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ISRAELI OFFICIAL OFFERS AFRICAN STATES AGRICULTURAL EXPERTISE
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 29 (JTA) -- Israel offered to share its expertise in agriculture and arid zone research with the nations of Africa and to cooperate with them in innovative research and development.

David Kimche, director general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the proposal Wednesday night, in an address to the special session of the General Assembly on the "Critical Economic Situation in Africa."

"Israel wishes to share the fruits of its experience with the peoples of Africa," Kimche declared. "We are not a large country, nor do we have large budgets at our disposal. We do, however, have a great deal of experience in rural development and agriculture under difficult conditions."

"Also as a people with an unparalleled history of being victims of racial persecution, we maintain a large reservoir of good will and sympathy for the people of Africa. We are earnestly seeking ways in which we can transfer the relevant aspects of our experience and know-how to Africa."

'Critical Constraints'

Noting that Israel has trained in the last three decades tens of thousands of persons from over 110 countries, the Israeli official stated: "Israel is willing to work with African countries and the international community in assisting to relieve one of the most critical constraints to African economic development: that of know-how transfer."

Israel presently holds diplomatic ties only with six African nations: Zaire, Swaziland, Malawi, Liberia, Lesotho and the Ivory Coast. Most of the African states cut diplomatic ties with the Jewish State after the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Kimche's offer to the African nations to put at their disposal Israeli know-how and agricultural expertise, was seen by diplomats and observers here as part of Israel's continued efforts to restore its diplomatic relations with as many as possible countries in Africa.

In a briefing with Israeli reporters Thursday, Kimche disclosed that he has been holding talks with many African delegates, including representatives of countries who do not have diplomatic ties with Israel. He declined to mention the countries. He said that many African diplomats requested further information following his statement at the General Assembly Wednesday night.

ORTHODOX RABBINATE IN ISRAEL ASSAILED BY U.S. REFORM LEADER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 29 (JTA) -- A leader of Reform Judaism in the U.S. charged here Thursday that the Orthodox Rabbinate in Israel is alienating scores of thousands of Israelis from Jewish observances and traditions by its arbitrary and authoritarian actions.

Charles Rothschild, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), told a press conference that a delega-

tion of Reform rabbis now visiting Israel has been meeting with Israeli leaders to protest against the religious establishment's hostile treatment of the Progressive Jewish movement here, especially its refusal to register Reform converts as Jews and the denial to Reform rabbis the right to serve in personal matters.

"We were received in a civil manner, but we were disappointed by the replies we received," Rothschild said, noting that the Progressive movement, linked to the Reform congregations in America, has only 17 synagogues in Israel catering for 1,500 families.

The visit by the Reform leaders, an outgrowth of the semi-annual meeting of the UAHC Board held in St. Louis, Mo. earlier this month, has on its agenda a demand for equal rights for Reform rabbis and Reform Jews in Israel.

Rothschild charged that "Tens of thousands of Israelis, young and old, have been repelled from the Jewish tradition by the political manipulations and power plays of an Orthodox Rabbinate that is interested not in the spirit and essence of our faith but in control of it."

He noted that the UAHC represents over 800 congregations in the U.S. with a combined membership of more than 1.5 million, making it the largest organized Jewish body in America.

FOUR ISRAELIS, ONE AMERICAN ARE DEPORTED TO U.S.; ARRESTED IN NEW YORK ON ARMS SMUGGLING CHARGES

NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA) -- Retired Israel Defense Force Gen. Avraham Bar-Am was arrested at Kennedy Airport Wednesday along with three other Israelis and an American lawyer alleged to be involved in an illegal plan to sell \$2 billion worth of American combat aircraft and other weapons to Iran.

The four men had been in Bermuda since April 21 where, according to U.S. authorities, they went to finalize the arms deal. They were held in custody at U.S. request and deported from the British colony Wednesday.

They were scheduled to appear Thursday before a federal magistrate in Manhattan. In addition to Bar-Am, a 52-year-old veteran of 30 years in the IDF, the suspects are William Northrop, who holds dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship, Israel Eisenberg and his son Guri Eisenberg, both Israeli nationals, and Samuel Evans, an American lawyer alleged to have master-minded the deal.

The five are among 17 persons of Israeli and other nationalities who were arrested or had warrants issued for their arrest last month. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Lorna Scofield, 10 of the 17 are now in custody.

Charges Outlined

U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani alleges that the suspects conspired to sell and ship to Iran American-made missiles, tanks, jet fighters and military transport aircraft in defiance of the U.S. arms embargo on Iran. The weapons were said to be stored in several foreign countries awaiting shipment.

When the case broke the Israeli government categorically denied any involvement or knowledge of the al-

leged plot and U.S. authorities affirmed that Israel was not involved. But Bar-Am has claimed that he had Israeli permission to broker the arms deal.

NCSJ READIES RESPONSE TO SUPPORT EASING SOVIET TRADE RESTRICTIONS IN CASE OF EMIGRATION POLICY SHIFT

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry was scheduled to adopt Thursday a statement advocating a quicker response to support relaxed trade restrictions with the Soviet Union in the case of "significant shifts" in Jewish emigration from that country. A formal announcement was scheduled for Friday.

The decision came amidst official reports that about half the 117 persons slated for emigration from the Soviet Union shortly are Jewish.

Executive Director Jerry Goodman said the NCSJ is in no way changing its policy which supports trade restrictions linked to Jewish emigration under the terms of the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

"There is no new policy," Goodman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Maybe one could read into it a modification. On the contrary, it reaffirms that we are opposed to repealing Jackson-Vanik."

NCSJ will support relaxing trade restrictions only if Jewish emigration increases significantly, continues to increase, and if obstacles to emigration, such as arbitrary arrests, are removed, Goodman asserted.

At Least Half Are Jews

The State Department announced Wednesday that about half of the 117 people on a list of those who will be permitted to join family members in America are Jews. The 117 are members of 36 divided families with some relatives already living in the U.S.

Glenn Richter of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) here said he has not seen the list of names but received word that at least one Jewish family is a well known Leningrad refusenik family.

Relatives of the family in the United States asked SSSJ not to release the family's name. But Richter described one as a former Hebrew teacher and Jewish activist. He said the family is "Baal Tshooah" or newly observant Jews.

One Soviet Jewry activist who saw the list said the names are not recognizable (well-known) refuseniks, Richter said.

Chess Champions To Leave

The announcement that another prominent family of Jewish activists will be permitted to emigrate to Israel came at the same time the State Department released information on the 36 divided families.

Although the case is not connected to the 36 families, the Soviet Union has granted exit visas for Boris and Anna Gulko both former chess champions of the Soviet Union and their son David. The three are scheduled to leave for Vienna Friday.

The couple first requested exit visas in 1978 and staged demonstrations in downtown Moscow where they lived. The couple were promised exit visas several times, the day

Anatoly Shcharansky left the Soviet Union. Richter said Soviet Jewry activists in the West rallied for years for the Gulkos' release. No time-frame has been made public for the releases. "It may take months for them to get out -- there may be some on the list who won't get out," Richter said.

In 1985, 1,140 Jews left the Soviet Union, according to SSSJ. In the first five months of 1986, 329 Jews left.

'A Symbolic Gesture'

William Keyserling, Director of the Washington office of NCSJ, called the release of the 117 "a symbolic gesture" and said "the numbers remain disarmingly low on Jewish emigration."

The State Department told NCSJ that "no visible Jewish activists were on the list." Keyserling said the release does not signal a fundamental change in Soviet policy on Jewish emigration. Until such a fundamental change occurs, Keyserling said, NCSJ will not support relaxed trade restrictions.

Goodman told JTA "We have always been opposed to quotas, 'We're not waiting for 400,000 to get out but the process has to be big enough to allow a backlog to move," he said. "If 2,000 or 5,000 a year come out, it's not enough," Goodman said. "But 40,000 or 50,000--that's significant," he said.

Dole Urges Repeal Of Jackson-Vanik

The statement came partially as a response to Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole's (R. Kans.) suggestion that Congress repeal Jackson-Vanik because Jews were not getting out of the Soviet Union.

"Dole suggested that if we waive the restrictions of Jackson-Vanik before the performance of the Russians maybe it would encourage the Russians to release Jews," Goodman said.

NCSJ wanted to send a message to Congress and to businesses with interests in the Soviet Union that Jews are not ready to give up Jackson-Vanik, Goodman said.

A consensus for supporting the modification is developing within the NCSJ because people are concerned about not responding quickly enough to help Soviet Jews, Goodman said.

In 1979, the Soviet Union released about 51,000 Jews but trade restrictions were not relaxed. "At that time, people suggested that Moscow should have been given a promise of a waiver for one year," Goodman said.

STATE DEPT. HINTS OF 'POSSIBLE' SHULTZ VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, May 29 (JTA) -- Is Secretary of State George Shultz setting out for a new round of peacemaking efforts in the Middle East? -- If observers here are wondering, they appear to be in the good company of the White House and Pentagon, as well as the State Department and the Secretary himself.

After maintaining for the past week or two that Shultz had no intention of traveling to the region any time soon, the White House said on Thursday that "there are plans for a possible visit." Although no time frame has been established yet, said White House spokesman Edward Djerejian, "it's in the planning stage."

The comment comes just a day after Shultz told reporters on his flight to Canada Wednesday that despite American willingness "to push the peace process along," it is useless to try and "force events that aren't there." "We'd like to push but we have got to have something

to push with," Shultz said. Speaking on NBC television's "Today Show," Thursday, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was dragged into the guessing game as well.

"I don't know whether that's been settled or whether it's anything more at this point than a story," the Secretary said. "There has certainly been talk of it and there have been some countries who have been interested in having him come."

Most recently, Israel has been pushing for renewed high-level U.S. involvement in the peace process, but more particularly, in efforts to resolve the lingering dispute between Egypt and Israel over Taba, the small strip of land on Israel's southern border which both countries claim. Israel has remained in effective control over the territory since it withdrew from the Sinai in April 1982.

State Dept. Aide In Egypt

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer is currently in Egypt in an effort to mediate an agreement on terms of reference for arbitration. A State Department spokesman said that "progress was made" in the talks on Taba that took place in Herzliya last week.

Back at the State Department the nuance - reading exercise was straining the minds of observers to the breaking point after spokesman Charles Redman explained the status of the as yet unscheduled Middle East trip by saying that the Secretary "has made no decision" regarding travels to the region. This replaced the standard State Department response of late, according to which the Secretary "has no plans" at present to go to the Middle East.

Nonetheless, officials at the State Department maintain that contrary to the imagination of the State Department linguists, the Secretary has authentically not made up his mind. One official even said that "if I had to bet I would bet that Shultz would not make a trip."

Shultz's Caution Explained

The Administration, and Shultz in particular, has been somewhat hesitant to renew any high level role in the Middle East without a near guarantee of the efforts yielding fruit. The caution goes back to the Secretary's bitter experience of having put himself on the line in 1982 to work out an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, only to see it dissolve in the face of Syrian opposition.

After the failure of Jordan's King Hussein to win the endorsement of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat for proposed peace efforts, the U.S. has been in what it has called a period of "reflection" about what precisely its role should be in seeking a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

In the meantime, according to the State Department official, Shultz might agree to limit the objective of a visit to finalizing an agreement on how the Taba dispute should be resolved. The official said that this would depend on whether Sofaer is unable to mediate an agreement.

Vice President George Bush has tentatively scheduled a trip to the Middle East in mid-July which will include visits to Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

CELEBRATION '87 PLANS ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA) -- Celebration '87, the 1987 United Jewish Appeal/Federation Cam-

paign Opening Celebration, will take place in Israel from September 23-25 under the leadership of UJA national chairman Martin Stein and national vice chairman Julius Levy Jr., it was announced here.

Participants will be welcomed by President Chaim Herzog, and briefed by Premier Shimon Peres, and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, each of whom will provide analysis of recent Middle East events and discuss key issues affecting the Jewish State.

The highlights of Celebration '87 include commemoration of the centennial of David Ben-Gurion's birth during a dramatic sound and light show scheduled for the Hassenfeld Theater in Jerusalem. In a unique demonstration of solidarity, Celebration participants will join members of Project Renewal neighborhoods in a march from Ammunition Hill to the Western Wall. In addition, there will be opportunities to visit the programs supported by UJA/Federation Campaigns and observe the miraculous growth and development of American partnership with the people of Israel.

Four Missions Scheduled

There will be four national Missions joining Celebration '87: The President's Mission to Europe and Israel under the leadership of national vice chairman Marvin Lender will take place from September 17-26, with pre-Missions to Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Copenhagen, and Israel.

Mission participants will meet immigrants from different countries at a private reception at the President's residence. In a series of special workshops, subjects such as terrorism, the economy, and Israeli high-tech will be discussed by experts in the field. Mayor Teddy Kollek will lead the group in a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem.

The National Women's Division Fall Leadership Mission to Amsterdam and Israel under the leadership of National Women's Division chairman Judith Levy is scheduled for September 14-26. The Mission will explore Amsterdam's rich Jewish heritage, visit the house where Anne Frank was hidden during the war and meet with members of Amsterdam's vibrant Jewish community.

In Israel, the women will participate in the Campaign Opening Celebration, meet new immigrants at absorption centers and discuss common issues with Israelis from all walks of life.

Will Visit Project Renewal Neighborhood

The Community Leadership Mission under the leadership of national vice chairman Larry Jackier will take place from September 21 to October 1. Highlights of the itinerary include meetings with Ethiopian immigrants, visits with residents of Project Renewal neighborhoods, discussions with teenagers enrolled in Youth Aliya programs and studies of the innovative activities of the Jewish Agency's Rural Settlement Department.

The Business and Professional Women's Leadership Mission to Poland and Israel under the leadership of Elaine Berke will take place from September 14 to 26. In Poland, the Mission will visit Milla 18 (headquarters bunker of the Jewish Fighters Organization) and the old Jewish Quarter of Cracow. A memorial service will be held at Auschwitz in honor of the martyrs who perished in the Holocaust.

In Israel the group will meet women in business, the arts, the professions, education and government. Mission participants will also meet Israelis living and working on new Galilee settlements, on Negev kibbutzim, and in the major cities of the country.

PITTSBURGH OFFICIALS APPEAL TO TORONTO TO HELP IN THE CASE OF TORONTO RABBI WHO WAS GUNNED DOWN IN PITTSBURGH
By Ron Csillag

TORONTO, May 29 (JTA) -- Officials in Pittsburgh have appealed to Toronto to help raise more reward money for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the murder last month in Pittsburgh of Toronto Rabbi Neil Rosenblum.

Officials in the U.S. city have turned to Toronto's Jewish community for help in raising an additional \$19,000 U.S. (about \$26,000 Canadian) to bring the total reward in the case to \$50,000 U.S.

On May 8, an anonymous caller telephoned a Pittsburgh crime tip service and said he would reveal information about the April 17 shooting death of 24-year-old Rosenblum if the reward was raised from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Tipster Calls The Police

Police are treating the call seriously as the strongest lead in the case -- the color of the car the killer or killers were riding, a dark colored Corvette -- has all but dried up.

Tony Hovanec, chief of police in the Borough of Beaver, 20 miles west of Pittsburgh and head of the area's Crime Solvers Hotline program, said he is treating the call seriously and hopes the tipster will call back if the reward money is raised.

"If it gets the murderers off the streets and shows the (Rosenblum) family they're not alone, I think it's worth it," Hovanec said, but admitted he doesn't like the idea of someone wanting a specific amount of money to talk about a cold-blooded killing.

He said the service has received "about 60" calls, all of which are being followed up. However, Hovanec said he "will not go higher than \$50,000. I treat all calls seriously. I'd hate to say, 'I had the opportunity to catch the guy and I let him slip away.' (Rosenblum) was here with his wife and his child. That child will never get to know her father. That's what stinks."

Shot For No Apparent Reason

Rosenblum, a graduate of Ner Israel Yeshiva in Toronto, was visiting his in-laws in Pittsburgh with his wife and month-old daughter to celebrate Passover. He was returning from late synagogue services in the predominantly Jewish district of Squirrel Hill when a car pulled up at a street corner and one of two men asked for directions. For no apparent reason, Rosenblum was shot six times at close range in the abdomen, wrist and chest. He died in the hospital the following morning.

Before lapsing into unconsciousness, he described the car to a passerby as a dark blue or black Corvette.

Lieut. Leo O'Neill, assistant to the chief of police of Pittsburgh, said there are "no new developments" in the case. O'Neill said police are checking over 3,000 Corvettes of all colors because they are not discounting the possibility the car in question may have been pointed.

He said police can't deny the crime service caller could offer new leads, "but I can't really see a solid lead in that." All 18 officers on the city's homicide team are working on the case, he added.

Possible Racially Motivated Attack

Rosenblum was dressed in Orthodox garb and wore a beard. Police have still not discounted the possibility of a racially motivated attack, although Hovanec

suspects the murder was not because Rosenblum was Jewish-- "He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time." The conventional wisdom is that the shooting was a random thrill killing.

Pittsburgh police "are still doing everything they can," Hovanec added.

Gregory Deacon, director of Toronto and Regional Crime Stoppers, a local crime tip hotline, said all contributions to the Rosenblum reward fund are welcome. So far, Deacon said, \$1,120 has been raised and about 40 callers have pledged funds and support.

Deacon explained that funds collected for the reward are held in trust and checks cashed only upon arrest of a suspect. If there is no conviction of the suspect, money would be returned. If there is a conviction, a tax receipt will be available.

Shortly after the murder, Pittsburgh Mayor Richard Caliuri posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction. An anonymous donor or donors, believed to be from a Pittsburgh Jewish organization, soon added another \$20,000 and Hovanec added \$1,000 from his Crime Solvers program.

All contributions may be sent to: Toronto and Regional Crime Stoppers, 305 Greenfield Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2N 3E7.

DAVID ELLIN DEAD AT 61

NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA) -- David Ellin, a popular actor in the Yiddish Theater who also appeared on Broadway, died Tuesday at Leon Lenox Hill Hospital after suffering a heart attack. He was 61 years old and lived in Manhattan.

Ellin came to New York from his native Montreal to study at the American Academy of Arts. He made his Broadway debut in 1946 as the juvenile lead in the Ben Hecht - Charles MacArthur play "Swan Song," and later toured in road companies of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Death of a Salesman," and "West Side Story."

During his career, Ellin and his wife, Ruth Vool Ellin, coordinated and performed in Yiddish and English productions at Jewish-oriented summer camps in upstate New York. Ellin also toured as a one-man show for Jewish centers and organizations, presenting original and standard songs and amusing anecdotes.

On the Yiddish stage, Ellin appeared in "The Jewish Gypsy," "The Rumanian Wedding," "Light, Lively and Yiddish," "The Shepherd King," "Wish Me Mazel-Tov" and other plays.

FOUNDATION TO RAISE FUNDS TO RESTORE JEWISH CEMETERY IN POLAND

AMSTERDAM, May 29 (JTA) -- A Foundation has been established here to raise funds for the restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Pyskowice, Poland where the graves of Dutch, French, Belgian and Hungarian Jews who died at Auschwitz have been vandalized in recent years.

The cost is estimated at nearly 6.4 million Zlotys, about \$60,000. The Foundation stated that the Polish authorities refused repeated appeals to restore the cemetery where gravestones have been overturned or destroyed and the marble stolen. The authorities are now willing to do the work, provided the funds come from abroad, the Foundation said.

Pyskowice is located northwest of Katowice, the Polish city closest to the Auschwitz complex.