

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER OFFERS TO CONVEY TO MOSCOW ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE USSR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Paavo Matti Vaeyrynen of Finland ended a three-day official visit to Israel Sunday with an offer to convey to Moscow Israel's desire to improve relations with the Soviet Union and to have emigration restrictions eased for Soviet Jews seeking exit visas to go to Israel.

The Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv has represented Soviet interests here since Moscow broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War. Finland maintains close relations with the superpower on its eastern border.

Vaeyrynen is the first Finnish Foreign Minister to visit Israel and, following his meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir last Friday, the Foreign Ministry announced that Shamir has accepted an invitation to visit Finland "in the near future." No date was announced.

Israel and Finland have sharp policy differences over the Middle East conflict. Vaeyrynen stressed to reporters here that his country supports an independent Palestinian state and inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East peace talks. Finland, nevertheless, is interested in improving relations with Israel.

Vaeyrynen and Shamir discussed the situation in south Lebanon where Finland provides a contingent to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The two men differed over the UN force. Shamir maintained it was "highly inefficient," whereas his guest saw UNIFIL as carrying out an important function. He spoke of Finland's support for the "territorial integrity of Lebanon," an implied criticism of Israel's continuing, though limited presence in south Lebanon.

REMAINS OF MISSING IDF SOLDIER FOUND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- The remains of Sgt. David Manos, an Israeli soldier missing for 18 months, were buried at the military cemetery in Petach Tikva Friday, a day after captured El Fatah terrorists who admitted to his murder led police to a cave in the West Bank where they had hidden the body.

The terrorists, arrested in Dir Balut near Nablus last week, re-enacted the kidnapping and murder. Manos was last seen alive on November 6, 1984, hitchhiking home from Haifa where he had been attending military courses. His killers picked him up near Ben Gurion Airport.

Manos' disappearance coincided with the disappearances of other Israel Defense Force personnel and massive searches were conducted in the areas where they were last seen. A woman soldier whose body was found in a wooded area of Mt. Carmel was evidently raped and murdered.

But police were not certain at the time that Manos was a victim of foul play. It was suggested in the

media that he was a drug user or trafficker, that he had been seen in the company of male and female prostitutes after he was reported missing and that he was involved with criminal elements.

Those rumors added to the anguish of his family. But Manos, it turned out, had been an exemplary soldier and was buried with full military honors.

In The Aftermath Of A Disastrous Convention: SHAMIR TRYING TO RE-GLUE HERUT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- An embattled Yitzhak Shamir is trying urgently to glue Herut together again after its disastrous 15th convention ended in deadlock and pandemonium last Thursday.

The Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, denied an endorsement of his leadership and literally hounded out of the convention hall, urged his rivals to join with him in talks aimed at healing their rift. He also called on his supporters Sunday to end the bitter war of words that has been reverberating between the various Herut factions since the convention collapsed.

"Whoever comes to such a consultation will be welcome," Shamir said in an interview. "We will work with all those who want to cooperate in the effort to heal the rift in our party," he said. His clear implication was that if his principal rival, Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy, refused to attend a peace-making meeting, blame for Herut's disarray should rest squarely on him in the eyes of the party's rank-and-file.

But Levy, whose forces, largely young Sephardic Jews from urban areas and development towns, outmaneuvered and outshouted Shamir's contingent at the convention, seemed little inclined to bury the hatchet. The Levy camp demanded Sunday that the aborted convention resume and that Shamir step down from a leadership he apparently does not command.

They argue that neither Shamir nor any other party office holder can remain in office without the endorsement of the convention which is precisely the body that must elect them to office.

Just before Shamir called for a cease-fire, one of his top aides demanded that Levy resign from Herut or be drummed out the party. Deputy Defense Minister Michael Dekel contended that if Levy cannot accept Shamir's authority within the unity coalition government, there is no place for him in Herut.

Sharon's Role Seen As Pivotal

Political observers believe that in the present climate of extreme tension the role of Ariel Sharon, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Herut's most outspoken hardliner, will be pivotal. Sharon combined his forces with those of Levy at the convention to deny Shamir the endorsement he sought.

But their alliance was as temporary as it was expedient. Shortly after the convention disintegrated, Sharon began to distance himself from Levy and defined himself as the leader of the "third camp" in Herut. He implied that he could mediate between Shamir and Levy but political observers said the dust would have to settle before any peacemaking mission could be undertaken.

A new element entered the drama over the weekend when Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, a Likud Liberal, proposed that the convention be reconvened as the

convention of a combined Herut-Liberal party. The two Likud partners have been negotiating a merger for some time and it appeared certain to take place within weeks after the Herut convention had the convention resulted in a united Herut.

Modai's suggestion got a lukewarm reception in Herut circles. Yoram Aridor, chairman of the Herut Secretariate and himself a former Finance Minister, said he could not understand Modai's eagerness to merge the Liberals with a fragmented Herut. But some observers believe he understands Modai's motives only too well.

They suggest that the Liberal Party leader sees a rended, weakened Herut as a vehicle to propel himself to leadership of Likud and possibly a candidate for the office of Prime Minister. The Liberal Party, weakened by its own defections, was always the junior partner in Likud and far less ideological than the rightwing Herut. In negotiations before the ill-fated convention, the Liberals were ready to settle for one-third representation in the proposed united party.

KIBBUTZ VOLUNTEER CRITICALLY SHOT

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- A young West German woman working as a kibbutz volunteer was rushed to a Beersheba hospital Sunday for treatment of gunshot wounds. Her condition was reported critical.

The woman, whose identity was withheld, was discovered in a coma in a field near Kibbutz Revivim. She had been shot in the head and hand by an unidentified assailant. She was working at a kibbutz in Galilee but left there to stay in Jerusalem and apparently was visiting the Negev.

She is the second woman shot in the same area in less than a year. Last summer, a young Israeli woman soldier was found critically wounded in a Negev field not far from Revivim.

PERES IN STOCKHOLM TO ATTEND PALME'S FUNERAL MEETS WITH WORLD LEADERS

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres returned Sunday from a 48-hour visit to Stockholm where he attended the funeral of assassinated Swedish Premier Olof Palme and met with world leaders who also attended the funeral ceremonies.

Peres briefed the Cabinet on his meetings with Western officials and, according to a statement issued after the Cabinet session, talked with them about a proposal that the United States, France, Italy and other nations establish a "fund for the development of the Middle East to give assistance for regional and local projects."

Peres' departure from Israel last Friday was low key. There was no statement at the airport as he was seen off by Swedish Ambassador to Israel, Sven Hirdman. Peres flew by regular El Al service to Copenhagen, the Israel airlines Scandinavian point of entry.

JNF'S FUND-RAISING GOALS AND AGENCY'S NEEDS FOR 1986 AMOUNT TO \$10 MILLION

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund's fund-raising goals and the agency's needs for 1986 amount to some \$10 million, JNF executive vice president Samuel Cohen told some 200 persons attending the organization's national conference here Sunday.

"This is what is needed for the Keren Heyemeth to maintain its lifeline of operations this year for the people of Israel," said Cohen in an address to the morning plenary session, part of an all-day conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Three specific areas of development to be aided by the JNF this year, according to Cohen, are the afforestation of some 1,250 acres of land in Israel; the acquisition of some 12,000 dunams for agricultural development; and aid for the construction of access roads of some 300 to 500 miles in the Negev and Galilee.

"In 1986, we are expected to do the impossible," Cohen declared. "We are expected to deliver ... an amount far in excess of what we have delivered in the past." He said the goal of \$10 million was "without any embellishments."

JNF treasurer Charlotte Jacobson provided delegates with a brief review of the JNF's financial status in the past fiscal year, which concluded September 30. She pointed to various increases in fund-raising efforts by the agency over the previous year and expressed hope that "every single year we should be able to send to Israel \$1 million more."

At the morning session, two checks -- one for \$1 million and the other for \$500,000 -- were presented to Moshe Rivlin, world JNF chairman, to support major projects in Israel. The JNF is the organization responsible for afforestation and land reclamation in Israel.

JEWISH GROUPS CRITICIZE COURTS FOR DELAY IN DEPORTING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Four major Jewish organizations have charged that federal courts and U.S. immigration agencies needlessly allow deportation proceedings against Nazi war criminals to stretch out for years.

The accusation was lodged in a friend-of-the-court brief filed with the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City in the case of accused war criminal Karl Linas. The court is scheduled to hear his appeal Monday. The brief was prepared by the American Jewish Congress and signed by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, and the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs.

Linas, found guilty of lying about his Nazi background as a member of the security forces in a concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, from 1941 to 1943, was ordered stripped of his American citizenship in 1981. He has resisted deportation proceedings through legal appeals for more than four years.

'Time Is On The Side Of The Defendants'

The brief filed by the Jewish agencies, while submitted in conjunction with the Linas case, addresses itself exclusively to the extended length of time allowed for such proceedings. It stated that by unnecessarily prolonging the time it takes to adjudicate such cases, the courts have in effect allowed Nazis and Nazi-collaborators to find what amounts to permanent sanctuary in this country, regardless of past crimes.

It noted that more than 40 years have passed since the end of World War II. "Time is on the side of the defendants," the brief said. "If they delay long enough, death or the infirmities of old age will abate these prosecutions, denying the United States an adjudication of its claims." Continuing, the brief said:

"The simple fact is that these cases are taking too long to adjudicate, that defendants such as Linnas have exploited the courts and administrative tribunals so that these bodies have become ... instruments with which to deny justice." Due process is not intended to be an obstacle to governmental action, it stated.

Indeed, the brief noted, when huge amounts of money are at stake, courts are capable of rendering quick judgments, "which are no less sound for the speed with which they are decided." When the national security or corporate mergers are involved, or when otherwise faced with the need to expedite the handling of cases, courts act quickly, the AJCongress-prepared brief asserted.

The brief charged immigration lawyers with exploiting the court system to delay action in war crime cases. "Indeed," the brief said, "immigration lawyers pride themselves on their ability to draw out even the most ordinary denaturalization and deportation cases."

The Law's Delay In Some Cases

Among the accused war criminals listed on the brief whose cases were prolonged over a period of years were Sergei Kowalchuk, against whom charges were filed in 1977 but who is still awaiting final action; Andrija Artukovic, who was charged in 1951, but who was only deported to Yugoslavia this year; John Demjanjuk, charged in 1977, who was deported for trial in Israel last month.

In addition the brief cited Bodhan Koziy, charged in 1979, deported in 1985; Boleslavs Maikovsky, charged in 1976; Mecis Paskevicius, charged in 1977; Feodor Fedorenko, charged in 1977, deported in 1984. It also cited seven cases in which the accused war criminals died during the proceedings, and three cases in which the proceedings were suspended because of the defendant's ill health.

DEMJANJUK REMANDED FOR ANOTHER 13 DAYS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) — John Demjanjuk, alleged former guard at the Treblinka death camp notorious for his brutality, was remanded in custody for an additional 13 days Sunday as the examination of evidence against him continued.

Police Prosecutor Alex Ish-Shalom said Sunday that considerable amounts of new evidence have been gathered since Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel by the U.S. two weeks ago. He said 12 Treblinka survivors have positively identified the Ukrainian-born former American citizen from Cleveland, Ohio, from photographs as the guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" because of his brutal treatment of inmates.

Judge Aharon Simcha, President of the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court which arraigned Demjanjuk on his arrival in Israel, travelled to Ayalon prison near Ramla where a courtroom was set up to hear new evidence. He said the evidence will be used to prepare the formal charges on which Demjanjuk will be tried for war crimes.

Demjanjuk had no comments. But, speaking in Ukrainian through an interpreter, he asked that he be allowed to telephone his family in the U.S. "After all, I am not being held in the Soviet Union," he said. Judge Simcha ruled that a telephone call would be up to the prison authorities. The prisoner is allowed to correspond with his family and will be allowed to talk to them by telephone when they come to Israel, the judge said.

Simcha visited the isolation cell where Demjanjuk is confined and said he found his quarters and his condition satisfactory. He and the prisoner conversed briefly in English. Demjanjuk insists he is a victim of mistaken identity and never was in Treblinka.

DISPLACED PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE ABSORBED BY THE ARAB WORLD, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAYS By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA) — The Palestinians displaced in the Arab-Israeli wars are "permanent refugees" and should be absorbed by the Arab world, State Department Counselor Edward Derwinski told reporters Friday.

Derwinski, who recently returned from travels related to refugee affairs that included Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, had been asked at a briefing which refugee groups he thought were the most forgotten. The Indochinese boat people, he said, are one forgotten group, while, "from a political standpoint," the Palestinians in the camps of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency constitute another.

Derwinski blamed the plight of the Palestinians in part on "a number of Arab governments who don't want to recognize the facts of life that these people are in fact permanent refugees." "With some two million people in Palestinian refugee camps, some for more than 30 years, Derwinski said, "to think of them as pawns in a political game I find very personally upsetting."

The State Department Counselor, whose functions include the handling of refugee issues, added in response to questions that "the blame lies on both sides," rather than just the Arab world. But he asserted that the Palestinian refugee problem is a permanent one and that Arab states should act accordingly.

"The fact of life is that the Palestinian refugees have permanently been displaced. This is just a fact," Derwinski said. "Now, on the other hand, it is also a fact that refugees — at least the Palestinian refugees — would be better served if they were absorbed in many of the countries in which they reside. Those who wish should be granted local citizenship and the realities of life accepted."

JEWISH SCIENTISTS IN THE USSR MARK 850TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAIMONIDES' BIRTH

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) — A large group of Jewish scientists recently gathered in a private home in Moscow to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides, Soviet immigrants in Israel were informed last week. The gathering, attended by 82 Jewish scientists, was the largest of the sort in the past six years. Among those present were well-known refuseniks as well as guests from abroad.

The participants extended greetings to Anatoly Shcharansky, who was freed last month from the Soviet Gulag in an East-West prisoner exchange and was reunited with his wife Avital in Israel. Forty-two of the scientists signed a petition appealing to Soviet authorities to release all Prisoners of Zion and to allow all Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel to do so. A copy of the petition was sent to the Public Council for Soviet Jewry in Tel Aviv.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Cabinet Sunday ratified Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to extend by another — fourth — year the appointment of Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy as IDF Chief of Staff.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

THE NAME OF THE GAME IS PACs

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA) -- While a debate continues in the American Jewish community whether it is wise to be perceived as a single-issue community, political action committees (PACs) formed to ensure continued support for Israel are expanding rapidly.

A recent report by Common Cause, the citizens' advocacy group, asserts that "the pro-Israel PACs' contributions may well have been the fastest growing of all interest groups during the past five years," increasing their contributions between the 1980 and 1984 elections by nine times as compared to a doubling by all PACs during the same period. Since 1981, 65 pro-Israel PACs have contributed \$6,120,713 to candidates for the Senate and the House.

In 1985, the pro-Israel PACs gave Congressional candidates \$853,520, according to Common Cause. The top recipient was Sen. Robert Kasten (R. Wisc.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, who received \$107,600 in 1985. He was followed by Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.), a subcommittee member, \$70,375; and Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Cal.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, \$57,250. All three face tough re-election campaigns this year.

The report shows that five other Senators, who are either on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee or the Foreign Relations Committee and are seeking re-election received large contributions last year.

They are: Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii), \$29,050; Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.), \$28,250; Alfonse D'Amato (R. N.Y.), \$28,250; Frank Murkowski (R. Alaska) \$8,000; and Patrick Leahy (D. Vt.) \$3,500.

Common Cause also points to contributions in 1985 to members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. They are: Reps. Lawrence Smith (D. Fla.) \$15,000; Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.) \$11,800; John McCain (R. Ariz.) \$11,000; Sam Gejdensen (D. Conn.) \$9,250; Harry Reid (D. Nev.) \$6,000; and Mark Silfander (R. Mich.) \$5,000.

PAC-Supported Lawmakers Don't Always Win

Those who received contributions from pro-Israel PACs do not always win. Of the 10 candidates receiving the most funds from 1981 through 1984, four were defeated, including the second highest recipient, James Hunt, who was defeated by Sen. Jesse Helms (R. N.C.) in 1984.

In the House, eight of the top recipients for the same period are still in Congress. But the top recipient, Rep. Clarence Long (D. Md.), who was chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, was defeated in 1984 by his Republican opponent, Helen Bentley.

Common Cause also found that 18 pro-Israel PACs contributed more than \$100,000 for the five-year period through 1985. Leading them all was the Washington-based National PAC with \$1,352,000.

Common Cause president Fred Wertheimer, in commenting on his organization's report, said it "provides a classic case study of the PAC problem in our political system -- the proliferation of PACs, the increase of PAC dollars, the concentration of interest group money in key Congressional committees, and the single-minded focus of PAC-giving."

Richard Altman, head of the National PAC, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Common Cause report made him "proud" that so many supporters of Israel were willing to respond in the same way their fellow Americans supported issues important to them.

Altman noted that NatPAC was created not to support PACs but to stand by those who reflected the belief that the survival of Israel is important to the United States.

There are many in the Jewish community who believe, along with Common Cause, that PACs pose a danger to the political system. But as long as PACs exist, there is no reason why supporters of Israel should not make their influences felt just as every other interest group does.

Critics of pro-Israel PACs point to the part they played in the defeat of Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) in 1984 and Rep. Paul Findley (R. Ill.) in 1982. But they fail to mention that these two candidates received large contributions from oil companies, companies that do business in the Arab countries and others who want the U.S. commitment to Israel lessened. Should Israel's supporters leave the field open to them? This is a question frequently posed.

Some Jews argue that the community should not be viewed as single-issue oriented and as evidence of this point to the formation of the Illinois Multi-Issue PAC. This is all to the good, but it is still important to focus attention on the American Jewish commitment to Israel. After all, it is pointed out, Jews who contribute to pro-Israel PACs can still contribute to other PACs that support the many other issues with which American Jews are concerned.

Whether one likes it or not, PACs are the political game in the U.S. today. Jews and other supporters of Israel cannot be criticized for playing it just as everybody else does.

TBILISI JEW IS LATEST POC

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish resuscitant Bezalel Shalolashvili, 22, of Tbilisi, has become the latest Prisoner of Conscience, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. He was arrested March 14, accused of "draft evasion," the SSSJ said.

Shalolashvili and his family applied to emigrate to Israel in April, 1985 and were refused last August. No reason for the denial was given. He had recently written to Soviet authorities expressing concern about being subjected to a punitive Soviet Army draft.

Meanwhile, in other news from Tbilisi, the SSSJ reported that Isai and Gregory Goldstein, refused permission to emigrate for nearly 15 years, will be allowed to leave for Israel in early April. The two brothers received exit visas after the intervention of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.).

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israeli ballet company, Bat Dor, paused in its highly successful tour of Poland last Thursday to recite Kaddish at the site of the Treblinka death camp, it was reported here. Barry Swersky, manager of the company, led the dancers in placing a wreath at the foot of a stone plinth which marks the site. Treblinka was demolished by the Nazis after a prisoner revolt in August, 1943.