

SHULAMIT SHAMIR, WIFE OF DEPUTY PREMIER, INVITED TO VISIT HER NATIVE COUNTRY, BULGARIA
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Shulamit Shamir, the wife of Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, has been officially invited to visit her native country, Bulgaria. Although she was formally invited by Yosef Astrakoff, the head of the Jewish community in Sofia, the move was seen here as another step by Soviet Bloc countries to normalize relations with Israel. Poland and Hungary have also sent signals, and Israel and the Soviet Union are to hold consular talks next week in Helsinki.

The invitation to Shulamit Shamir was passed on to Jerusalem by the Bulgarian Mission to the United Nations in New York. It is the first time an Israeli personality has been invited to Bulgaria since that country severed diplomatic relations with Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Israeli officials assume the invitation received Soviet approval.

The invitation was initiated last October when Yitzhak Shamir, in his capacity as Foreign Minister, met with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Peter Mladenov during a session of the UN General Assembly. Mladenov reportedly suggested that Shamir's wife visit her native country. The visit is to take place within the next few weeks.

Shulamit Shamir was overjoyed at the invitation. "A dream of years has materialized," she said. "I have always dreamed of returning there." She left Bulgaria when she was 17, before the Nazi occupation.

OWNER OF RACIST RADIO STATION IS OFFERING TO SELL HIS LICENSE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (JTA) — The license of the Kansas radio station which caused an uproar in 1982 with its racist and anti-Semitic broadcasts is being offered for sale.

According to the World Jewish Congress unit on the documentation of international anti-Semitism, the owner of the Dodge City radio station, K TTL-FM, is willing to relinquish it for \$10,000 and give up the fight against the challenges to his license currently before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

At a hearing before the FCC, the attorney for Charles Babbs, owner of the radio station, said his client was willing to give up the license for cash to the Community Service Broadcasting, Inc., the citizens' group which has been trying for three years to secure the license in place of the Dodge City station.

Controversy engulfed the station in 1982 and 1983 when it broadcast programs that were anti-Black and anti-Jewish. The sermons of James Wickstrom, a founder of Posse Comitatus, the rightwing extremist group, were among the broadcasts aired.

Babbs' application for a broadcast license renewal in February 1983 was challenged by the community service group which filed a competing application. The group is expected to accept Babbs' surprise settlement offer to give up his three-year fight to retain the license.

In 1985, the FCC refused to rescind the station's license because of its programming which it said was protected by the First Amendment. However, it was reviewing whether the transfer of ownership to Babbs from his wife, whom he has since divorced, was illegal.

His wife was believed to have been behind the station's racist programming, and Babbs has since sought to change its format. Babbs ceased broadcasting two months ago.

LAVI FIGHTER JET GETS FINANCIAL BOOST FROM DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Israel's controversial Lavi jet fighter received a financial boost Monday when the Defense Department announced it would release \$67 million it had held up for contracts involving the plane.

All Lavi funding requests will be processed while the Pentagon studies alternatives for reducing the cost of producing the plane, according to spokesman Maj. Larry Icenogle.

Results of the study will be reviewed with Israel, he added, citing a letter from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to a group of Congressmen who protested in a July 17 letter the delay in funds.

The Pentagon estimates the cost of building each plane at \$22 million, while Israel predicts \$15 million. The plane, which was unveiled in July, is slated to replace some 300 older Israeli jets in the 1990's.

The Pentagon had slowed approval of the contract funds following the dispute this summer over cost projections. The U.S. has underwritten most of the \$1 billion development of the Lavi.

ABA UPHOLDS AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS
By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Efforts to break off an agreement between the American Bar Association (ABA) and a government-guided Soviet lawyers group were defeated Tuesday at an ABA convention here. This followed a vigorous debate in which the Soviet organization was denounced by supporters and opponents of the agreement alike for fostering anti-Semitism and human rights abuses.

The cooperation agreement between the ABA and the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL) had been strongly criticized by ABA members and Jewish organizations because of the Soviet group's reputation as a propaganda tool of the Kremlin. The ASL has been involved most notably in the publication of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic writings.

The ASL recently published, together with the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public, The White Book, which bitterly denounces Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate.

Delegates to the convention defeated a resolution to abrogate the accord in a voice vote Tuesday after the ABA's policy-setting body, the House of Delegates, had recommended that the agreement be maintained. But the 433-member House is still scheduled to vote this week on two resolutions providing that "appro-

private opportunities" be taken to raise human rights issues in discussions with the ASL.

The vote in the House of delegates to maintain the accord came after its proponents acknowledged that the ASL had a poor record on human rights.

"I don't think that any of us are under any illusions about the ASL," said Judge Frank Kaufman, a member of the steering committee on ABA-Soviet relations, to the 433-member body. "If there's anything in the world that is close to or even maybe worse than the Goebbels propaganda ministry, it's the ASL."

But Kaufman maintained that "if you're going to talk on an organized basis with Soviet lawyers, you're going to have to talk with the ASL."

At an earlier forum, ABA president William Falsgraf said it would be "unthinkable" and "morally reprehensible" for the American lawyers organization to "pass up the opportunity to bring attention to human rights issues" in talks, made possible by the agreement, with "the top leadership of the Soviet government."

The controversial agreement, called a "Declaration of Cooperation," was adopted by the ABA Board of Governors two months ago, to replace a much criticized accord concluded in May 1985. The new version includes statements on the commitment of both lawyers organizations to the rule of law. The agreement provides exchanges of visits, joint seminars, an exchange of publications and other cooperative activities.

Differing Views Of The Modified Version

Morris Abram, a lawyer and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, denounced the earlier agreement in opening remarks to the ABA convention as "an exercise in unpardonable naivete by ABA leaders." But he said the modified version was "a somewhat better-drafted declaration of cooperation" than the original because it "sets the rule of law, human rights and the improvement of justice and legal services high on the agenda."

"We should not scrap this admittedly small advance without putting it to the test," Abram told the ABA delegates. He urged that the agreement be used to raise issues of human rights, including Soviet Jewish emigration, with Moscow.

But Patience Huntwork, a co-sponsor of the defeated resolution to abrogate the accord, said she thought the modified version was worse than the original, because it states that the ASL is "pledged to advance the rule of law in the world."

"Actually, the Declaration of Cooperation is even more objectionable than the original agreement," Huntwork said. "It gives the Soviets credit for laudatory goals which in reality are not observed within their legal system." Huntwork referred specifically to the "goals" section of the Declaration, which attributes to the Soviets, among other things, the goals of promoting human rights through law and of assuring the highest standards of ethical conduct by Soviet lawyers.

Huntwork's view was echoed by Morey Schapira, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, who said the modified version is "lacking substance and serves only the interest" of the ASL. But Huntwork said she was satisfied that her efforts helped to sensitize the ABA to Soviet violations of human rights.

ARCHDIOCESE MUM ON PERES' INVITATION TO O'CONNOR

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The Archdiocese of New York declined to confirm or deny reports Tuesday the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has formally invited Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor to visit Israel.

Archdiocese spokesman Joseph Zwilling told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he could not release any information on the reported invitation until O'Connor returns from the Dominican Republic this weekend. Israel Consulate sources in New York, which reportedly delivered the invitation to O'Connor last week, also declined to comment Tuesday.

O'Connor said recently he would visit Israel upon a formal invitation from the government. He also said he favored Vatican-Israeli diplomatic ties, but with some preconditions.

In a July 17 article in the JTA Bulletin, O'Connor was quoted as saying the preconditions are that Israel should assist substantially in finding a Palestinian homeland, help achieve peace in Lebanon, and assist in stabilizing the security of some eight million Christians living in Arab countries.

At the time O'Connor said he would await a formal invitation from the Israeli government to visit that country, he also stated that such a visit would require approval by the Vatican. There was no immediate indication that the Vatican was to issue such an approval.

After visiting Lebanon last June, O'Connor called for the creation of a Palestinian homeland, a position rejected by all mainstream parties in Israel. But O'Connor has since made statements and gestures aimed at demonstrating his continuing friendship with the Jewish people.

O'Connor said he does not reject the Jewish claim to a homeland in Israel following his visit to Lebanon and has since met with prominent leaders of the American Jewish community.

BOMBING TRAGEDY AVERTED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces detonated an explosive charge Tuesday outside a building owned by former Gaza Mayor Rashid A-Shawa. However, an explosion triggered by sappers as they were defusing the charge damaged the building which housed a car inspection center.

A-Shawa, who was deposed by Israel in 1982, recently met with Premier Shimon Peres to discuss the situation in the administered territories. During a recent visit to Amman he praised Jordan and denounced the PLO for having misled the Palestinian people and said the time had come to consider other options. After his trip to Jordan, A-Shawa met in Gaza with Shmuel Goren, the coordinator of government affairs in the administered territories, and briefed him on his visit to Amman.

About two weeks ago, an unidentified person tried to start a fire at a warehouse also owned by the Shawa family. Leaflets distributed throughout the territories threatened his life.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA A GLORIOUS PAST, A QUESTIONABLE FUTURE By Sheldon Kirshner (Part One In A Series)

VIENNA, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The ghosts of the Jewish past haunt Vienna, a stately city now nearly bereft of Jews. There was a time, not that long ago, when Vienna was one of the most important capitals in the diaspora. Before the onslaught of Nazism, Vienna was a place where the flower of Jewish creativity in every conceivable field of human endeavor bloomed.

Today, more than 40 years after the Nazis carried out their last deportation of Jews from Vienna, there are relatively few signs reminding a visitor of what used to be. The glory that was pre-war Jewish Vienna is kept alive in old buildings, plaques, street markers and in the minds of people with long memories.

By the early 1930's, when the threat of German National Socialism seemed imminently real to some and far off to others, Jews comprised about eight percent of Vienna's population.

A Pervasive Influence

Despite being a minority, Jews played a dominant role in practically all aspects of life in Vienna. It is probably fair to say that the influence they exercised here was far more pervasive than Jews exercise in the U.S. today.

Jews were granted full civic equality in 1848, but it was not until 1867 that Jewish emancipation was made permanent by law. Now able to let their energy, talent and imagination run free, Jews took advantage of the relatively liberal political and social climate in Austria and, in unprecedented numbers, entered professions like law and medicine.

Hans Kelsen, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Vienna, wrote Austria's post-1918 constitution, the tenets of which were incorporated into its present-day constitution.

Robert Barany won the Nobel Prize in physiology, and another Nobel Prize laureate, Karl Landsteiner, discovered the four main human blood types. Sigmund Freud opened up new horizons in psychiatry.

They were prominent in every facet of the economic system. They published newspapers; they ran banks; they owned factories.

Arguably, they made their greatest mark in the arts. There were writers like Arthur Schnitzler, Franz Werfel and Stefan Zweig. There were stage directors and actors like Max Reinhardt and Elizabeth Bergner. And there were musicians like Arnold Schoenberg, Gustav Mahler, Carl Goldmark, Artur Schnabel and Bruno Walter.

A Center Of Modern Zionism

Vienna was a center of modern Zionism. Theodor Herzl, the author of *The Jewish State*, lived and worked in Vienna. As a correspondent in Paris for the *Neue Freie Presse*, he was converted to Zionism by the notorious Dreyfus Affair. Vienna, for a while, became the headquarters of the Zionist Executive.

Peretz Smolenskin, one of the founders of the Zionist reawakening, resided in Vienna. And Nathan Birnbaum founded the first Jewish nationalist student association, *Kadimah*, here.

At the height of the Jewish renaissance, Vienna was home to approximately 170,000 Jews. The less successful ones lived in the first district, now a prime shopping area, and the better-off ones were concentrated in the ninth district, the site of the venerable University of Vienna.

The 1938 Anschluss, the annexation of Austria into Germany, spelled finis to the Jewish community. Nazi Germany, having devastated German Jewry, proceeded to humiliate and disenfranchise the Jews of Austria.

Jews lost their livelihood, their synagogues were burned on Crystal Night, and they were forced out of the country. Many emigrated, but 65,000 would not or could not leave, and by 1945 they had been killed.

A Jewish Mausoleum

Today, 41 years after the downfall of the Third Reich, Vienna is like a Jewish mausoleum. In Juden Platz, once a choice address for wealthier Jewish families, there are non-sectarian restaurants and shops, as well as masses of parked cars. The Judengasse, formerly the center of Jewish commercial activity, is just like any other street in contemporary Vienna: the Jewish names are gone.

In a little park near the Judengasse, a plaque commemorates the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. This was where the luxurious Hotel Metropol, the headquarters of the Gestapo, stood. During the war, Allied bombers destroyed it.

Up the street, one can find the magnificent Seitenstettengasse Synagogue. An impressive structure with a starry blue dome, it was built in 1826, concealed behind an apartment house on a narrow, cobblestone street.

The Nazis, in their maniacal effort to eradicate all traces of Jewish culture, tried to burn it to the ground. The arsonists damaged the interior considerably, dousing the fire only because they feared it would spread to the rest of the neighborhood.

In 1963, the synagogue -- the site of a 1981 Palestinian terrorist attack which resulted in three deaths -- was renovated. The area around it has become a fashionable, somewhat bohemian nightspot.

There is a kosher restaurant, the Arche Noah, but it has fallen on hard times because few Jewish tourists are visiting Vienna in the wake of the Kurt Waldheim affair. And there is an Israeli restaurant, Mapitome, a non-kosher facility which attracts a young, beautiful clientele.

Compared to Vienna's other synagogues, the Seitenstettengasse Synagogue suffered a rather mild fate. The so-called Polish synagogue, constructed in a Moorish-Byzantine style, was firebombed. A featureless housing estate stands on its site.

There is a vacant lot on Grosse Schiffgasse, and a glimpse through the fence reveals rotting car chassis, fruit trees growing wild and a rusting crane. This is where the Schiffschule, the synagogue of Vienna's Hungarian Jews, stood.

The Türkischer Tempel, where Vienna's Sephardic Jews worshipped, is now nothing more than a weed-choked lot behind a wall of billboards. The Grosser Tempel, designed by one of Vienna's foremost architects, Ludwig Frankl, is occupied by a car park.

Sigmund Freud's house, on 19 Berggasse, has not met such a sorrowful fate. Now a museum, in the ninth district, it chronicles his life and career through the media of photographs, letters and documents. Freud, who emigrated from Vienna to London a year before he died, lived in this apartment building from 1891 until 1938.

There is a framed photo of Freud posing with his children, and one of the great man obviously enjoying himself in the German Alpine resort of Berchtesgaden, which Hitler favored.

When Freud was 70, he was honored by B'nai B'rith. Freud, in a letter, recalled the event by commenting on his Jewishness: "What tied me to Judaism was -- I have to admit it -- not the faith, not even the national pride, for I was always an unbeliever... But there remained enough to make the attraction of Judaism and the Jews irresistible."

The saddest picture is of Freud's aged mother and her daughters in an Austrian resort, circa 1925, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The faces are neither sad nor happy, and they look down at you from the immense distance of another era. Most of the people in the photograph were murdered in Auschwitz and Theresienstadt.

The Freud museum reinforces the belief that Jewish Vienna, or what is left of it, cannot be seen outside the context of the Holocaust. Leon Zelman is one man who firmly believes this. Zelman, a Polish survivor who lost his whole family in the war, runs the state-subsidized Jewish Welcome Service, which encourages Jews and non-Jews alike to explore Vienna's Jewish legacy.

"Austria wants to forget the Holocaust," he says, "but Austria does not want to forget the contribution of Jews to this country. Hitler killed the Jews of Austria, but we will not allow him to kill off the spiritual Jewish life of Vienna."

In that optimistic spirit, the Jewish Welcome Service publishes an annual book on various facets of Jewish Vienna and organizes occasional exhibitions.

Last year, Zelman, in conjunction with London's Institute of Jewish Affairs, mounted Vienna's biggest postwar Jewish festival. Entitled "The Lost World," it revolved around the photos of Roman Vishniac, the Polish Jewish photographer who captured the essence of East European Jewry before the Nazi calamity.

The Mayor of Vienna, Helmut Zilk, tendered a kosher reception in the city's gothic city hall, and the speech he delivered best sums up the wonderful, but erratic, symbiotic relationship that arose between the Jews and Vienna in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

"No history of Vienna," he said, "would be complete if it did not include an account of the city's Jewish community, which has perhaps done more than any other group... to mold its cultural and intellectual life. Vienna owes a profound debt of gratitude to its Jewish residents."

17 FRENCH UNIFIL SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN A CLASH WITH AMAL SHIITES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Seventeen French soldiers in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were wounded in a clash with Amal Shiite militiamen Tuesday. Two Amal militiamen were reported killed and three were injured. It was the most serious clash between UNIFIL and the local Lebanese militia since the Israel Defense Force withdrew from Lebanon more than a year ago.

The immediate evacuation of the 17 French soldiers was blocked by the Amal fighters, who surrounded the unit and kept it pinned down. It was several hours before some of the wounded soldiers were helicoptered out of the area while others were reported to be re-

ceiving first aid at a makeshift medical center set up by UNIFIL within the area. A UNIFIL spokesman said that three wounded French soldiers escaped and were receiving treatment at a UNIFIL hospital at Nakoura, near the Lebanon-Israel border.

The clash began Monday when two Amal members refused to stop at a roadblock staffed by the French contingent of UNIFIL near Abasiye, some five kilometers east of Tyre. In an ensuing dispute during which the French soldiers tried to forcibly disarm the Amal militiamen, the French soldiers fatally shot two Amal men. One of them was reportedly the local Amal commander. Amal militiamen then attacked that French contingent, wounding 17 of them and surrounded the unit. The two units continued to exchange fire for several hours.

Beirut Radio reported that Nabih Berri, the Amal leader who was visiting Damascus at the time of the clash, instructed his soldiers to cease fire and permit the evacuation of the wounded.

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING BANK HAPAOALIM By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Police have launched an investigation into the activities of Bank Hapoalim and "another bank" for allegedly bypassing foreign currency regulations, a police spokesman confirmed Tuesday. The other bank was not immediately identified.

According to Yediot Achronot, Bank Hapoalim is suspected of having set up dummy corporations overseas to make foreign currency loans in easy terms to companies associated with the Histadrut and the kibbutz movement, such as the large construction company Solel Boneh.

The paper reported that heads of Bank Hapoalim and directors of the companies allegedly involved in the illegal activities will be questioned by police within the next few days. Giora Gazit, former chairman of the bank's Board, already has been questioned by police, as was Uzi Vardi-Zer, who is in charge of the bank's overseas department.

Gazit resigned in April as head of the bank, in accordance with the recommendations of a special commission investigating the 1983 collapse of bank shares and the ensuing panic on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Chaim Beisky, recommended that the heads of Israel's five leading banks be forced to quit.

The open investigation reportedly follows months of a secret investigation.

Bank Hapoalim spokesman Amnon Herzog said the bank is supplying police "with all relevant information." He said the investigation deals with loans given to the kibbutz movement three years ago and is "mostly of a technical nature."

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Mayors of three Arab villages in the lower Galilee expressed satisfaction with a decision last week by a meeting of ministers headed by Premier Shimon Peres to halt IDF military training on a disputed parcel of land and allow Arab farmers to cultivate it. The villages of Deir Khanna, Sakhnin and Arabe have for years been the site of bitter confrontations with the authorities over the use by the IDF of 4,000 acres of land for training.