

**SHCHARANSKY SAYS REAGAN HAS THE  
'HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY' TO HELP SOVIET  
JEWS WHO WANT TO LEAVE THE USSR**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA) -- Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky said Tuesday that he told President Reagan that he has the "historic opportunity" to bring about the emigration of all Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union.

"The fate of 400,000 Soviet Jews, to a great extent, is in his (Reagan's) hands," Shcharansky said at a press conference following his more than 30-minute meeting, with Reagan at the White House. "I am sure that he is the President who can reach success, who can help make the Soviet Union to open the gates."

Shcharansky explained that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, more than his predecessors, understands the "catastrophic situation" of the Soviet economy and that it needs trade with the United States.

He said it was thus up to the President not to be "deceived by cosmetic improvements" in human rights while Congress must not lift trade barriers until Jews are allowed to emigrate. The latter was a reference of the Jackson/Vanik Amendment.

**Thanks Reagan For His Strong Campaign**

Shcharansky arrived at the White House accompanied by Secretary of State George Shultz. Others attending the meeting were Vice President George Bush, National Security Advisor John Poindexter and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

Shcharansky said that after his arrival in Israel he telephoned Reagan to thank him for his efforts in gaining his release after nine years in Soviet prisons. He said on Tuesday he was able to express "my deepest gratitude" personally.

"I am sure that my release would never have been possible if there were not such a strong, open campaign for me, and if President Reagan personally did not take such a strong, open position on my behalf," Shcharansky told reporters outside the White House.

The White House did not release any details of the meeting in keeping with its quiet diplomacy approach on human rights. Shcharansky, who said he was "very encouraged" by the meeting, said he was not surprised that there should be differences between him and the President.

"We sit in different chairs," he said at the press conference. "He is the President of the United States of America and I am previously a Prisoner of Zion and now, thank God, an ordinary citizen of the State of Israel."

**Quiet Diplomacy And Public Pressure**

But he stressed to reporters at the White House that "quiet diplomacy, from my point of view, can help only if it is supported by strong public pressure, so that for the Soviet Union there will be no illusions that the question of human rights, the question of Soviet Jews, the question of emigration are very closely connected to their economic and political interests."

Shcharansky said at his press conference that the Reagan Administration "deals much better than its predecessor" with the Soviet Union. He said he was "deeply impressed" by Reagan's "understanding of the problem of Soviet Jews and his commitment to the struggle of the right of our people to leave the Soviet Union and to join my people in Israel" as well as for human rights in general.

He said he told the President about the "strong impression" his speeches made on Soviet Jews in prison camps. Shcharansky was very careful not to reveal directly any comments made by the President. When a reporter pressed him, he quipped that the KGB failed in trying to break him down and so "you have no chance with me."

After leaving the White House Shcharansky went to the District Building, Washington's City Hall, where Mayor Marion Barry presented him the key to the District of Columbia.

**EX-YUGOSLAV NAZI GETS DEATH SENTENCE**

PARIS, May 14 (JTA) -- Andrija Artukovic, who was the Interior Minister of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia during World War II, was Wednesday sentenced to death by a five-panel tribunal in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, for his war-time activities, according to reports here. Artukovic's lawyers have 15 days to file a written appeal of the court decision.

The sentence was handed down by District Judge Miklo Gajski, culminating a month-long trial against the 86-year-old Artukovic. He was accused of complicity in the murder of some 900,000 Serbs, Jews, Gypsies and others in his post as minister in the fascist Ustasha government that ruled Croatia from 1941-1945.

Artukovic has denied all charges against him. He was extradited from the United States to Yugoslavia last February after living in California for 37 years. He had successfully battled extradition and deportation proceedings against him for 30 years, but was turned over to Yugoslav authorities only after a new case was brought against him in 1984 by U.S. authorities.

**PERES REJECTS VIEW THAT ISRAEL'S  
OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK HAS  
CORRUPTED THE ISRAELI PEOPLE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA) - Premier Shimon Peres rejected the notion that Israelis have been corrupted by their occupation of the West Bank. He called it a situation "we did not seek out" and one that "we are seeking to free ourselves" from.

He made his remarks in a wide-ranging Independence Day interview published Wednesday in Hadashot. Other points he made were that King Hussein of Jordan is a "a serious leader ... under incredible pressures"; that President Hafeez Assad of Syria "stands at the head of international terrorism together with Libyan President (Muammar) Qaddafi" and that Israel would be prepared to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization

if the PLO held a democratic vote to decide who should represent it. The people of Israel, Peres said, must work for peace in the Middle Eastern region, work for economic stability and growth, and work for intellectual independence.

#### A Central And Main Effort

"One central and main effort is to continue with the peace process, despite all the difficulties that exist; not to give in to skepticism ... to search for peace. It is vital for the nation and the region. The second thing is to work in the financial sphere for stability and growth. A third, quite important, perhaps the most difficult area in which to achieve independence is the cultural one," he said.

"The battle for intellectual independence continues and is crucial for the existence of the Jewish people no less than the military and economic campaign," the Premier stressed.

#### Did Not Set Out To Conquer West Bank

Asked if he thought the occupation of the West Bank was corrupting Israelis, Peres replied: "No. I think that we were corrupted to a greater extent by being a ruled people. The Jew became dependent, trembling, not confident, pushed into sectors where there are very few productive elements, living in an atmosphere of discrimination, not taking advantage of things."

He added: "We do not rule because we set out to conquer. We rule because we were attacked. We did not come to the West Bank to conquer 800,000 Arabs. We came to the West Bank because we were attacked in the Six-Day War. For this reason, we were caught in situations we did not seek. Today, too, we are seeking a way to free ourselves of this ruling. Overall, we do not want to be a ruling people, but I definitely think that our people, like any other people, has the right to self-defense."

But Peres said he wanted to end a situation in which occupation engenders moral corruption, especially among young people born into the occupation. "I want to put an end to this situation. For this we need an Arab partner, as there was a partner in the matter of Egypt. The great difficulty is to find a partner."

He said "It has been proven that when there is an Arab side for peace, concessions are made. Today the negotiations are going on between two coalitions; between the coalition of parties in Israel and the coalition of states in the Arab world. And it is definitely difficult to conduct negotiations between two coalitions."

With respect to free elections by the Palestinians to choose their leaders, Peres stressed that "the shooting has to stop, because if every moderate Arab who runs in an election get a bullet in the head, there will be no elections."

#### View Of Hussein And Assad

He said he was disappointed but not surprised that King Hussein has so far rejected any approaches toward peace. "I don't think that Jordan is a partner in the PLO's war of terrorism, but rather the opposite. This is one of the understandings we have reached with Jordan. I think that the style changed not only in Israel but also in the Middle East" because Arab leaders do what they have not done before -- speak with respect about Israel and Israeli leaders.

Peres said he thought Hussein was "extraordinarily sincere. A serious leader. He, too, is

under incredible pressures. The war between the Iraqis and the Iranians is a real danger to the existence of his state. He has his own worries."

He said that while Assad of Syria is no less a leader of international terrorism than Libya's Qaddafi, "Assad is much more of a leader than Qaddafi. He'll now try to get out of the trap he has set. He is now starting to understand that there is punishment for terrorism. Until now there was terrorism without punishment," Peres noted.

He added, "You can be sure he (Assad) will stay away from that business. That's why he must be pressured to stop being one of the leaders of terrorism. This is what the Americans are doing. President Reagan has already warned him: I have no inclination to compete with Reagan" in this.

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- Israelis celebrated the 38th anniversary of their independence Wednesday without incident but mainly indoors. Unseasonably chilly weather discouraged the usual mass exodus to beaches and picnic grounds.

Thousands of residents of the northern border town of Kiryat Shemona participated in Independence Day festivities. Local leaders said it was a gesture of defiance after a Katyusha rocket exploded in Upper Galilee Tuesday afternoon, slightly injuring a man and two children. Thousands more gathered at the Tal Grove at the foot of the Golan Heights.

The Knesset held an "open house" for the first time and thousands queued up outside for a chance to see a plenary session of parliament at work. They were also able to view the original document of Israel's Declaration of Independence on display in the Knesset and to hear it read in recording by Premier David Ben Gurion in his historic broadcast of May 14, 1948.

President Chaim Herzog held receptions at his residence for soldiers and diplomats. Another tradition of Independence Day was the finals of the annual international Bible Quiz. This year's winner was an Israeli, Yoav Schlossberg.

#### Focus On The Plight Of Soviet Jewry

While Israelis marked nearly four decades as a sovereign nation, attention was focussed on the plight of Soviet Jews. Ninety Jewish activists from eight cities in the USSR signed a letter to President Herzog on the occasion of Independence Day. It reached the Soviet Jewry, Education and Information Center here by way of the Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry.

The signatories gave the lie to Soviet propaganda that all Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union have done so and therefore an aliya movement does not exist. "We do exist," the letter said.

"Jews in the Soviet Union are striving despite all obstacles and still hope for their long awaited reunification with relatives and friends in our native country, in Israel. Next Year in Jerusalem. It was learned, meanwhile, that 37 Moscow refuseniks sent the Supreme Soviet a formal request to register them as "a landsmanshaft (fraternal society) of Israeli citizens living in the USSR." It would be open to "any person who has Israeli citizenship or has applied for it,

their appeal said. According to the Jerusalem Information Center for Soviet Jewry, the charter of the landsmanshaft calls for cooperation with the Embassy of the country representing Israeli interests in Moscow in order to "keep in touch with the homeland and to obtain Consular services." It also calls for mutual assistance, cultural and educational activities, celebration of national festivals and acquisition of Israeli newspapers and books.

All of these are forbidden to Jews in the USSR by Soviet law. According to the Center, between 800-900 Russian Jews who have been given Israeli citizenship in absentia are being kept in the Soviet Union against their will.

About a third of them have asked the Soviet authorities to withdraw their Soviet citizenship and respect their citizenship of Israel which was conferred according to Israeli law and is completely valid in terms of international law.

#### SHULTZ SUPPORTS SUGGESTION THAT REAGAN SEEKS SUPPORT OF U.S. JEWS TO RESCUE HIS SAUDI ARMS PACKAGE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz seconded a suggestion that President Reagan seek the help of the American Jewish community to rescue his proposed sale of \$354 million in missiles to Saudi Arabia.

"We have talked to our friends in the American Jewish community about it right from the beginning and we'll continue to do so," Shultz said Wednesday, in response to a question after an address to the Overseas Writers, an association of diplomatic reporters.

The suggestion that Reagan seek Jewish help for the missile sale which was overwhelmingly rejected by Congress, was made during a meeting with the President Tuesday by Sen. Richard Lugar (R. Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

#### AIPAC Is Sticking To Its Position

Sources at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the official lobby for Israel is sticking by its position that while it opposes the missile sale, AIPAC will not work against it. But any suggestion that American Jews would lobby for the sale was described as "wishful thinking" by these sources.

Reagan is expected some time this week to veto the Congressional resolution of disapproval which was passed by the Senate by a 73-22 vote and the House by a 356-62 vote, both more than the two-thirds needed to override a veto.

Shultz said Reagan will "fight" to get the Republican-controlled Senate to sustain the veto. He pointedly noted that the 1984 election and polls show that the President "is very strongly and widely supported by the American people."

"The Congressional efforts to bloc the sales are counter-productive as far as the national security interests of the United States are concerned," Shultz stressed. "At the same time they are damaging to the interests of Israel."

#### Importance Of Providing Arms To Saudis

Shultz said it is important to provide the arms to the Saudis because they help maintain the "stability" of the Persian Gulf against Iran. He noted that Saudi Arabia helped abort an Arab

summit that Libya sought after the U.S. raid on Libya.

"It is important for us to have a sensible and reasonable relationship with countries in the Arab world, particularly those who ... accept the fact that Israel is there to stay and somehow or other in the longrun there has to be some kind of accommodation," he added.

Shultz also stressed that when the President is representing the U.S. abroad as he did in Tokyo recently he should not have "the ground cut out from under him at home."

#### SHULTZ: THERE IS NO POLITICAL CAUSE THAT CAN JUSTIFY TERRORISM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz rejected Wednesday the frequently made argument that the Palestinian problem must be solved before terrorism can be ended.

"There isn't any cause that is acceptable at all for these kinds of terrorist acts," he said in response to a question after speaking to the Overseas Writers, a group of diplomatic reporters.

He said one of the most "welcome features" of the statement on terrorism made at the recent economic summit in Tokyo was that there is "no justification for terrorism."

"The Palestinian people have taken a major beating in the Middle East and they deserve to have their legitimate grievances addressed," Shultz said. He said the U.S. has "worked hard" on this issue as it has on that of Lebanon.

"It would be nice if the people of Lebanon worked on their own problem," he added. "They are the ones who are shooting each other up all the time. They have a lot of help, unfortunately."

But Shultz stressed that "we stand for efforts to find a way to just peace and stability all over the world, including the Middle East... But the fact that there are problems in the world does not in any way justify this terrorism. We just got to get rid of that way of thinking."

On another issue, Shultz said there is a "highly tense situation" between Syria and Israel because of the Syrian buildup in fortifications in Lebanon and the investigation in Europe of charges that Syria is behind recent terrorist incidents.

"We don't believe a war between Israel and Syria would serve either party's interest and we have cautioned against it," he said. He pointed to Israeli Premier Shimon Peres' recent statement that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria.

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PARIS (JTA) -- The administrative governor of the Champagne-Ardenne province Wednesday outlawed car registrations carrying the letters "SS". Normally registration for all motor vehicles consists of two letters and up to five digits. The last two letters used in the area were SR and should normally have been followed by SS. Paul Bernard, the government-appointed governor, passed a special ordinance banning the two letters because "the sight of them would have been unbearable" to former resistance fighters and victims of Nazi persecution.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW  
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY IN ISRAEL  
By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, May 14 (JTA) -- Two Israeli civil rights activists have just completed a week-long visit to the United States during which they met with leading American experts in public interest activities and discussed methods for strengthening democracy in Israel.

"We are concerned about the future of democracy in Israel," Rabbi Jonathan Perlman from Beersheba, and Dr. Gabriel Sheffer, director of the Davis Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The two said that their concern is based on recent findings that show that 42 percent of Israeli high school students agreed with Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist view on the Arabs and that 25 percent of the students hold anti-democratic views on issues related to non-Jews and Arabs.

But Sheffer and Perlman stressed that they do not believe that there is an immediate danger to democracy in Israel. "At the same time, we are aware of the fact that Israeli democracy is a unique one, facing a complex of problems faced by no other democratic society in the world," Sheffer observed, adding: "Democracy anywhere is in danger and one has constantly to guard and strengthen it in order to preserve it."

**Reasons For Extremism**

According to Perlman, there is a process of growing extremism -- both from the right and left -- in Israeli society since the 1967 Six-Day War. "The extremism, I believe, can be attributed to the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Occupying and ruling over the Palestinians has apparently done something to the soul of Israeli youth," Perlman said.

"We believe that education is the best way to stem a possible threat to democracy in Israel," Perlman and Sheffer contended.

According to the two civil rights activists, whose visit to the U.S. was sponsored by the New Israel Fund and who are part of the Fund's six-person special task force on democracy in Israel, the major areas of intolerance and extremism are manifested in relations with the Arab minority, in the treatment of women, in relations between religious and secular Jews, and in treatment of Sephardic Jews.

Sheffer and Perlman met in New York and Washington with organizers, activists and representatives from NOW, Canadian Civil Liberties Association, American Jewish Committee, People for the American Way, Congressman Barney Frank (D. Mass.) and public figures involved in civil rights.

**DECLINING BIRTHRATE AMONG JEWS  
IN ISRAEL AND THE DIASPORA IS  
OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO ISRAELIS  
By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- A Hebrew University scholar's report to the Cabinet Sunday on the declining birthrate among Jews in Israel and the diaspora was acknowledged by the ministers to be a matter of serious concern and drew various proposals on how to reverse the trend.

Premier Shimon Peres urged every Jewish family to have at least four children. He spoke after Prof. Roberto Bacchi, head of the Hebrew University's Statistics Department, told the Cabinet that over the past decade the number of Jewish births in Israel has averaged about 50,000 a year compared to an average 60,000 a year non-Jewish births.

He said that while the disparity was more or less offset by the positive balance between Jewish immigration and emigration and a higher non-Jewish mortality rate, the demographic gap between Jews and non-Jews in Israel and the administered territories was widening.

Gad Yaacobi, the Minister for Economic Planning, noted that these figures meant that by the year 2000, the non-Jewish population in Israel and the territories would comprise 43 percent of the total population.

Bacchi cited the high number of unmarried Israeli men and women in their twenties or thirties, the ages of greatest fertility. He proposed that the government introduce regulations that would make it easier for young women to work and raise families.

**Bleaker Prospects For Diaspora Jewry**

He said the demographic prospects were even bleaker for diaspora Jews where the average birthrate is 1.5 percent compared to 2.8 percent among Israeli Jews. The lowest birthrate of all in the diaspora is among Soviet Jews, he said.

Bacchi predicted that low birth rates and intermarriage will reduce the diaspora Jewish population from 9.5 million today to 8 million by the turn of the century and to 6 million 40 years from now unless the trends are reversed.

He also reported that aliya statistics show a steady decline. Between 1969 and 1973, 3.3 per thousand diaspora Jews immigrated to Israel compared to 2.1 per thousand between 1979 and 1983.

The reactions to Bacchi's report were predictable. Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, the Minister of Interior who is leader of the Orthodox Shas Party, denounced missionary activities and meetings between Jewish and Arab youths. Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party spoke out against abortion. He said 20,000 abortions were performed among Jewish women in Israel each year.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui faction said the demographic statistics showed it was all the more urgent to negotiate a compromise settlement between Jews and Palestinians that would enable Jews to maintain a democratic, cohesive Jewish State.

Welfare Minister Moshe Katzav of Likud noted that the Jewish population is aging. He supported Peres' call on Jewish families to have more children and suggested that ministers who did not adhere to this should resign. Deputy Premier David Levy of Likud, who was born in Morocco, quipped that he alone would bring up the Cabinet's average. He is the father of 12 children.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Two Arab youths were wounded in Nablus Wednesday when Israel Defense Force soldiers fired at them during a violent demonstration. The demonstrators were protesting Israel's Independence Day and tours of the West Bank by the Gush Emunim.