cool reception in Cairo.

Peres will consult this week with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin prior to the resumption of talks between Israeli and Egyptian diplomats to draft the terms of reference for arbitration over Taba. The Prime Minister is said to be resisting Likud demands for another full-scale Inner Cabinet debate before the diplomatic talks resume.

Weizman's Trip to Cairo Gets a Boost

Sources close to Peres, meanwhile, are putting out the word that Ezer Weizman's hurried trip to Cairo for a meeting with Mubarak a week ago was not as barren of results as Likud circles have depicted it. They got an unexpected boost from Mubarak, who warned in Cairo yesterday against writing off Weizman's mission and hinted it concerned much more than just the Taba dispute.

Weizman, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, undertook his mission with the approval of Peres and Shamir but apparently failed to get Mubarak to agree on a date for a summit meeting with Peres.

The two men who head the diplomatic team in talks with Egypt, Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, and David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, have meanwhile let it be known they will not resume their mission until their respective political superiors reach some kind of agreement among themselves. Until then, Tamir and Kimche say, they are in the dark as to exactly what their powers and negotiating authority are.

**BORIS SMOLAR, JTA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
EMERITUS, DIED LAST FRIDAY; HIS
WIFE, GENIA, DIED 15 HOURS EARLIER**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) — Boris Smolar, the former Editor-in-Chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, whose coverage of world Jewry for more than 60 years set a standard of excellence in Jewish journalism, died at Roosevelt Hospital here last Friday after a long illness. He was 88 years old.

Smolar was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Genia Smolar, a former executive in the pre-war Jewish community of Berlin, who also died last Friday at Roosevelt Hospital, just 15 hours before her husband's death, according to Smolar's sister, Millie Hocherman. Funeral services are scheduled for today in Baltimore.

Smolar's career as a journalist and advocate of Jewish causes placed him amid some of the most crucial and significant events of world Jewry in the 20th century, including the United Nation's 1947 decision to accept partition of Palestine leading to the creation of a Jewish State.

'One Of The Most Sacred Moments Of My Life'

Smolar later wrote of that night in the UN building in Flushing Meadows, New York: "I must confess that this moment has remained one of the most sacred moments of my life. During those historic weeks and months when the creation of a Jewish State was in doubt, every Jewish journalist did whatever he could to aid the Jewish delegation."

Born in 1897 in the Ukrainian village of Rovno, the son of Eliezer Levy and Miriam Smolar, Boris came to the United States in 1919 after serving in the Russian Army in World War I and as a member of the Rovno Relief Committee, helping Jewish refugees fleeing the war zone in Russia.

He graduated from the Haven School in Chicago, went on to study at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, while at the same time working on the editorial staff of the Chicago Jewish Daily Forward until 1924. At this time he joined the JTA.

Smolar became the JTA's European correspondent, and a roving reporter of the New York World, the paper published by Joseph Pulitzer. His JTA dispatches were widely featured in the general press, and the Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press. In 1939, he was named Editor-in-Chief of the JTA, a post he held until retiring in 1967.

In 1928, Smolar succeeded in securing permission from the Soviet government to establish a JTA office in Moscow. He became the first JTA correspondent there, accredited by the Soviet Foreign Commissariat, providing a much-needed pipeline of information on the lifestyles and problems facing Soviet Jewry. Only six American correspondents were permitted at that time in the Soviet Union.

His coverage of the Soviet Union provided special insights into areas such as Siberia and Turkestan, both closed to foreigners. He covered Jewish agricultural colonies in Crimea, supported by Agrojoint. But in his role as objective reporter and advocate of Jewish concerns, Smolar also made news. In 1928, for example, he intervened with Soviet authorities to get Saadieh Mazeh, son of the late Chief Rabbi of Moscow, Jacob Mazeh, out of jail, and later, along with his wife and family, out of Russia.

In another incident, in 1930, 14 rabbis were arrested in Minsk, only to be released soon thereafter following Smolar's intervention. Smolar personally met with Commissar for Religious Affairs Peter Smidovich, and it was later decided by the Jewish section of the Soviet Communist Party, the Yevseksia, that Jewish agricultural workers would be allowed to do their one day of free collective service on a different day other than the scheduled date of Yom Kippur in 1930.

But Smolar took particular pride in his personal intervention regarding the miserable conditions of the "declassified" Jews in Russia who were deprived of their rights under a decree by Stalin. His dispatches on the "declassified" Jews led to intervention from U.S. officials and others, leading to a reversal of the policy order, and the later elimination of the Yevseksia.

Smolar never interviewed Stalin directly during his assignment in Moscow, but in 1931 in response to written questions, he elicited a strong condemnation of anti-Semitism from Stalin, which was published worldwide, but not in the Soviet press until 1936.

In addition, Smolar's assignments led him to cover the pogroms in Rumania in 1930. His dispatches from the Rumanian capital resulted in the resignation of the notorious anti-Semite, Alexander Voyda-Voivod, as Minister of the Interior. He also reported from Rumania in 1937 when the two extreme anti-Semites, Octavia Goga and Prof. A.Z. Cuza, took over the government, resulting in panic in the Jewish community.

Filed Reports From Germany And Palestine

Smolar then proceeded to Berlin, to cover Germany in 1932. It is widely acknowledged that Smolar was among the first correspondents to predict Hitler's accession and to warn of the grave menace to the German Jews. Harassed by the Gestapo, and at the risk of his personal safety, Smolar continued to file reports on the impending doom facing German Jewry.

"After numerous attempts to make it difficult for me -- in the hopes that I would leave Germany voluntarily -- the Gestapo finally decided to deport me, declaring my presence in Berlin as 'constituting a danger to the Third Reich,'" Smolar wrote of his assignment in Berlin. "No greater compliment could have been paid to the JTA and to me than this action by the Hitler Germany."

Smolar also spent years covering the situation in Palestine, during the pre-State years. He reported on the Arab riots in Palestine in 1929, and knew all the major Zionist leaders, including Chaim Weizmann

and Vladimir Jabotinsky. In 1940, Smolar provided an affidavit by which the late Jabotinsky's son, Eri, and his fiancée were able to leave Nazi-occupied France.

Involved In Numerous Activities

Smolar was the author of numerous books published in Yiddish and Hebrew, and his latest book, "In the Service of My People," an autobiographical outline of his years as a journalist, was published by Hebrew College in Baltimore in 1982. He also authored "Soviet Jewry Today and Tomorrow," published in 1971.

Smolar was the recipient of numerous citations, awards and medals, including the Bronze Peace Medal and the Silver Shekel Medal from the Israeli government. He also was presented with Amorim Alumna Pax Medal by Pope Paul VI in 1965.

He was involved in numerous Jewish organizations, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the American ORT Federation, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. In 1972, the Council of Jewish Federations established in his honor the "Smolar Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism," presented annually to recognize outstanding achievement in Jewish journalism in North America.

Smolar retired from his post as Editor-in-Chief of the JTA in 1967, and was named Editor-in-Chief Emeritus. He continued to write his weekly column, "Between You and Me," syndicated by the JTA, until about a month ago. He also wrote a column for the Jewish Daily Forward.

A Life-Long Companion

Smolar's wife, Genia, who also died last Friday, was his life-long companion and had accompanied him on his numerous travels. He wrote of her in "In the Service of My People": "I shall never be able to repay my life-long debt for a life of great joy to my beloved wife, Genia, who stimulated me to write this book and who experienced with me the dangerous years when I was stationed in Nazi Germany and later, the thrilling years in London, Paris and other countries, and the wonderful, exciting years in Israel."

POPE HAS AUDIENCE WITH ISRAELI ENVOY

ROME, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II had a 15-minute audience Friday with Nathan Ben Horin, a Minister at the Israel Embassy here who, since 1980, has been liaison to the Holy See. The Vatican does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Ben Horin was received privately by the Pontiff, accompanied by his Italian-born wife, Miriam Ben Horin, who has been active in interreligious affairs here. She is the founder of the Jungian psychotherapy department of the Faculty of Psychiatry at Rome University.

Members of the Israel government and ranking diplomats have been received by Popes before. John Paul's audience with Ben Horin was perceived as a personal gesture no less than a formal one. Ben Horin is retiring from the diplomatic service after three tours of duty in Rome, during which he became highly regarded in ecclesiastical, intellectual, cultural and journalistic circles. His audience was the last one the Pope's agenda before the Pontiff left on a tour of India.

It was learned that the Pope expressed not only warm personal feelings for the Israeli diplomat but hope that the Jewish State and the entire Middle East will soon enjoy peace. He spoke of the common

bonds between Christianity and Judaism and said he recalled "well the sufferings of the Jewish people in the Holocaust.

Ben Horin was first posted to Rome in 1961 and served until 1966 in the triple capacity of press, information and cultural attache. He returned in 1970 and served until 1975 as press information officer. He was sent to Rome again in 1980 to become Israel's diplomatic liaison with the Vatican.

ISRAEL WON'T HELP INDIAN WHO FACES CHARGES OF SPYING FOR ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) — Israel has no intention of helping the man who served as an unofficial lobbyist for Israel in the Indian Parliament and is now facing charges of spying for Israel.

According to today's Jerusalem Post, Rama Swaroop, a leading member of the rightwing Hindu Nationalist Party, Jan Sangh, has been under arrest for six weeks, charged with selling Indian military secrets to Western powers including Israel, and with promoting political support for Israel.

India does not have full diplomatic relations with Israel, and Israel is represented there by a consul in Bombay.

The Foreign Ministry here told The Jerusalem Post that the charges are fabrications and that Israel has done nothing to help Swaroop and knows of no legal or financial aid intended for him.

Former Israeli Consul in Bombay, Reuven Dafni, interviewed in the Post, said that it would be "an exaggeration" to call Swaroop a "lobbyist." He acknowledged that Swaroop had "arranged appointments" for the Consul and visiting Israeli personalities with Indian politicians. Dafni said that he thought Swaroop had been paid expenses rather than a regular "retainer" fee.

The former Consul felt that direct Israeli help or involvement in the case could only "harm" Swaroop.

Swaroop is understood to have served at different times as the lobbyist for various countries, including West Germany, South Korea, South Vietnam and Taiwan.

A leading Indian jurist, Ram Jethmalani, who was in Israel for the World Jewish Congress Assembly last week, has agreed to defend Swaroop. The jurist said, according to Dafni, that the charges are "unfounded" and that he believed Swaroop would be freed.

U.S. VETOS ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 2 (JTA) — The United States last Thursday night vetoed a Security Council resolution which deplored Israel's "provocative acts which have violated the sanctity of the sanctuary of the Haram Al-Sharif," the mosque complex on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The vote was 13-1 with one abstention, Thailand. The U.S. veto was its second this month on an anti-Israel resolution. The first was on a resolution condemning Israel's actions in south Lebanon.

The 15-member Security Council opened its debate January 22 at the request of Morocco, as the chairman of the Arab Group at the UN, to discuss recent confrontations on the Temple Mount between a group of visiting Knesset members and angry Arab crowds.

Addressing the Council Thursday night, Israeli

Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu rejected the Arabs' charges that the Israeli visitors desecrated the Al Aksa mosque. In fact, he said, the Knesset members visited the Temple Mount after they had made arrangements with the Waqf, the Moslem religious authority in charge of administering Moslem holy places in Jerusalem. He added that the MKs were attacked by an Arab crowd at Solomon's Stable, a site which, according to Netanyahu, "had no religious significance.

4 CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS, DEMONSTRATING ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY CONVICTED OF VIOLATING STATUTE

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) — Four more Soviet Jewry activists — this time Christian community leaders — were convicted last Thursday of violating a District of Columbia statute by demonstrating in front of an Embassy.

In what has become a virtual ritual since the trials of protestors arrested at the Soviet Embassy began last December, the judge handed down a 15-day suspended prison sentence, six months' probation and a \$50 fine. But he agreed, as he did in another hearing last month, to postpone the sentences pending appeal.

The four demonstrators convicted last week included a Catholic priest, a Lutheran minister and two lay leaders. For the Rev. John Steinbruck, the Lutheran minister, it was the second conviction since December, when he was given the same sentence for participating in a similar rally last May.

Arrested In Different Circumstances

Over 130 people — including rabbis, cantors and Jewish community leaders — have been arrested in the seven arrest protests to date. The four convicted Thursday, however, were arrested in somewhat different circumstances than the others who have participated in Embassy demonstrations.

The arrest took place on Yom Kippur, and the four had volunteered, as they and others in the Christian community have done for years on Jewish holidays, to conduct the 15-year-old daily vigil for Soviet Jewry across the street from the Embassy.

Only Steinbruck had come with the intention of getting arrested. But the police suddenly moved in and arrested all three for carrying protest placards in an Embassy area.

Attorney Frank Campbell, who, like the lawyers for the other groups of demonstrators, has taken the case without fee, argued that the charges should be dropped because no warning had been given to disperse and because the placards were not of a nature that would violate the District statute.

But once presiding Judge Joseph Hannon rejected those arguments, Campbell presented the same defense as that put forward in the previous hearings — that the protestors had a moral imperative to violate the statute in an effort to aid victims of Soviet persecution.

Again, the judge rejected the defense and consequently refused to hear any testimony. But he did accept a written account of what the proposed witnesses would have said, not only about Soviet persecution of Jews, but of Christians as well.

HOLOCAUST DENIERS FILE FEDERAL SUIT AGAINST WIESENTHAL CENTER, AJCOMMITTEE

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- David McCalden, long-time leader of Holocaust revisionists and cofounder of the Institute for Historical Review, has brought suit against the California Library Association (CLA), the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the American Jewish Committee and the City of Los Angeles, "alleging conspiracy to interfere with civil rights and breach of contract."

The suit, filed last November by McCalden, who is also known as Lewis Brandon, and his "Truth Missions," a front group for the propagation of Holocaust revisionism in Manhattan Beach, California, grows out of an incident in December 1984 when the 3,000-member CLA initially slated and then withdrew an invitation to McCalden and other well-known Holocaust deniers to speak at a state-wide convention on the topic of "The Holocaust and Free Speech."

When the invitation first became known to the public, the Wiesenthal Center joined with the American Jewish Committee and numerous political and religious leaders in vigorously protesting the presentation. At that time, Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center, who is also named as a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said, "Every time you give these Holocaust revisionists a microphone, they kill the victims of Hitler's 'Final Solution' again."

After receiving additional protests from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Urban League, and the L.A. City Council, CLA Executive Director Stefan Moses announced CLA's decision to cancel the appearance.

PERES APPEALS TO USSR TO ALLOW JEWS TO EMIGRATE AND TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR MIDEAST PEACE

By David Kantor

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, the first Prime Minister of Israel to visit the former capital of the Third Reich, used that occasion to appeal to the Soviet Union, whose armies he acknowledged contributed mightily to the downfall of Hitler, to allow those Jews who wish to leave the USSR and to play a positive role in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

Peres, ending a three-day official visit to West Germany, arrived here last Wednesday from Bonn and was greeted at the city hall by West Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen. Later, at a dinner in his honor, he said: "Let me use this rostrum in the city where Nazi leadership had its formidable start and its shameful end -- brought about by the Red Army as well -- to call upon the new leadership of the Soviet Union not to forget the common suffering of both our peoples... Let those who survived move to their destiny. Let our people go -- and come."

His stay in West Berlin was brief but his itinerary was hectic. From Tempelhof Airport he visited the Israeli pavilion at the Green Week Agricultural Fair, where he stressed Israel's desire to continue its commercial ties with the European Economic Community (EEC).

He placed a wreath by the tablet commemorating the Holocaust victims at the Jewish Community Center here, remarking that the Center served both as a sign of the continuity of the great Jewish tradition in Berlin and as a viable link to the State of Israel.

He also visited the monument erected in memory of the high-ranking German army officers who, hoping to end World War II and destroy the Nazi regime, attempted to assassinate Hitler in July 1944. All were caught and suffered torture and death at the hands of the Gestapo. That group of officers, Peres said, was a symbol of German opposition to Hitler.

A highlight of his Berlin tour was a visit to the old Reichstag building. Observing the Berlin Wall nearby, Peres referred to the Jews of Eastern Europe. "This physical barrier separates also two parts of the Jewish people," he said. He added, "No wall can block the hopes of the people to get together and to exchange ideas and views."

In a paraphrase of President John Kennedy's famous remark at the same spot more than two decades ago -- "Ich bin ein Berliner" -- Peres said, "I am from Jerusalem, not from Berlin. I can tell you a lot about an experience of 2,000 years with walls and barriers. Walls come and walls go, but the will of the people prevails."

Meeting With German Students

Peres met with a group of German students to answer their questions which ranged from the Arab-Israel conflict to recent manifestations of anti-Semitism in West Berlin and in the Federal Republic. The students mounted an impressive exhibition on the heritage of European Judaism to counter an anti-Semitic incident which had occurred at their school.

They questioned the Premier about the recently produced play by the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder -- "Garbage, the City and Death" -- in which a character identified as a wealthy Jew was depicted as a villain and exploiter of the poor.

Peres said, "It is primarily a German problem to fight anti-Semitism. Whenever there is anti-Semitism, Germans should be concerned. It is your awareness and reactions that count. Anti-Semitism in itself was never the real problem, but rather the lack of will and resolve of the mainstream groups fighting it."

Peres was asked by a German student at one point why he had not become the poet he had hoped to be in his youth. "I was not good enough," he said. "Probably by mistake I became a politician and it became too late to change. My most important concern and desire is to bring peace to the Middle East."

FOREST FOR SEVEN DEAD ASTRONAUTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The seven astronauts killed in the Challenger tragedy last week will be commemorated with a forest planted by the Jewish National Fund in the Jerusalem hills. Tens of thousands of trees will be planted in memory of the astronauts and in honor of American space research at the American Independence Park established during the United States' 200th anniversary year.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The workers of the Israel Shipyard in Haifa, presently in the hands of the official receiver, have agreed to take a 30 percent cut in wages for one month, to ensure that all the yards' 650 employees will be kept on the payroll for that period. During the month's grace, the receiver will try to work out a plan for the permanent operation of the yard.