

ISRAEL AWAIT'S SHCHARANSKY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Ben Gurion Airport authorities, preparing for the reception of Soviet Jewish aliya activist Anatoly Shcharansky, expected to be released tomorrow in an East-West prisoner exchange, are being besieged by scores of organizations which want to participate in the arrival ceremonies. The authorities hope to keep the reception low key because of Shcharansky's health.

Shcharansky, arrested nine years ago, has served eight years of a 13-year sentence for allegedly spying for the U.S. According to reports here and abroad, he will be turned over to American authorities in West Berlin tomorrow. When he will arrive in Israel is not known.

But there is already confusion as to the whereabouts of his wife, Avital Shcharansky who lives in Israel and has been campaigning worldwide for her husband's release for nearly a decade.

Friends of the family said today she is still in Israel and will not leave for West Berlin until she has definite word that her husband is about to be freed. Earlier reports here said she had left for Berlin. A report from Bonn said she was already there and journalists and television camera crews were trying to track her down in the divided city.

Shcharansky's imminent release was reported a week ago. The reports said he would be included in a spy swap that will see several Western agents imprisoned in the East exchanged for Eastern bloc agents imprisoned in the West. Negotiations for the swap reportedly have been underway for the better part of a year and were expedited at the Geneva summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last November.

The Route To Freedom

The exchange is expected to take place at the Glienicke Bridge which links West Berlin with Potsdam in East Germany. Shcharansky and the other prisoners would then be flown to Frankfurt and from there the Jewish activist would fly to Israel, official sources here indicated today.

By the time he gets here he will have been reunited with his wife and they will step from the plane together. Israeli officials want to keep the welcoming ceremonies as small as possible in view of Shcharansky's precarious state of health after his ordeal in Soviet prisons and forced labor camps. He is believed to be suffering from a variety of ailments brought on by the harsh conditions he had to endure.

There were also reports today that Shcharansky's mother, Ida Milgrom, who lives in Moscow, will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union at a later date to join her son in Israel.

REPORT THAT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO EXTRADITE BRUNNER

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Officials here reported yesterday that the Syrian government has refused a West German request for the extradition of Nazi war

criminal Alois Brunner, who has been living in Damascus at least since 1958. Brunner, widely described as "the right hand" of Adolf Eichmann, is held responsible for the deportation of more than 100,000 Jews to death camps. According to testimony by survivors, he personally murdered at least one Jew on a transport from Vienna to Riga.

Walter Griebel, the prosecutor general in Frankfurt, said the Syrian authorities refused to confirm published newspaper reports that Brunner was interviewed in Damascus with their approval. He said additional material is being studied for another official extradition request. But the Bonn government is not known to be applying any pressure on Syria toward that end.

Brunner, now 74, has abandoned his alias, "Dr. Georg Fischer," and is now living openly under his own name, sources here said. They said his exact location in Damascus has been documented in West Germany since June 22, 1960.

JUDGE TURNS DOWN APPEAL BY ARTUKOVIC NOT TO BE EXTRADITED TO YUGOSLAVIA

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10 (JTA) — An appeal by Nazi war criminal Andrija Artukovic against an extradition order has been denied by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Manuel Real. The ruling could allow for Artukovic's rapid extradition from the U.S. to Yugoslavia.

Artukovic, the former minister for the Nazi puppet state of Croatia in Yugoslavia, is responsible for the murder of more than 700,000 Serbians, 40,000 Gypsies, and 28,000 Jews during World War II. The Nazi war criminal has been fighting extradition to Yugoslavia where he would stand trial, and last Friday lost his first appeal to the District Court.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said, "this is a great victory. We hope this ruling will provide for Artukovic's immediate return to the country where he committed those atrocious crimes against innocent people." Artukovic has 10 days in which to file an appeal on Judge Real's ruling. Real, at the same time, has the authority to lift the stay which was imposed last June.

In addition, Magistrate Volney Brown, Jr., the initial magistrate in the case, has rejected Artukovic's attempt to reopen the original extradition proceedings.

JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL SAYS THE AGENCY SHOULD BE 'PREPARED' FOR POSSIBLY MANY OLIM FROM DISTRESSED JEWISH COMMUNITIES COMING TO ISRAEL
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Akiva Lewinsky, treasurer of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, said today that the Jewish Agency should be "prepared" for the possibility of large numbers of immigrants from distressed Jewish communities around the world coming to Israel.

Speaking at a press conference at Jewish Agency headquarters here, Lewinsky declined to specify from which countries such aliya might come. But he hinted at the Soviet Union when he said, "Jews are behind all kinds of curtains and these curtains might be lifted. Relationships between countries are changing. The situa-

tion is not frozen." Asked if Israel and the Jewish Agency are prepared to absorb, say, 50,000 Russian Jews, he said that such immigration would contribute to Israel's economy and that world Jewry would no doubt come forward to assist in the absorption in the event of such large-scale immigration.

Questioned about immigration from Ethiopia to complement the 10,000 Ethiopian Jews airlifted to Israel more than a year ago, Lewinsky said there are presently about 8,000 Jews left behind in Ethiopia. He said their situation has worsened since the airlift because they have been subjected to all manner of maltreatment.

Lewinsky also said, in reply to a question, that he expects more than 1,000 new immigrants from South Africa in the coming year. He noted that last year only 300 South African Jews immigrated to Israel. He did not say on what he based his prediction for this year.

Lewinsky's press conference was called to announce the meeting of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors which will be held in New York February 18-19 with the participation of some 200 prominent Jewish leaders from all over the world, including a delegation of 22 from Israel.

Following the Board of Governors meeting, Board members and their staffs will participate in Jewish Agency Week, a series of visits to about 50 Jewish communities in the U.S. and Canada.

Two Major Budget Problems

Lewinsky said that the Board will discuss a projected budget of \$381 million for the next year, in addition to the \$48 million budget for Project Renewal.

He said the two major problems of the Jewish Agency with respect to the budget are the absorption of new immigrants and their final integration into the mainstream of life in Israel, and the efforts of the Jewish Agency to help some 400 settlements in Israel which are under its care and which, according to Lewinsky, are under severe economic strain.

Noting that the Jewish Agency has had a balanced budget for the last four years, he said that is the goal of this year's operations as well. According to Lewinsky, the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews airlifted into Israel has cost \$350 million so far, an amount shared by the Jewish Agency in Israel. He said that presently there are about 12,000 immigrants in absorption centers in Israel.

Lewinsky said the Board of Governors meeting will also discuss and plan the Jewish Agency Assembly which will take place in Jerusalem June 20-26.

GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — The inflation rate was zero in the last two weeks of January and the estimate of about 1.5 percent for the full month would be the smallest rise of the consumer price index in eight years. That and other good economic news just released by the Central Bureau of Statistics has put Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai in a strong position for his upcoming contract negotiations with Histadrut.

He said today that with inflation virtually nonexistent there is no need to abandon the wage/price freeze which he credited for ending the spiral of devaluation and price hikes. Modai urged the trade union federation not to demand wage increases but rather maintain the present situation in which consumer buying power is guaranteed.

The success of the economic austerity program is threatened, however, by the Cabinet's decision yesterday to increase the defense budget by \$37 million. Modai warned that if this trend continues it would undo what has been accomplished so far in setting the economy right.

Israel's trade deficit shrank by 16.4 percent last month compared to the same month a year ago, an improvement attributed to the combined effects of plunging oil prices, a weaker U.S. dollar, and a rise in Israel's military exports. Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon expressed satisfaction with the latest figures that showed a 16 percent increase of industrial exports.

They totalled \$517 million last month, a 2.6 percent increase over January, 1985. Imports amounted to \$593 million, 3.5 percent higher than the same month last year but the net deficit was reduced to \$176 million. The export of metal and electronic products which are generally of a military nature, was up 26 percent last month. Textile exports rose by 22 percent.

ISRAEL AND THE EEC NEGOTIATING ADJUSTMENT OF THEIR 1975 TRADE ACCORD

BRUSSELS, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Israel and the European Economic Community (EEC) have ended the first week of what promises to be prolonged negotiations aimed at adjusting their 1975 trade accord to accommodate the entry of Spain and Portugal into the Common Market, both exporters of agricultural products that compete with Israel's exports to the Continent.

"Although they have not been conclusive, we have made progress," an Israel Embassy official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. He was speaking of the first round of meetings here between the EEC Executive Commission and an Israeli delegation headed by Yossef Hadass, Israel's Ambassador to Belgium and to the EEC.

The official said Israel welcomed, with reservations, some of the EEC proposals. One is the progressive dismantling, over a 10-year period, of all remaining tariffs on agricultural exports from non-EEC Mediterranean countries.

This would parallel the elimination of tariffs on such exports from Spain and Portugal, which joined the Common Market on January 1. Another suggestion is to reduce, by 1991, what are called the import reference prices for five sensitive products, including oranges, if export conditions deteriorate.

Israel has expressed fear that such a move would introduce an element of insecurity for the producers and the European importers of those products. Israel has also complained that the export quotas proposed by the EEC were based on a 10 member-state Economic Community whereas there are now 12 member states.

Israel is asking the Commission in addition to eliminate tariffs on raw materials and finished goods and to take up the problem of quotas on fresh-cut flowers, an important Israeli export to the Common Market countries.

The Israeli official noted that the European Community is Israel's main trading partner. It absorbed Israeli exports amounting to \$1.9 billion in 1985. The EEC is also negotiating with other Mediterranean countries, including Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. These must be concluded before the EEC "gives a technical response to our demands," the official said.

RABIN: ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO CAPTURE TERRORIST LEADERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Defense Minister

Yitzhak Rabin made it clear in the Knesset today that Israel has good reason to continue to try to capture terrorist leaders even though its efforts were thwarted when a private Libyan plane intercepted last Tuesday turned out not to have been carrying the terrorist chiefs believed to have been aboard.

Rabin also flatly denied reports from the U.S. that carrier-based American warplanes of the Sixth Fleet are protecting El Al flights from retaliation threatened by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi. El Al planes are protected from terrorist attacks, "and not by the Sixth Fleet," Rabin declared. He would not elaborate.

The Defense Minister spoke for the government in reply to a non-confidence motion introduced by Meir Wilner of the Hadash (Communist) Party. Wilner denounced the interception as an act of piracy. Rabin retorted that Israel would not "give terrorist leaders insurance policies." He said the interception was an expression of that policy.

'A Mistake Was Made'

"I will not blur the fact that a mistake was made," he told the Knesset. The terrorists believed to be in the plane were not in it. But the nine passengers, all Syrian political figures, were by no means mere innocents, Rabin said. They were members of the Syrian Ba'ath party returning home from a conference in Tripoli, Libya, of representatives of Arab radical groups and terrorists who certainly discussed terrorism and may have planned new terrorist acts.

Nevertheless, the plane and its passengers and crew were released after a brief interrogation at an air base in northern Israel and allowed to continue their journey.

If the terrorist leaders had been caught by Israel, Rabin said, "I am convinced it would have been a grave blow to their organization. I am convinced that it would have helped us find out more about the acts of terror committed by them, and others being planned by them. And it would have also helped us to find out more about the fate of our MIAs (soldiers missing in action in Lebanon), whose whereabouts are still unknown after more than three years," the Defense Minister said.

He dismissed Wilner's claim that the interception would surely invite reprisals in which innocent people would suffer. Israel is prepared for any "acts of madness" that Qaddafi or others might try to perpetrate, Rabin said. He stressed however that the terrorists didn't need the interception as a pretext to strike at Israel. It is their constant goal no matter what Israel does, he said.

Rabin and Premier Shimon Peres shouldered full responsibility for the embarrassing error last week, apparently the result of faulty intelligence. But Peres headed off demands for a full-scale Cabinet debate on policy in this sensitive area. The demands came mainly from Labor ministers. The matter is expected to be discussed at a meeting of the 10-member Inner Cabinet, which is considered more leak-proof than the Cabinet as a whole.

ISRAELIS, EGYPTIANS HOLD FRIENDLY TALKS ON TABA AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomats returning from Cairo after the latest round of talks on the Taba border dispute reported an unexpectedly warm and friendly atmosphere among the Israeli

and Egyptian working groups dealing with both Taba and the parallel issues of normalization of relations between the two countries. Nevertheless, thorny problems remain to be resolved.

The Israeli team is headed by Gen. (Res.) Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, and David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. Their talks wound up in Cairo last Thursday night and will resume later this week when the Israelis host the Egyptian teams in Herzliyah. These are the first negotiations since Israel's Inner Cabinet accepted in principle last January 13 Egypt's demand to submit the Taba dispute to international arbitration.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismet Abdel Meguid told Tamir and Kimche that all restrictions on trade with Israeli firms have been lifted and that he anticipated an early meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli tourism ministers to discuss ways to boost tourist traffic between the two countries.

Movement On The Ras Burka Case

Meguid also informed the Israeli officials that the full court judgement in the Ras Burka case will be conveyed to the Israel Embassy in Cairo as soon as it is signed by Defense Minister Abu-Ghazalla.

The document is the court record of the trial and conviction of an Egyptian soldier, Suleiman Khatar, who, on October 1, 1985, machinegunned to death seven Israeli tourists on the beach at Ras Burka in eastern Sinai. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but hanged himself in a military hospital.

Israel had demanded the full report of the inquiry commission set up by Cairo to investigate the killings, and the refusal of the Egyptian government to turn this over worsened the strained relations with Egypt. But Israel now is apparently willing to accept the 23-page court judgement while reserving the right to request further material should this prove incomplete. The Egyptians have agreed. Israel is also asking Egypt to pay reparations to the families of the seven victims, four of whom were children.

Taba Issue Is Thorny

With respect to Taba, serious differences are expected to surface over the number and make-up of the arbitration panel, the duration of the arbitration proceedings and the wording of the questions the arbitrators will be asked to determine ownership of the tiny Taba territory.

Sharp differences are also bound to arise over Israel's condition that the first eight months of the process be devoted to attempts at conciliation, meaning to reach a compromise between the two disputants if possible before awarding a decision to one or the other. Egypt has never accepted the term "conciliation."

Israeli On Death Row In Cairo

An unrelated issue that could disturb Israeli-Egyptian relations is the death sentence imposed by a Cairo court on an Israeli citizen, Yosef Taban of Ashdod, who was convicted of smuggling 1.25 kilograms of heroin into Egypt. Taban was arrested at Cairo airport last August enroute home from Bombay and reportedly told the Egyptian authorities the heroin was intended for sale in Israel.

Israel is now expected to ask Egypt to extradite Taban. Police Minister Haim Barlev expressed hope that the Egyptians would do this but has not said whether a decision has been made to request his extradition. Taban is now on death row in a Cairo prison awaiting confirmation of his sentence by the Council of Muftis.

NEO-NAZI GANG GIVEN PRISON TERMS RANGING FROM 40 TO 100 YEARS By Ellen Marks

SEATTLE, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Ten members of a radical neo-Nazi gang have been given stiff prison terms ranging between 40 and 100 years for following a bizarre plot to overthrow the government and establish an Aryan society.

U.S. District Judge Walter McGovern made little comment when members of the group, The Order, were sentenced here last week for racketeering and conspiracy.

Prosecutors, during a three-and-a-half month trial last fall, accused the group of committing two murders, robbery, counterfeiting, and other crimes as it sought to kill Jews, deport minorities, and create an all-white nation.

The harshest sentences went to those accused of committing murder. McGovern ordered a 100-year sentence for Bruce Carroll Pierce, suspected of being the triggerman in the June 1984 machinegun slaying of Denver radio personality Alan Berg.

Government authorities claimed Pierce, 31, of Hayden Lake, Idaho, and several other group members decided to kill Berg because he was Jewish and relished baiting anti-Semites who phoned him during his call-in show.

Also given a 100-year sentence was Randolph Duey, 34, of Spokane, Wash. Duey was accused of murdering fellow white supremacist Walter West because he was believed to be leaking information about The Order.

Warns That 'The Blood Will Flow'

Gary Lee Yarbrough, sentenced to 60 years for racketeering and armed robbery, compared the defendants to patriots, and told McGovern during the hearing that the lengthy trial was a sham.

"This was a political trial," said Yarbrough, 29, of Sandpoint, Idaho. "These men are no more criminals than the men who took part in the Boston Tea Party." Yarbrough warned the judge that The Order's cause would be promoted by "200,000 faithful members and 100,000 supporters. There will be many more. The blood will flow and it grieves me."

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Wilson, who headed the government's six-member prosecution team, praised the sentences and said they would serve as warning for others who commit serious crimes for ideological purposes.

The youngest Order member, 23-year-old Richard Kemp of Salinas, Calif., was given a 60-year prison term, while the six other members were sentenced to 40 years each.

Eight of the 10 defendants have said they will appeal their sentences to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, while the remaining two have not yet filed the required appeal notices.

10 Years Before Parole

Federal law requires the defendants to serve at least 10 years before they can be considered for parole, although they are likely to serve longer because of the nature of their crimes, a federal probation officer here said.

Jurors in the trial said they found the only female defendant, 52-year-old Jean Craig of Laramie, Wyoming, guilty of surveilling Berg before he was killed, but they did not say whether they believed that Order members were involved in the murder.

The case was tried under the Racketeer and Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, which requires a jury to find the accused guilty of a minimum of two crimes committed to further the illegal group. The jury in The Order case was not required to say which two crimes constituted the minimum for each defendant.

David Lane, believed to have driven the getaway car in the Berg murder, read a long statement during the sentencing hearing, reiterating the group's aim of saving the Aryan race from impurity. "I've given all that I am and all that I have to awaken my people from their death," said Lane, 46, of Denver, who was sentenced to 40 years.

All the defendants were convicted of racketeering and conspiracy to commit racketeering in the trial that ended December 30. Some defendants were also convicted of additional federal crimes, including armored car robberies and illegal weapons possession.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTARY IS NOMINATED FOR AN ACADEMY AWARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) — A U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council documentary, "The Courage to Care," has been nominated for an Academy Award in the best documentary short subject category. Elie Wiesel, chairman of the Council, narrates the film, for which Sister Carol Rittner of Detroit and Sondra Myers of Scranton, Pa., were the executive producers. Robert Gardner was the producer/director of the documentary which was made possible by a grant from Mutual of America in New York City.

"The Courage to Care" is about those people who, at great risk to themselves and their families, helped save the lives of Jews during the Holocaust. Specifically, it focuses on the experiences of four rescuers and two survivors.

The rescuers, all of whom have been honored by Yad Vashem, are Marion Pritchard (The Netherlands) of Vashem, Vermont; Irene Opdyke (Poland) of Orba Linda, Calif.; Magda Trocme (Le Chambon, France) of Paris; and Nelly Trocme-Hewitt (Le Chambon, France) of St. Paul, Minn. The survivors who recount how they were rescued are Odette Meyers (France) of Berkeley, Calif., and Dr. Emanuel Tanay (Poland) of Grosse Point, Mich.

"The Courage to Care" will be shown nationally by the PBS Network. The showing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 7. Free copies of a viewer's guide to the film are available from the International Center for Holocaust Studies of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at 823 United Nations Plaza; New York, New York 10017; (212) 490-2525.

JERUSALEM — A small explosive charge was discovered at a suburban Jerusalem bus stop Monday afternoon and defused by police sappers. The bomb was wrapped in an innocent-looking white plastic bag, but it aroused the suspicion of Reuven Sharbani who had been wounded by a bomb explosion in the capital in 1974. He stopped a passing cab and asked the driver to alert the police on his two-way radio. Police arrived at the scene within minutes of the alert.

CORRECTION

: Rep. Robert Mrazek of New York was misidentified in the February 10 Daily News Bulletin. He is a Democrat, not a Republican, of Huntington, Long Island.