

POPE CALLS HIS ROME SYNAGOGUE VISIT A 'DEEP EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE'

ROME, April 22 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II described his visit to Rome's main synagogue on April 13 as a "very deep" experience, "especially from a religious point of view."

In a television interview Monday night, the Pontiff, the first Pope in history to enter a Jewish house of worship, said, "It was a deep emotional experience to enter that place which at least ideally, bring us back to the times of St. Peter and the first Christians."

He said the visit "was made possible by the Second Vatican Council" more than 20 years ago and by its famous declaration, "Nostra Aetate" (Our Times), in which the Catholic Church repudiated Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus.

JEWISH REFUSENIK SENTENCED TO A YEAR IN PRISON FOR 'DRAFT EVASION'

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish refusenik Bezvalel Shalolashvili was sentenced Tuesday to a one-year prison term for "draft evasion" after a two-day trial, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) reported here.

The 22-year old Tbilisi student, arrested last month, asserted that he had never received his draft notice. The SSSJ said that the KGB has told Shalolashvili's brother, Yitzhak, that "the charge was in retaliation for the latter's efforts to prevent the official destruction of the Ashkenazic synagogue in Tbilisi."

The U.S. Congress was informed last February of reported plans by the Soviet authorities to bulldoze one of the few remaining synagogues in the Soviet Union in order to build a public square in its place. The Tbilisi Jewish community is estimated at 20,000.

Shalolashvili and his family first applied to emigrate in April, 1985, and their application was refused last August without any explanation.

BANK OF ISRAEL GOVERNOR RESIGNS IN WAKE OF INDICTMENT OF BANKING SYSTEM

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- Moshe Mandelbaum, Governor of the Bank of Israel, resigned Monday in the wake of a scathing indictment of Israel's banking system by a commission set up to investigate the collapse of bank shares in 1983.

The commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Chaim Beisky, released its report Sunday night. It recommended, among other things, that the Governor of the Bank of Israel and the heads of the five largest commercial banks be made to resign within 30 days. Mandelbaum had planned to leave office shortly as head of Israel's central bank, which plays a regulatory role similar in some ways to the Federal Reserve Bank in the U.S.

His early departure set off a search for a replacement and several names were mentioned Tuesday as likely candidates. Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, who took over the Treasury only a week ago, said he has his own choice but would

not name him before consulting with Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, which is Nissim's party.

Among the possible replacements for Mandelbaum are Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amora; Michael Bruno, a professor of economics; Emanuel Sharon, Director General of the Finance Ministry; and Moshe Zanbar, who was Mandelbaum's predecessor at the Bank of Israel.

The Bank Hapoalim is also looking for a replacement for its board chairman, Giora Gazit, who resigned Monday. Its directorate and the directors of the Bank Leumi met Tuesday to consider the Beisky commission report and possible replacements for other senior banking officials who may resign in the coming weeks. The Bank Hapoalim also released its annual report Tuesday, which showed profits up by 85 percent in 1985 compared to 1984.

Stock Exchange Seems Unaffected

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, whose management was blasted by the Beisky commission for failure to heed warnings of the market collapse three years ago, appeared to be unaffected by the report. Since it was released the prices of most shares rose by an average of about one percent and advances far outnumbered declines.

Meanwhile, the Knesset is embroiled in a heated debate over whether to pass legislation that would protect the banks from law suits by customers who, in light of the Beisky commission's findings, could claim they were defrauded. The government is inclined to enact such laws to preserve the stability of the banking system.

U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY IS BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA) -- "I am the son of an undocumented alien," declared Rabbi Joseph Weizenbaum to a small group of reporters and sanctuary movement activists during a recent visit to the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue.

The Tucson, Arizona, rabbi, sometimes referred to warmly as the "mother of the movement," repeats his oft-told story of how his father arrived in the United States from Europe in 1913 as a stowaway and was nearly deported.

"The slaves who fled north in our country and the Jews who attempted to flee Nazi Germany found no refuge," he continued. "We believe that communities of faith are now being called again to obey God by providing sanctuary to the refugees among us."

With the much-publicized federal trial of the two Roman Catholic priests, a nun, a Presbyterian minister and church lay workers accused of smuggling aliens into the U.S. beginning to wind down in Tucson, Weizenbaum has begun to travel throughout the East Coast as part of a national tour of rabbis active in the sanctuary movement.

The tour is sponsored by the New Jewish Agenda. It includes Rabbis Charles Feinberg of Madison, Wisconsin and Judea Miller of Rochester, New York. Participating at the recent meeting in New York were such prominent New York rabbis

as Marshall Meyer of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, and Balfour Brickner, the spiritual head of the Stephen Wise Synagogue. Supporters of providing sanctuary for Central American refugees are going directly against Reagan Administration policy, as interpreted through the 1980 Refugee Act. It provides U.S. asylum to anyone with a "well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion" if returned to their homeland.

The Reagan Administration maintains that the vast majority of refugees who are entering the country illegally from Central America are not fleeing war or oppression but are seeking a better life here and may be competing with U.S. citizens for jobs.

Precise figures of the number of Central American refugees in the United States illegally are not available, but experts place the number at 500,000 to 600,000, most of them Salvadorans and Guatemalans.

According to the New Jewish Agenda (NJA), less than three percent of the Salvadorans who have applied have been granted asylum. By contrast, the NJA contends that the figure for refugees from Communist countries is 80 percent.

Sanctuary supporters are asking that Central American refugees be granted "extended voluntary departure" status, which would give them the right to live and work in the United States until it is safe to return to their homelands. The NJA noted that similar status has been extended to refugees from many countries, including Poland and Afghanistan.

Jewish Groups Involved In The Movement

Until recently, the sanctuary movement had been primarily based in the Catholic Church and among Protestant denominations, but the organized Jewish community has become more involved with the issue.

The principle of sanctuary for Central American refugees has been endorsed by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative), the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform).

All together, about 270 Jewish, Protestant and Catholic congregations around the country offer sanctuary to Central Americans, all in defiance of U.S. government policy. Temple Emanu-El, Rabbi Weizenbaum's synagogue, is one of more than 20 Jewish congregations and organizations to offer sanctuary and pledge support to Central American refugees.

Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) and director of its social action committee, also addressed the sanctuary issue at the Stephen Wise Synagogue. He emphasized that the Jewish community is "behind us" in support of the sanctuary movement.

According to Vorspan, the UAHC resolution in support of sanctuary to Central American refugees was overwhelmingly endorsed by some 3,000 delegates from across the country and Canada at the UAHC's biennial general assembly last November in Los Angeles. "The people are behind us and ready to take action," he said.

The UAHC resolution called on its 791 synagogues to furnish material and financial aid to Central American refugees and to join legal

efforts to overturn the Administration's policy of deporting them. The resolution urged its member synagogues to do this despite "serious legal implications."

The 53-year-old Weizenbaum was asked how he responds to people who ask about the illegal nature of the sanctuary movement, risking arrest and possible jail sentences for their activities. He said he would ask those people to pretend it is 1942 and it is a Christian family seeking to give sanctuary to a Jewish family during the Holocaust.

"If you as a Jew can look me in the eye and tell me you would advise the Christian family to not give sanctuary to a Jewish family during the war because it was illegal," he said, then he could not argue with that person. But, he added, "It is an ethical decision."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TELLS CONGRESS IT WILL NOT SEEK INDICTMENT OF ARAFAT IN THE MURDER OF TWO U.S. DIPLOMATS

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- The Justice Department has notified Congress that it will not seek the prosecution of PLO chief Yasir Arafat for being implicated in the murders of two American diplomats in Sudan in 1973.

Maintaining that laws enacted over the last decade for prosecuting suspects in the murders of Americans abroad could not be applied retroactively, Assistant Attorney General John Bolton informed Congress that no arrest warrant would be issued.

A letter signed by 44 Senators last February called on Attorney General Edwin Meese to investigate allegations that Arafat directed the killings of U.S. Ambassador in Khartoum Cleo Noel and Charge d'Affaires Curtis Moore on May 2, 1973. Sens. Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ) and Charles Grassley (R. Iowa), the two who initiated the letter, subsequently sent Meese a declassified 1975 study conducted for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which asserts that the murders were "approved by Yasir Arafat."

Also pressing for an investigation into the alleged role of Arafat have been the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, and the National Jewish Coalition.

Rationale Of The Justice Department

In the Justice Department's letter to Congress, Assistant Attorney General John Bolton maintained that the U.S. lacked legal jurisdiction and sufficient evidence to seek Arafat's prosecution for the two murders. He said that retroactively applying a 1976 law on prosecuting suspects in terrorist killings overseas would violate the Constitution.

In view of the lack of jurisdiction, Bolton said, "undertaking an exhaustive global search for additional detailed evidence of Arafat's complicity in the 1973 murders would divert precious investigative resources which we must devote to locating and apprehending those responsible for terrorist attacks in cases where we do have jurisdiction."

Among the cases he noted were the hijacking of TWA airliner 847 in June 1985, in which an American Navy diver was killed, and last October's hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, in which an elderly American Jew, Leon Klinghoffer, was murdered. Saying he was "extremely disappointed" at the decision not to seek

prosecution, Lautenberg maintained in a statement that "a strong argument could be made that the department had jurisdiction to go after Arafat if it had the political will." He called the Justice Department's failure to conduct an exhaustive investigation "inexcusable."

A staff member in Lautenberg's office said the Senator would pursue other legal avenues for Arafat's prosecution, possibly including the application of a broadly-written racketeering law enacted in 1970 and recently used to prosecute members of The Order, a neo-Nazi organization based in Washington State, for an array of violent crimes, including the murder of a Jewish radio announcer, Alan Berg, in Denver.

REFUSENIK 'ROLL CALL' DRAMATIZES SOVIET JEWS SEEKING TO EMIGRATE

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- More than 100 legislators, as well as Congressional spouses and leaders of religious, labor and human rights organizations, took part in an all-day "roll call" Tuesday of Jews seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

The rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building here was bedecked with a photographic exhibit of refuseniks and their families, as well as some of the very few remaining synagogues in the Soviet Union, providing a poignant backdrop for the ceremony which was launched by House Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill (D. Mass.).

"Tomorrow night, Jews throughout the world will gather to recite the traditional phrase 'Next Year in Jerusalem' as they celebrate Passover, the Festival of freedom," O'Neill said in a statement introducing the 10,000-name roll call.

"For Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union these words take on a significant meaning. As we call out the names of the 10,000 refuseniks and the number of years they have waited to emigrate, we hope to express our solidarity with those struggling to be free."

The ceremony was sponsored by Congressional Wives for Soviet Jews and supported by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) and the Congressional Coalition for Soviet Jews. The NCSJ has recently launched a stepped-up campaign to bring the Soviet Jewry issue to public attention in advance of the still unscheduled second Summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, plans for an official Congressional ceremony to honor Anatoly Shcharansky were laid down Monday by O'Neill and Senate Majority leader Robert Dole (R. Kans.). The two legislators agreed to co-sponsor a joint resolution authorizing a House-Senate ceremony -- generally reserved for heads of state -- to be held when Shcharansky visits here next month from Israel. Shcharansky is expected to meet with President Reagan during his visit to the Capitol.

INCREASE IN ALIYA FORESEEN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- Magshimim (Zionist Fulfillment), a world-wide movement of Zionists who commit themselves to aliya within a specific time, recently concluded its first conference here and, according to its founder, Leon Dulzin, it should double and even triple the flow of aliya over the next few years.

Dulzin, who is chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he sees Magshimim as part of the "Herzliya process" which perceives Zionism not only as a national liberation movement but as one whose mission is to preserve the national existence of the Jewish people. According to Magshimim's ideology, that can only be done in Israel.

Dulzin said the movement's platform will be presented at the Zionist General Council meeting here in June and he will propose that Magshimim be made an integral part of the WZO. "I hope this will inject into the Zionist movement a dynamic and active element of fulfillment," Dulzin said. He noted that the number of olim from the free world has not exceeded 10,000 a year in recent years and he hopes that number will at least double.

The Magshimim platform states that: Aliya is the supreme expression of Jewish identification; the fulfillment of Jewish identity is expressed through aliya as the personal commitment of every Zionist to come on aliya to Israel; Jewish existence is guaranteed, both spiritually and physically, only in the State of Israel and only there is Jewish creativity renewed; the ingathering of the Jewish people in its own land and the consequent fulfillment of Judaism's values is a central goal in formal and informal Jewish education; the essence of Zionist fulfillment is aliya to Eretz Israel and devoting oneself to the needs of society and State.

REAGAN TO HEAD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF BEN GURION

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- President Reagan has accepted the invitation of Israel President Chaim Herzog to act as honorary chairman of the David Ben Gurion Centennial Committee of the United States, it was announced here by the Centennial Committee. Reagan's participation in the year-long celebration of the birth of Israel's first Premier acknowledges the special relationship between the United States and Israel, the Committee said.

"The Ben Gurion Centennial represents a unique event for Americans," said Israel's Ambassador Meir Rosenne, who is also the Committee's co-chairman. "It is one of those rare moments when Americans can celebrate the birth of a foreign hero -- a statesman of the 20th century whose impact on American and world history ranks with that of Churchill and Gandhi."

The Centennial Committee will coordinate educational and cultural activities throughout the United States, from October, 1986, the anniversary of Ben Gurion's birth, until May 4, 1987, the 40th anniversary of Israel's independence, culminating with a gala celebration at the Kennedy Center in Washington in May, 1987.

The Committee is represented worldwide by Herzog. In the U.S., it is chaired by Jack Spitzer, honorary president of B'nai B'rith International, and co-chaired by Rosenne. Dr. Benjamin Hirsch, an educator, clergyman and administrator, is the Committee's executive director.

There will be no Daily News Bulletins dated April 24 and 25 because of the Passover holiday. Best wishes for a happy and healthy Pesach.

**RECONSTRUCTIONISTS DENOUNCE THE
SCA FOR DENYING IT MEMBERSHIP
IN THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION**
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA) -- The Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot (FRCH) sharply denounced the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) following the Council's decision to deny it membership.

Warning that the denial can harm "Jewish unity," Lillian Kaplan, president of the FRCH, charged in a statement issued here last week that this rejection "negates the very essence of its mandate."

The application of the FRCH for membership in the SCA was rejected on March 11 after the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations exercised a unilateral veto by voting against the admission. The other members of the SCA -- which was founded in 1926 by the three major synagogue movements of American Judaism (Reform, Conservative and Orthodox) and their rabbinical affiliates -- supported the admission of the Reconstructionists. The SCA by-laws include the rule that a nay vote by any of its six members can veto any proposition put before its Board.

The six members of the SCA are: the Central Conference of American Rabbis and Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform); the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations and the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox); and the United Synagogue of America and the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative). The FRCH claims to be the fourth major movement in American Judaism.

SCA's Credentials Demeaned

Noting that the SCA claims to be "the umbrella for Jewish religious life in America," Kaplan said that the rejection "does not weaken our movement, but it does demean the Council's credentials in terms of religious leadership."

FRCH executive director Rabbi David Teutsch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that following the veto, his organization held discussions with leaders of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations in an effort to change their opposition to the Reconstructionists' membership in the SCA, but to no avail. It was after these efforts failed that the FRCH issued a statement last week denouncing the rejection.

The SCA Explains Its Decision

Asked to explain the reasons for voting against the admission of the FRCH to the SCA, Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, executive vice president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations said in a telephone interview with the JTA:

"In our view there were and are three major divisions of the American synagogue community-- the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox. We feel that by admitting additional groups we open a Pandora's Box which would needlessly confuse the already confused landscape. Our opposition to admitting the Reconstructionists is not directed at the Reconstructionists per se, but to the realization that there are many sub-groups of the three divisions and by tolerating the creation of further division we will only render a disservice."

According to Teutsch, the FRCH last applied for membership in the SCA more than 10 years ago and was rejected. "We did not ask all these years to be admitted because we knew we are going to be rejected," Teutsch told the JTA.

Cites 'Insufficient Commitment To Pluralism'

Teutsch said that the FRCH has about 75,000 members with over 56 congregations around the country. "Our congregations are located in most of the largest Jewish population centers of the country and our members are leaders in local Federations, branches of UJA, and other areas of Jewish communal life out of all proportion to their numbers," Teutsch said, adding:

"The Council's decision demonstrates woefully insufficient commitment to pluralism on the part of the Orthodox in the American Jewish community."

The Jewish Reconstructionist movement was founded 60 years ago by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Its guiding principle is that Judaism is an evolving religious civilization -- a culture and a way of life as well as a religious faith.

**MANDATORY AIDS TESTS FOR
ALL BLOOD DONATED IN ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA) -- The Magen David Adom, Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross, will test every unit of blood donated in Israel for the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) anti-bodies to determine if the donor has the AIDS virus, the MDA announced Tuesday.

Dr. Shulamit Bar-Shany, director of the MDA's Blood Bank in Jaffa, said there are roughly the same percentage of AIDS victims in Israel as in Western European countries, but substantially fewer than in the U.S.

According to the MDA, the new testing program brings Israel in line with most other Western countries in the struggle against the fatal disease. It will be undertaken by the MDA's Blood Services, which collects more than 80 percent of the blood donated in Israel. This amounts to some 180,000 pints per year, which are supplied to all hospitals and to the Israel Defense Force.

The testing instrumentation has been acquired in the U.S. by the American Red Magen David for Israel. The MDA Blood Services here, meanwhile, has assembled a skilled laboratory staff. The government is funding the testing infrastructure.

**COURT RELEASES IDENTITIES OF ISRAELI
ARABS IMPLICATED IN A KIDNAP MURDER**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- A Haifa magistrates court decided Monday to release the identities of 10 Israeli Arabs suspected of complicity in the kidnap murder of an Israeli soldier, Moshe Tamam, a year ago. The information had been classified.

Four of the suspects believed to have been directly involved in the crime are residents of Baka Al-Gharbiya, a large Arab village near Hadera. They are allegedly members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, recruited in Cyprus by the terrorist organization and trained in Syria.

Officials here stressed that the case is exceptional and does not reflect on the loyalty of the large majority of Israeli Arabs. According to these officials, there have been relatively few cases of terrorism involving Israeli Arab citizens. The hard core of the terrorist gangs are residents of the administered territories or infiltrators from neighboring countries, the officials said.