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ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY IS IN POOR HEALTH; AVITAL SAYS HE IS DISTURBED BY NIGHTMARES AND HAS TO REST

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA) — Growing speculation that Anatoly Shcharansky is in poor health was confirmed Wednesday by his wife, Avital. But she said a report that he was too ill to attend a banquet in his honor Tuesday night was "a little exaggerated."

Avital Shcharansky, who was reunited with her husband in West Germany on February 11 when he was released by Soviet authorities in an East-West prisoner exchange after spending nine years in Russian prisons and labor camps, said he "has to rest He is resting now He has to walk a lot."

She also disclosed that Shcharansky's sleep was disturbed by nightmares, "dreams of the punishment cell." He had been kept in solitary confinement for long periods during his incarceration as punishment for protesting against his harsh treatment.

Avital made her comments in reply to questions during a brief appearance before a conference here of the U.S. Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry; the British "Group of 35" which has been campaigning for emigration rights for Soviet Jews; and the Jerusalem-based Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center.

The "Group of 35" held a banquet in Tel Aviv Tuesday night to honor Shcharansky. He did not appear and Soviet aliya sources said he was too ill even to record greetings to the banquet.

Difficulty In Adapting To New Routine

The same sources said he has not been able to sleep or to adapt to a normal diet after years of deprivation in the Soviet Gulag. According to these sources, Shcharansky, 38, has trouble walking any distance because of a heart condition.

But his wife said he was eating lots of fruit and vegetables for their vitamin content and her remark that "he has to walk a lot" seemed to scotch reports that he found walking difficult.

Concern over Shcharansky's health arose because he has not been seen in public for several weeks. He and his wife have been at a holiday resort in northern Israel. When the couple was reunited last month they hadn't seen each other since their wedding day in Moscow in 1974. It was understood they would seek seclusion after the tumultuous welcome Shcharansky received on his arrival in Israel.

At that time he looked fit, walked briskly, spoke to reporters and addressed well-wishers at length. Doctors who examined him after his arrival found him to be well, though fatigued and suffering from an unspecified heart condition. Avital said her husband would have a second medical checkup after their holiday.

REPORT CLAIMS THAT TREBLINKA GUARD KNOWN AS 'IVAN THE TERRIBLE' WAS KILLED DURING A 1943 REVOLT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) — The Justice Ministry declined to comment Wednesday on a 20-

year-old report in the Bar Ilan University archives that the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" was killed by inmates during a prison revolt in 1943. Sources at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial archives dismissed the report out of hand.

John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born former U.S. citizen, was extradited to Israel two weeks ago on the basis of eye-witness identification that he was the guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." Demjanjuk is being held at Ayalon prison near Ramla while police examine the evidence that will be used to prepare the charges on which Demjanjuk will be placed on trial.

The accused man insists he is a victim of mistaken identity. The information pointing to that possibility was obtained by a student at Bar Ilan University's Holocaust Research Center, which conducted an oral history research project in the 1960s to document events related to the Holocaust from the testimony of survivors who witnessed the events.

The student heard an account from a Treblinka survivor, Abraham Goldfarb, that a group of inmates stormed the gas chambers in 1943, killed "Ivan the Terrible" and another guard and threw their bodies into the crematorium furnace. Goldfarb died last year. His nine pages of testimony came to light during a check of the Bar Ilan archives, and a copy has been passed on to the police.

Justice Ministry sources said they could not comment because the case is sub judice. Sources at the Yad Vashem archives said expert testimony can be taken only by trained experts, not by a "mere student."

Last Sunday, a Jerusalem district court judge remanded Demjanjuk in custody for another 13 days on the basis of identification from photographs by 12 Treblinka survivors.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO SPEED UP PROCESS IN DEPORTING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN THE U.S. IS URGED

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA) — Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman has called for new federal legislation to speed up the process of deporting Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. because the present procedures are "intolerably slow."

Holtzman, when a member of Congress, authored an amendment which authorizes deportation of war criminals. She believes roughly 10,000 former Nazis are still at large in the U.S. To date 11 alleged war criminals have been deported or extradited or have left the country voluntarily rather than face deportation hearings.

Linnaas Case Is Cited

Holtzman, addressing a meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith of Long Island, cited the case of a Long Island resident, Karl Linnaas, who faces deportation to the Soviet Union where he was convicted in absentia of war crimes. Linnaas, who has been living in the U.S. for over 30 years, was a guard and later commandant of the concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, during World War II, where he participated directly in the murders of Jews and other inmates. Later he served in the SS.

Linnaas, 66, was stripped of his American citizenship in 1981 after it was found that he lied about his

Nazi past to gain admittance to this country. He is fighting deportation on grounds that the Holtzman Amendment is unconstitutional. He was ordered deported in 1985. Linnas' appeal is being heard by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York. On Monday, the Court reserved decision in the case, further delaying deportation.

'Process Is Excruciatingly Slow'

Holtzman said the current method of deporting Nazi war criminals allows years of delay before the criminal can be forced to leave the country. "There are now two separate and time-consuming processes which must take place before a Nazi war criminal can be deported," she explained. "First comes the denaturalization proceeding, which can result in stripping of U.S. citizenship. Then an entirely new set of deportation proceedings is required."

"The process is excruciatingly slow. It is intolerably slow. Congress must pass the laws that will speed up the process and ensure that Hitler's henchmen who came here after World War II are removed from our country."

Renews Call For A Special Commission

Holtzman also renewed her call for creation of a special commission to investigate the full scope of U.S. government assistance to, and protection of Nazi war criminals after World War II.

"After fighting Hitler, this country provided aid, employment and protection to many of his henchmen. The role of the U.S. government in this sordid chapter of our history must be thoroughly investigated.... And the U.S. officials responsible for these actions must be exposed," the Brooklyn DA said.

With respect to Linnas, Holtzman said in a statement released by her office Monday that his argument that the Holtzman Amendment is unconstitutional "is ludicrous and it has been rejected by other courts."

"There must be no haven in this country for brutal Nazi murderers like him and there is no justification for his continued presence here," Holtzman declared. "The presence of Karl Linnas in this country desecrates the memories not only of those who perished in Hitler's death camps but of those 176,000 Americans who died fighting Hitler in World War II."

A friend-of-the-court brief filed last week by four Jewish organizations charged that federal courts and U.S. immigration agencies needlessly allow deportation proceedings against Nazi war criminals to stretch out for years. The brief, 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, was filed in connection with Linnas' appeal hearing.

SIX AJCONGRESS LEADERS ARRESTED AT THE GATE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA) — Six national and regional leaders of the American Jewish Congress were arrested Wednesday as they sang "Hatikvah" and other songs in Hebrew at the gate of the Soviet Embassy here.

Those arrested were: Theodore Mann, who was just reelected to his second two-year term as

president of the AJCongress; Theodore Bikel, an AJCongress senior vice president; Jaqueline Levine, honorary chairperson of the governing council; and Henry Siegmán, the organization's executive director.

Also arrested were Steve Israel, director of the Suffolk County office of the Long Island division, and Martin Raffel, director of the Pennsylvania region.

The demonstration took place after the AJCongress ended its national biennial convention, attended by some 500 delegates at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Led Away By Police

Some 30-40 delegates gathered a block-and-a-half from the Embassy from where the six were driven by car to the Embassy. Police there had been alerted in advance that they were planning to break the law against demonstrations within 500 feet of an Embassy. The six AJCongress leaders walked up to the Embassy gate and began singing "We Shall Overcome" and Hebrew songs including, "Hatikvah."

As they continued singing, they were led away by police one by one and placed in a patrol wagon after being frisked and handcuffed. They were released later on \$50 bail each, pending a hearing Thursday morning.

Effort To Draw Public Attention Again

"Our arrest today is an effort to draw public notice once again to the unremitting oppression of Soviet Jews," the six who were arrested said in a written statement. "We know that our arrest cannot mitigate the official abuse to which Soviet Jews are daily subjected, but it is the least we can do in an effort to break through the anonymity of their persecution."

Bikel told reporters that American Jews are "frustrated" because after Anatoly Shcharansky was released they had hoped it was a sign that there would be an improvement.

The 61-year-old actor and folk singer said it is hoped the arrests will draw attention to the plight of Soviet Jews. But he said those arrested were also doing it for themselves because they need to feel that justice will be done.

Mann said that the Reagan Administration has done everything possible for Soviet Jewry. But there is a need now for American Jews to raise the "level of demonstrations," he added.

Mann, Siegmán and Bikel were also arrested in Washington on December 10, 1984, in a protest at the South African Embassy against apartheid.

FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IS 'FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR NATION' By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA) — Griffin Bell, who was U.S. Attorney General under President Carter, stressed Tuesday that freedom of religion, a right Americans have enjoyed since the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791, must be constantly safeguarded.

"Freedom of religion in this country must be constantly safeguarded," Bell told the biennial convention of the American Jewish Congress at the Omni Shoreham Hotel here. "I think it is constantly in danger, however."

The theme of the convention, attended by 500 delegates, is "The Jewish Experience in American Democracy: 200 Years Under The Constitution."

"Separation of church and state is fundamental to our nation," said Bell, who is now an Atlanta lawyer.

He said one of the reasons people came to America was for freedom of religion. Bell said while most attention is paid to the issue of prayers in the schools, he said there are numerous cases involving separation of church and state before the courts. He quipped that lawyers will have to become ecclesiastical lawyers.

Pendulum Swinging The Other Way

Howard Squadron, a former president of the AJCongress, said that while for 25 years the AJCongress and other Jewish groups have been successful in suits they have filed or in joining with others on separation of church and state issues, the pendulum is now swinging the other way.

He said part of this is "cyclical" and part is that the Supreme Court is responding to what it senses is the national mood as reflected by the Reagan Administration. He charged that President Reagan and his Attorney General, Edwin Meese III, "believe in the Christian nation concept. They believe that the concept of God as they view it should be expressed in the public institutions of this country."

Squadron noted that the Orthodox Jewish community, which used to support the rest of the organized Jewish community in the fight for church-state separation, has broken away because of concern for its schools. "While Jewish education is extremely important, we in the Jewish community will find a way to support it without government entanglement," he declared.

Squadron stressed that it is Jewish "self-interest" to support the First Amendment since Jews are a small minority in this country. "We are using the First Amendment as it was meant to be used," Squadron said, "not intolerance to religion, on the contrary, but ensuring that all religions will be tolerated. And that is in our interest." He concluded that this has always been the role of the AJCongress and "God willing we will continue the fight."

PERES SAYS SYRIA IS ISRAEL'S MOST DANGEROUS NEIGHBOR By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres answered a wide range of questions on domestic and foreign policy matters during a tour of northern Israel Tuesday. He pointed to Syria as the most dangerous and "most radical" of Israel's neighbors.

He expressed concern over the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and economic deterioration in the region. On the home front, he reiterated that he intends to abide by the rotation-of-power agreement with Likud, but mentioned two conditions.

Under the Labor-Likud coalition agreement, Peres must turn over the office of Prime Minister to Herut's Yitzhak Shamir next October 13. But the failure of the Herut convention last week to endorse Shamir as party leader has raised doubts about the rotation. The agreement specifies that only Shamir will be Peres' successor.

"Regarding rotation, I am firm in my belief in implementing it," Peres told reporters. He added, however, that rotation would be implemented if two conditions are met — progress toward peace and a genuine healing of the country's economic ills without preference for one sector over another.

He said Labor Party figures who have voiced opinions to the contrary were expressing their own personal views. The Party has not yet taken an official stand, he said. There has been pressure on Peres from some Laborites to cancel the rotation agreement in view of the bitter power struggle within Herut which caused its convention to break up in chaos.

Search For Peace Must Continue

Peres stressed that "Israel must make an unceasing effort" to search for peace with its neighbors. He said that Israel has offered King Hussein of Jordan immediate, direct peace negotiations. But Hussein believed he could bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the peace talks. Only lately did he realize that while he might not be able to enter peace negotiations without the PLO, he could not do so with the current PLO leadership, Peres said.

He said that both Syria and Iran are making efforts to gain control of Lebanon, the latter by providing financial support to the extremist "Hezbollah" movement, an organization that "has no problem in killing people, in murdering people from all nations — not only ours, by the way," Peres said.

He said the current deployment of the Israel Defense Force with respect to Lebanon is the best possible under present circumstances. The IDF will withdraw from the border security zone "when they (terrorists) stop sending car bombs to attack our border," Peres said. He reiterated that Israel has no designs on Lebanese territory or its water resources. Its primary interest is to protect the northern border towns from attack.

Peres observed that Israel's "problems with Lebanon no longer stem from relations between Israel and Lebanon in and of themselves, but are more the fruit of the sad situation in Lebanon itself." As long as tension continues in other parts of Lebanon, the situation on the border will not improve, he said.

Peres maintained, as he has on many occasions in the past, that Syria is the "most radical" of Israel's neighbors and its President, Hafez Assad, the most radical Arab leader and "the most serious in his radicalism." Nevertheless, he suggested that Israel refrain from polemics with Syria. Its policy should be "as little talk as possible and as much alertness as possible," he said. Assad continues to seek "strategic parity" with Israel but "he still has a long way to go," Peres added.

IRAQ'S MILITARY STRENGTH ASSESSED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) — Iraq, now in the sixth year of its war with Iran, has approximately 40 divisions and one million men under arms, more than the combined strength of all the Arab confrontation states facing Israel, according to an analysis by the Israel Defense Force intelligence services to be published in the IDF Journal next week.

The Iraqi army, now four times the size of the Syrian army, grew sevenfold in strength since the war with Iran began in 1980. Between the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and 1980 it had only doubled in size, from six to 12 divisions numbering 150,000 troops.

Since 1980, the IDF says, the Iraqi order of battle includes 5,000 tanks, 3,500 artillery pieces and 600 aircraft. The IDF also noted that the Iraqi armed forces are now battle-trained in the longest sustained conflict in the region.

BERNARD MALAMUD DEAD AT 71

By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA) — Bernard Malamud, the Pulitzer Prize-winning American Jewish author, died in his Manhattan apartment Tuesday of what police described as natural causes. He was 71 years old.

Malamud was the author of eight novels and four collections of short stories, which, critics noted, showed the influence of both the 19th century Russian masters of fiction and the traditional Jewish story tellers. Permeating many of his works was the concept that human salvation came from adherence to a strict code of personal morality in the face of life's overwhelming despair and oppression.

His best-known and most controversial novel, "The Fixer" (1966), was the story of a handyman, Yakov Bok, falsely accused by Czarist officials of a ritual murder. The story drew very loosely on the notorious Mendel Beilis case of 1911-1913, which ended in Beilis' acquittal.

In Malamud's book, Bok emerges from the Kafkaesque labyrinth of the degrading Czarist penal system with his integrity intact. He declares at the end of the novel that there is "no such thing as an unpolitical man, especially a Jew."

Received Numerous Honors

Malamud won a Pulitzer Prize as well as his second National Book Award for "The Fixer," in 1967. His first NBA was for "The Magic Barrel," a collection of short stories, in 1958. Other honors included election to the National Institute of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Malamud was born April 26, 1914 in Brooklyn, the elder of two sons of Max and Bertha Fidelman Malamud, poor immigrants from Czarist Russia who worked 16-hour days in their small grocery store.

The author later described the environment of his childhood as Jewish though non-religious. Yiddish was spoken at home, and some of his mother's family performed on the Yiddish stage.

He graduated Erasmus Hall High School, where he was the editor of the school magazine, going on to receive a B.A. from City College in 1936, and — after stints working in the family store, factories, and the census bureau — his M.A. from Columbia University in 1942.

Teaching English at night in his old high school and others, Malamud continued in his spare time the short story writing he had begun as a boy in the back room of his family's grocery store.

The rise of Nazism and Stalinism, the coming of World War II, and the Holocaust helped Malamud decide what he wanted to say as a writer and how he interpreted his Jewishness. He began reading Jewish history and literature and later said, "I for one believe that not enough has been made of the destruction of six million Jews. Somebody has to cry, even if it's just a writer, 20 years later."

Influenced By Jewish Background

Following his first novel, "The Natural" (1952), which is unique among his works in its absence of Jewish characters, Malamud began writing fiction that showed the strong influence of his Jewish background and identification. In a 1983 piece in The New York Times Book Review, he said of his early writing:

".... almost without understanding why, I was thinking about my father's immigrant life, how he earned his meager living, and what he paid for it, and about my mother's, diminished by fear and suffering I had them in mind as I invented the characters who became their fictional counterparts."

"The Assistant" (1957) drew heavily on the grocery store environment of Malamud's childhood. The story is of a non-Jewish youth who atones for his robbery of an elderly Jewish grocer, and later converts to Judaism.

He was thinking of his father as he began writing "The Assistant," Malamud noted in The Times article, and "felt I would often be writing about Jews, in celebration and expiation" for marrying a non-Jewish woman, Ann de Chiara, with whom he had a son and a daughter.

"The Assistant" marked Malamud's emergence as a major writer of the American Jewish novel. He has often been linked with Saul Bellow and Philip Roth in the triumvirate that has dominated the genre.

The author divided his time between writing — his other novels included "The Tenants," "Dubin's Lives," and "God's Grace" — and teaching fiction, first at Oregon State College and, after 1961, Bennington. He also served as president of the American Center of PEN, the writers' organization.

SOVIET REFUSENIK ARRESTED

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA) — Vladimir Magarik of Moscow, a long-time refusenik, was arrested last week on a charge of "drug possession." He was the second refusenik within a week to be arrested by Soviet authorities. Bezalel Shalolashvili of Tbilisi, 22, was charged with "draft evasion." According to the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, Magarik, 52, a computer programmer, first applied for a visa to emigrate in 1977.

Alan Pesky, Coalition chairman, said that the two arrests ended a two-month lull in the imprisonment of refuseniks. The charges against the two men, he said, are fabrications, and the only crime these men have committed is applying for visas to Israel. Magarik has asserted that the drugs were planted on him. Shalolashvili says he never received the draft notice that the authorities claim was sent to him.

"The arrests of Magarik and Shalolashvili unfortunately prove true Anatoly Shcharansky's prediction that following his release there would be increased internal repression," Pesky said. "The Soviets frequently follow a positive gesture with a negative one." He referred to an incident in January when the Soviets gave an exit visa to refusenik Yakov Gorodetsky on the same day they arrested his friend, Vladimir Lifshitz.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Prompted by recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism in West Germany, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith announced Wednesday the commissioning of a six-month "definitive" survey of the extent of anti-Jewish attitudes in that country. Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, said the survey will be carried out by a leading West German polling organization, the Institute for Democracy based in Allensbach, with the assistance of the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism of the Technische Universität Berlin.