



## U.S. REPORTEDLY PRESSING FOR ABANDONMENT OF LAVI PROJECT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) -- Israeli and American officials are embroiled in serious debate over the feasibility of Israel producing its second generation supersonic jet fighter plane, the Lavi, a prototype of which is scheduled for its first test flight next September.

A multi-party Knesset delegation, just returned from the U.S., reported they were subjected to intense pressure by the American officials they met to abandon the project on grounds that Israel has neither the money nor the technical ability to build the plane. The main American argument against the Lavi is its excessive cost per unit. But American cost calculations greatly exceed those of Israeli experts.

The U.S. has a direct stake in the plane because it is financing the project to a large degree and because the Lavi will be powered by American-made Pratt and Whitney engines. Haaretz quoted a senior Defense Ministry official Tuesday as saying the Reagan Administration has taken no formal decision to discontinue the Lavi but would be very pleased if Israel decided to do so on its own.

### Israel Determined To Build Lavi

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has indicated that Israel is determined to build the plane but is willing to hear American alternative proposals, the newspaper Al Hamishmar reported Tuesday.

"They (the Americans) are not talking about discontinuing financial aid for the project (but) Israel is open to proposals and is willing to examine them, provided there is no delay in the plane's development in the meantime," Rabin was quoted as saying in advance of an interview to be published in Al Hamishmar later this week.

Rabin disclosed that the U.S. is now seeking to present Israel with alternatives to the Lavi. "When alternatives are in question, it is not the F-20 (an American-built jet) but a combination of an American platform and Israeli avionics," Rabin was quoted as saying.

This would appear to mean an American designed aircraft with Israel developing and producing the electrical and electronic devices that would go into it.

"If the Americans have proposals, and they think that it will take half a year to formulate them in coordination with us and with due regard for our comments, I'm willing to hear these proposals. We have no proposals, we have a decision" to go ahead with the plane, Rabin said.

He stressed that the Lavi meets Israel's needs "but this does not mean that other solutions involving other planes -- which may be received from the U.S. -- cannot be found."

### Cost Higher Than Expected

According to sources quoted by Haaretz, it is clear that the cost of the Lavi will be higher than Israel originally reported to the Americans, but lower than the estimates by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dov Zakheim.

The sources told Haaretz that in some years there would be a need to invest almost \$900 million in the plane in order to adhere to the production schedule. The Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday that Rabin has called an urgent meeting of the top echelon

of the Defense Ministry and of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), manufacturer of the Lavi, to reassess the program in light of costs.

### Jobs Guaranteed By U.S.

Israel Radio reported, meanwhile, that the Knesset delegation had received suggestions from American officials that Israel should use an advanced version of the American-built F-16 jet fighter incorporating in it the Israeli technology developed for the Lavi.

Also, according to the delegation, the Americans promised that Israeli engineers laid off if the Lavi is abandoned would find employment in the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the Reagan Administration's so-called Star Wars program. Israel, along with Britain and West Germany, is one of the American allies promised contracts in connection with the SDI.

The Knesset delegation was more than a little indignant over the pressure applied by U.S. officials, Israel Radio reported. They were quoted as saying that as they made their rounds from one official to another, those they just saw briefed the ones they were about to see on the arguments the Israelis were presenting in favor of the Lavi. Thus briefed in advance, they were able to come up with counter-arguments.

David Magen, a Likud MK who was a member of the delegation, said the high cost estimates by the Americans were based on exaggerated notions of the salaries earned by Israeli engineers. He and other members said the Americans seemed determined to abort the Israeli Lavi production effort.

### CABINET ACTS TO CURTAIL WATER SUPPLY

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA) -- The Cabinet acted Monday to curtail the water supply for agricultural and urban use to replenish reserves which have dwindled because of an unusually light rainfall during the past winter and rising consumption.

A proposal by Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin to reduce the water supply by 100 million cubic meters, was adopted although several ministers argued for more drastic cuts. Farmers will have 60 million cubic meters less water and 40 million cubic meters will be removed from urban consumption.

A committee was appointed consisting of Premier Shimon Peres, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Nehamkin who will decide by the end of this summer whether further reductions are necessary.

Farmers, by far the largest consumers of water, have already begun shifting to crops that need less irrigation. Nehamkin said that cotton, a high irrigation crop, is being cut by 30 percent which will save about 100 million cubic meters of water.

A television advertising campaign has begun, urging city dwellers to use less water. They are advised to wash their cars with buckets rather than garden hoses.

One minister proposed regulations to enforce night watering of parks and private gardens. Another suggested that 25 percent of the urban water supply could be conserved if leaky pipes are mended. (By David Landau)

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt have named their representatives to the arbitration panel that will decide the Taba border dispute. But the two countries have yet to agree on the three international members, on the terms of reference that will provide the framework of arbitration and on the wording of the questions to be submitted to the panel.

**JUSTICE, STATE DEPT. IN DISPUTE  
OVER EXTENT OF ISRAELI ESPIONAGE**  
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA) -- The Department of State and Justice are engaging in an increasingly public dispute over the extent of Israeli espionage activities in the United States.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Tuesday that his agency was standing by a statement delivered Monday in the name of "all elements of the Administration," asserting that Israel has cooperated in the Pollard investigation and that the U.S. has no evidence that Pollard was part of an extensive Israeli spying operation.

But Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten denied Monday that Attorney General Edwin Meese had approved the statement, maintaining that his agency would never comment on the details of an ongoing investigation.

At the same time, officials were said to be standing by their off-the-record suggestions that there was evidence of a wider operation authorized by the Israeli government.

Claim 'Selective Cooperation'

The statement by the State Department came in apparent response to Israeli anger over assertions in the press by unnamed Justice Department officials that the espionage activities of Jonathan Jay Pollard, who pleaded guilty last week to conspiring to sell state secrets to Israel, was more than the "rogue" operation which the Israeli government has claimed it to be.

In addition, William Webster, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was quoted last week, as accusing Israel of "selective cooperation" in the investigation of the Pollard case.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday accused elements in the Reagan Administration of attempting to "foul up the atmosphere" with suggestions that Israel has engaged in extensive spying here.

'No Evidence Of Espionage Ring'

Kalb said Monday that the U.S. "has no evidence of any espionage ring involving Israeli officials other than the ones described in the indictment" of Pollard and his wife, Anne-Henderson Pollard, who was charged as an accessory.

The indictment issued last week named four Israelis as undicted co-conspirators. One of them, Rafi Eitan, had headed a unit for the gathering of scientific information through which he directed the acquisition of secrets from Pollard.

Following Pollard's arrest, the roles of Eitan and of Yoseph Yagur, an Israeli science attache at the Consulate in New York, became known and Justice Department officials investigating the case were permitted to meet with them in Israel.

The unit headed by Eitan was declared by the Israeli government to have been eliminated and Secretary of State George Shultz said that Israel had provided its full cooperation in the investigation of the affair.

In his statement Monday, Kalb also commended Israel for assurances that it was not engaging in any spying activity against his country and for its renewed pledge to cooperate fully with the investigation.

"We also wish to note that the indictment and successful prosecution was made possible through the cooperation of the government of Israel," Kalb

said. Asked about Webster's comment, he maintained that "Israel has cooperated in accordance with the terms of its agreement with the Department of Justice," and obliquely criticized both the Justice Department leaders and Webster for their remarks in the press.

"The U.S. position, as I have just set it forth, reflects the view of all elements of the Administration," Kalb said, adding that "quotes from unidentified sources are entitled to no weight and these and other uninformed statements do not represent the Administration's views."

**RECOGNITION FOR MAGEN DAVID ADOM URGED**

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA) -- Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. N.Y.) threw his support behind an effort to gain recognition from the International Red Cross for Israel's Magen David Adom.

D'Amato argued that other groups, like the Red Crescent in Moslem countries, have been admitted to the international organization under special exemptions from using the title and emblem of the Red Cross.

In a statement, D'Amato said, "As you are probably aware, this Israeli organization provides emergency medical services similar to those of the Red Cross. Nevertheless, Magen David Adom has been denied admission into the Red Cross family.

"Despite the fact that Magen David Adom satisfied all other requirements for admission, it continues to be denied inclusion in this umbrella organization," D'Amato said.

Representatives of Operation Recognition, the organization lobbying for the acceptance of Magen David Adom, say that Israel has been discriminated against in its effort to join the Red Cross family. They said they hope to see some positive changes at the October International Red Cross Conference in Geneva.

**WIESENTHAL CENTER DEMANDS FRENCH ACTION AGAINST REVISIONIST'S THESIS**

LOS ANGELES, June 10 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center has demanded that French authorities take action against the recent decision of the University of Nantes to grant a doctoral degree for a dissertation which denies that six million Jews died in Nazi concentration camps.

The thesis, written by Henri Roques, was first rejected by the University of Paris IV. It was then submitted to a jury at the University of Nantes, which awarded Roques a doctorate of philosophy for his Holocaust thesis.

A delegation from the Simon Wiesenthal Center learned of the details of this affair during a recent meeting in Paris with Jean-Pierre Lafon, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's advisor on human rights and diplomatic affairs.

Upon learning of Roques' dissertation and its disposition at the University of Nantes, Wiesenthal Center associate dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper wrote to Rene Maunoury Minister of National Education of France, asking on behalf of the Center's 315,000 member families what steps the French education authorities were taking against the Nantes University.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- A Library of Holocaust Law -- the first of its kind -- is being established by the Anti-Defamation League B'nai B'rith to house legal and other documents relating to the pursuit of justice against Nazi war criminals. It will include documents having to do with the European war crime trials, American deportation actions, war crimes investigations, Canadian Holocaust denial trials and SS archival papers previously available only in Austria and Germany.

## GRAIN SILO DEVELOPED IN ISRAEL TO BE TESTED IN SRI LANKA THROUGH AID OF JEWISH RELIEF ORGANIZATION

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, June 10 (JTA) -- The American Jewish World Service, a Boston-based international development group, will launch a large scale agricultural development program in Sri Lanka next month which will include testing of a revolutionary grain silo developed in Israel, AJWS president Larry Simon said here.

"The aim of all this is self-reliance," Simon told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week in describing the \$160,000 project to develop the long term infrastructure for that country. The goals of the Sri Lanka project include laying the groundwork for new types of agricultural methods, establishment of a local credit union for small farmers and improvement of basic health care.

At the center of the agricultural development is a newly-designed grain silo developed in Israel's Volcani Institute for Agricultural Research. In preliminary tests in the Negev, the plastic silos have cut grain losses down to less than one percent. The new silos have virtually eliminated losses to rot, insects and rodents, Simon said.

### First Silo Test Site

The AJWS will finance the testing of five to ten of the new silos in underdeveloped African and Asian countries. Sri Lanka, one of the world's poorest countries, will be the site of the first test, Simon said.

"Almost every African country is losing more than 40 percent of its grain harvest to rot, insects and rodents," Simon said. If the new silos can cut those losses significantly, he said, "it would be one of the greatest contributions to African agriculture ever and it's a lot easier than doubling production."

Some African and Asian countries have no grain silos so the farmers are forced to sell their grain at harvest time when demand is low and supply is high. "It's really an appropriate technology -- it's not a high-tech facility," Simon said. "The Israeli silos are low cost and relatively easy to maintain."

### Seeking Self-Reliance

Simon stressed that AJWS does not want to create dependencies on foreign experts but wants to help the native people organize on their own behalf. The AJWS plans to develop self reliance through a Sri Lankan, non-governmental development group, Sarvodaya, which means gift of labor.

Sarvodaya, a Gandhian Buddhist movement, has already set up self-help projects in 7,000 of Sri Lanka's 23,000 villages. Sarvodaya will be responsible for executing all the projects set up by AJWS.

One of these projects Simon said AJWS hopes to channel through Sarvodaya is a credit union for small farmers. Under the existing system, the small farmers get loans from exploitative middlemen who take large parts of the year's harvest for interest.

The middlemen also market the produce and hold tremendous power over the farmers, Simon said. "The middlemen control the credit and marketing so that the farmer is perpetually in debt to a middleman," Simon said. "There is virtually no way to climb out of poverty."

Part of the AJWS funds will go to providing capital for a credit union through Sarvodaya, which will also help farmers market their crops. The agricultural projects include some small-scale irrigation and testing of new varieties of crops.

### Israeli Contribution

Although the project will bring in technical experts from Israel to offer advice and guidance, their main goal will be to train and teach others, Simon said. The Israeli experts in dry zone agriculture will help assess the most profitable uses of different farming techniques.

"The major contribution that Israel has to make is not a specific technology but that they have been dealing successfully for a number of years with desert agriculture," Simon said.

The AJWS will also bring a doctor to Sri Lanka for one year to train several hundred Sri Lankans in fundamental health care, Simon said. The doctor will try to develop a small corp of health care workers to monitor malnutrition in schools and educate women in prenatal care. These "paramedics" will be able to identify more serious health problems and refer the sick to professionals, Simon said.

### LUTHERAN, JEWISH MEETINGS SET

NEW YORK, June 10 (JTA) -- Lutheran and Jewish leaders have agreed to hold a number of meetings to deal with such current problems as terrorism, nuclear disarmament, an emerging new anti-Semitism in Germany, Soviet Jewry, Jews in Arab countries and world poverty and hunger, Rabbi Walter Wurzbeger announced here.

Wurzbeger, chairman of the interreligious affairs committee of the Synagogue Council of America, said the agreement on cooperation between the Jewish organization and the Lutheran World Federation, was reached at the offices of the SCA, the coordinating agency for rabbinic and congregational organizations of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism.

The delegation from the Lutheran agency will conduct an educational campaign to create a better understanding of Jewish history and Judaism's views on many domestic and international concerns.

"We did not discuss any matters relating to religion," Wurzbeger explained, in an undeclared response to the fact that the SCA constitution forbids discussions on religious issues between the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform components of the SCA; and also to persistent criticism from Orthodox sources about any Jewish consultations with non-Jewish religious organizations.

### SOVIET REFUSENIK SENTENCED

NEW YORK, June 10 (JTA) -- Twenty-seven year old Moscow refusenik Alexi Magarik was sentenced Monday to three years in prison for alleged "drug possession" by a Tbilisi court, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported here. His appeal will be within ten days.

According to the SSSJ, Magarik, who is a cellist and Hebrew teacher, was arrested on March 14 in a move the SSSJ described as "a bold attempt by the KGB to terrorize other Jewish educators."

The SSSJ and the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry also reported that Prisoner of Conscience Dr. Vladimir Lifschitz of Leningrad was recently sentenced to three years for "anti-Soviet slander" and was then transferred to a labor camp in the Kamchatka Peninsula.