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DIFFERING EXPLANATION GIVEN FOR SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FURTHER TALKS WITH ISRAEL WILL NOT TAKE PLACE

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) — Diplomats in Europe and Israeli officials offered differing explanations for the surprise Soviet announcement Tuesday that further talks with Israel were off.

As Israeli delegates were returning home from the 90-minute meeting Monday with a Soviet team in Helsinki, an unnamed senior American diplomat in Bonn told Israeli Radio that Israel's raising of the Soviet Jewry issue at the onset of the talks was a tactical error.

He said that after a breach of relations of 20 years, "It would have been preferable to raise this issue in a more restrained manner — and not put the Israeli demands immediately to two low-level officials who had no mandate to discuss this matter."

He indicated that Soviet Jews would have benefitted if demands for their better treatment would have followed official efforts at improving relations.

But Mordechai Lador, Israel's Ambassador to Finland, was quoted as saying "that the doors remain open" and Israel-Soviet contacts would be maintained via the Dutch and Finnish Foreign Ministries.

In announcing Soviet intentions, a spokesman said in Moscow Tuesday that a second day of meetings in Helsinki was cancelled because Israel insisted on raising "political questions," including a statement urging improved treatment of Soviet Jews.

Israel Will Continue Raising Soviet Jewry Issue

Premier Shimon Peres responded Tuesday that Israel will continue to stress that issue. "In our eyes," he said, "the issue of Soviet Jewry remains a central issue. We are not only a country, we are a people, and whatever will be will be. This matter remains at the focus of our attention."

He said the Soviets could participate in the Mideast political process "only when and if it establishes diplomatic relations with Israel."

Asked if he regarded the Moscow statement as a propaganda move, he said: "It's very difficult to decipher the Soviet riddles. Why did they want to renew? Why, if they stopped — what is still not clear is why they stopped."

"What is clear is that Moscow is apparently very sensitive to the reactions of the Arab world, and it is inconceivable for there to be a meeting between us and the Russians without our raising the issue of Soviet Jewry."

Soviet Statement Taken With Grain Of Salt

In Jerusalem, political sources Wednesday took the Soviet statement with a grain of salt. They said the Soviets have not said their final word, and the contacts would continue. They explained the Soviet comments were an attempt to appease the Arab countries.

The sources said they failed to understand the Soviet rage over the raising of the issue of Soviet Jewry, because Israeli leaders had made it clear that they would stress the issue.

PERES-MUBARAK SUMMIT IS ON HOLD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) — The possibility of a summit meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak seemed to fade Wednesday after indications the day before that a summit was in the offing.

Avraham Tamir, the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, met with Mubarak in Alexandria Tuesday but apparently failed to obtain an agreement from the Egyptian leader for a summit.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed the hope that the summit would still take place in September, as previously anticipated, but they said that any delay in the completion of the arbitration process on Taba might delay the summit.

Cairo was officially mum on the meeting, but Yediot Achronot Wednesday quoted sources in the Egyptian capital that Mubarak had reiterated his position that a meeting with Peres would take place only after the Taba issue had been resolved.

'Returning Home With Many Things'

Tamir, who was scheduled to return Wednesday night from Cairo, told Yediot Achronot that he was returning home in "a great mood." He said that all the issues he had raised in his talks with Mubarak, including the summit, would materialize. "I am returning home with many things," he said. "Whatever I wanted to do here, I accomplished." Tamir would not add any details.

The 10-member Inner Cabinet last week approved a draft agreement with Egypt on the Taba dispute. The agreement, hammered out over several months by delegations from both countries, would send the dispute over the 25-acre strip of Sinai beachfront to international arbitration.

Still to be decided are the three international arbitrators who are to join an Israeli and an Egyptian representative, and acceptance of aerial photographs showing the border posts which Israel would claim should mark the boundary in the Taba area.

SOVIET JEWRY ACTIVISTS DELIGHTED BUT CAUTIOUS OVER NEWS THAT SHCHARANSKY'S FAMILY HAVE BEEN GRANTED EXIT VISAS

By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) — Soviet Jewry activists here responded Wednesday with delight to the news that the family of Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky has been granted visas to leave the Soviet Union for Israel. But they stressed that the move had little significance in the context of Soviet policy on Jewish emigration.

"We're delighted and excited for both Ida Milgrom (Shcharansky's mother), Leonid Shcharansky (his brother) and family, who struggled long and hard for the whole Shcharansky family to be united again in Israel," said Myrna Shinbaum, Associate Director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Natan Shcharansky, who has been living in Israel since he was freed in a prisoner exchange last February, has said he was told by U.S. officials involved in negotiating his release that the exchange agreement included a promise from the Soviets that visas would also be given to his mother and brother, as well as his brother's wife.

and children. After months of waiting, the Shcharansky family was informed earlier this month that the visas would be issued. Milgrom and her son Leonid have said the family was planning to fly to Vienna on Sunday if possible.

No Signs Of Eased Restrictions

Coming in the wake of Shcharansky's decision to go public with Moscow's promise, the Soviet move was not viewed by observers here as offering any signs of a let-up in Jewish emigration restrictions or the continuing harassment of refuseniks, Hebrew teachers and other Jewish leaders.

Referring to the abruptly-ended Soviet-Israeli consular talks held in Helsinki this week, Shinbaum said, "I don't see any relationship, except that the Soviets are trying to get what mileage they can."

Glenn Richter, who heads the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, stressed that Milgrom and Leonid Shcharansky have been given a run-around in their efforts to leave for Israel since February and even now "there may be harassment to the end."

"The Soviets aren't doing anybody a favor by releasing them," Richter told the JTA. "They seem to be holding true to what we believe is their principle of operation, which is to gain maximum positive publicity at minimal cost."

ROSENNE: FATE OF SOVIET JEWRY DEPENDS ON WHAT THE WEST DOES, NOT ON RENEWAL OF ISRAEL-USSR TIES By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne stressed Tuesday that the fate of Soviet Jewry depends on what the West does rather than any renewal of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. But Rosenne said that for Israel improved relations with the USSR would require increased Soviet Jewish emigration.

"What is totally unacceptable is to see the release of one or two individuals, creating the impression that the problem is solved while you have 400,000 Jews that have applied" for emigration visas, he said at a breakfast meeting with reporters.

The Soviets accused the Israelis of "arrogance" for bringing up the Soviet Jewry issue at a meeting in Helsinki Monday to discuss the resumption of some relations between the two countries. The meeting broke up after 90 minutes.

However, Rosenne rejected the view that the Helsinki meeting was "a flop" or that there would not be any further meetings. But he said "it's too early to tell" whether the Soviets want to resume diplomatic relations which Moscow broke with Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War.

Cautions U.S. On Mideast Peace Process

On the Middle East peace process, Rosenne appeared to be cautioning the Reagan Administration, which is reportedly studying the U.S. policy in the region in order to decide whether the U.S. should take a more active role.

The Israeli Ambassador stressed that the U.S. cannot replace the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and that there must be a willingness for the Arab countries to negotiate with Israel before the U.S. can play its very important role in the process. "The U.S. cannot impose peace if a party doesn't want it," he said.

Asked about charges of Israeli espionage in the U.S., Rosenne said that Israel apologized in the

case of Jonathan Pollard, the former Navy analyst who pleaded guilty in June of providing Israel with classified intelligence information. But he said that none of the other cases reported in the media had ever been proven. He said the latest incident involving the Recon Optical Inc., of Barrington, Ill., was a contract dispute. (See August 20 Bulletin.)

COALITION FORMED TO FIGHT PLANNED INCURSION INTO ALBERTA OF A VIOLENCE-PRONE HATE ORGANIZATION By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Church organizations and anti-discrimination groups in Calgary, Alberta, have formed a coalition to fight a planned incursion into the province of Alberta by the "Aryan Nations," a violence-prone white supremacist and anti-Jewish organization.

"All have experienced a sense of outrage in our community over this issue," said Harold Joffe, an officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress and chairman of Calgary's Citizens Against Racial and Religious Discrimination.

Leading Canadian newspapers have also strongly denounced the group and its leader, Terry Long, and urged that the organization not be permitted into Alberta. Long, 40, has announced he will set up a neo-Nazi compound in the town of Caroline, 120 miles north-east of Calgary.

The Church of the Aryan Nations is currently based in Hayden Lake, Idaho, about 100 miles south of the Canadian border. In 1983, 24 of its members launched a two-year crime spree that saw them blaze a trail of death and destruction through the American northwest.

They were implicated in the machinegun murder of Alan Berg, a Jewish radio talk show host in Denver, and the death of several policemen and informants. They were also convicted of robbing banks and armored cars of up to \$4 million and of torching a synagogue. The group, which preaches that "the Jew is the child of Satan," claims to be a religious organization -- the Church of Jesus Christ-Christian Aryan Nations.

Alerting The Public To Group's Plan

In addition to Calgary's Citizens Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, the coalition to fight the Aryan Nations' incursion into Alberta includes the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Calgary Labor Council, Citizens for Public Justice, the Committee Against Racism, the Church in Society of the United Church, the University of Calgary Chaplains and the Jewish Community Council of Calgary.

The Coalition is planning a letter-writing campaign to alert the public to Long's plan and a petition to pressure the Canadian Broadcasting Commission into airing a film called Aryan Nations by Calgary filmmaker Lawrence Ryckman. The coalition also plans a campaign to educate the public about the organization's beliefs.

Meanwhile, the three Canadian Sun newspapers -- in Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary -- which rarely coordinate editorial policy, are making a concerted effort to frustrate the entry of Long and his followers into Alberta. The Toronto Sun printed a front page editorial in its Sunday edition headed "Racist Thugs Are Not Welcome Here."

Delicia Crump, president of the Vancouver-based National Black Coalition of Canada, has sent a telegram to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney demanding that the Aryan Nations be outlawed. B'nai B'rith and the Canadian Jewish Congress leaders have also expressed

concern to government authorities. Alberta Solicitor-General Ken Rostad indicated that the Canadian Royal Mounted Police have the Caroline area under surveillance. Caroline's Deputy Mayor Gary Umscheid said the town's 431 residents "do not sympathize with Terry Long."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA CANTORS ARE SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE By Richard Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) — That uniquely Jewish clergyman, the cantor, is threatened with extinction as economics and sociology combine to curtail the supply of replacements for a rapidly-aging generation of European-trained prayer leaders.

Unlike other faiths where the priest or spiritual leader conducts the liturgy, in Judaism it is the cantor who helps lead the congregation in prayer. It is his responsibility to interpret traditional modes and chants that vary with each particular occasion — Sabbath, Passover, High Holidays — and to evoke feelings of spirituality among the worshippers through his melodious renditions of the Psalms and scriptural texts that form the basis of the service.

Until recently, the major source of cantors for congregations in the United States had been the shtetl of Eastern Europe, where generations of vocally-gifted and pious young Jewish lads would study the cantorial art at the feet of the community's senior hazzan. That source disappeared forever during the Nazi Holocaust.

With the proliferation of synagogues in the U.S. after World War II, the chief educational institutions of Judaism's three branches — Orthodox, Conservative and Reform — each developed cantorial institutes for the training of indigenous American hazzanim (cantors).

Career Has Fallen On Hard Times

Today the cantorship as a career for musically-talented young Jewish men seems to have fallen on hard times, despite salaries that average over \$40,000 a year, plus benefits. Cantors in a few of the most prestigious congregations can earn upwards of \$70,000 per year, according to Cantor Samuel Rosenbaum of Rochester, NY, executive vice president of the Cantors Assembly (Conservative), the world's largest body of hazzanim. Yet there is a dearth of candidates for the profession.

This year only 11 cantors were graduated in the United States. Eight were women invested by the School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College (Reform), the only branch of Judaism that permits women to officiate as cantors. Two male cantors were graduated from the Belz School of Jewish Music at Yeshiva University (Orthodox). Only one student was graduated from the Cantors Institute (Conservative) this June, while some 60 Conservative congregations are now actively seeking full-time cantors for their pulpits.

Perhaps it's the lure of show business — many cantors are frustrated opera singers — that has discouraged candidates for cantorial training. Another turn-off is a reluctance to get involved in every facet of congregational life — officiating at weddings and funerals, teaching Bar and Bat-Mitzvah students, conducting the choir, counseling congregants. These responsibilities make the contemporary cantorship a full-time ministry.

Half a century ago, many of the great cantors (Rosenblatt, Kusevitsky and others) were star performers who attracted overflow audiences to their synagogues — and often to their cantorial concerts. They never gave Bar-Mitzvah lessons.

Whatever the reasons, the demand for cantors far exceeds the supply — and the situation becomes more critical with each passing year as European-trained cantors reach retirement age.

To alleviate the shortage, the Cantors Assembly recently voted to establish a \$1 million fund to underwrite scholarships to encourage the training of the 150 to 200 qualified cantors needed in the next decade. "The ship is leaking and we need to do something about it quickly," Rosenbaum says.

IRELAND REJECTS WALDHEIM VISIT

DUBLIN, Aug. 20 (JTA) — In response to statements by President Kurt Waldheim's spokesman in Vienna that his first foreign visit would be to Ireland, officials of the Irish Foreign Ministry said that the government had not considered the possibility and certainly did not foresee such a visit within the next year, the World Jewish Congress reported.

Ireland's small Jewish community had expressed outrage at the possibility of a Waldheim visit, which Waldheim's spokesman had said would be in response to the invitation issued by Irish President Patrick Hillery to Waldheim's predecessor following his visit to Vienna last year.

"Obviously it was the position of President of Austria that was invited, not the person," Dr. Joseph Briscoe of Ireland's Jewish Representative Council said. "The person who holds that office now is, until such time as he proves otherwise, discrediting the position. I would not like to see him visit."

Irish officials noted that there was ordinarily a three year period before reciprocal visits of heads of state and therefore a Waldheim visit could be likely until 1989, according to accepted diplomatic practice.

Waldheim has already stated he would not make any foreign visits for the next year and his spokesman said that apart from the projected trip to Ireland he was unaware of any other foreign invitations to Waldheim.

Briscoe said a Waldheim visit would harm Ireland's international standing, adding, "I have great faith that our government will make the right decision as it did when it refused the Dutch war criminal Peter Menten permission to return here."

In New York, the World Jewish Congress again called on Attorney General Edwin Meese "to enforce the law and place Waldheim on the 'watch list' of aliens excludable from the United States."

In April, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations concluded that under American law, Waldheim should be excluded as a "Nazi persecutor."

Meanwhile, the Canadian government has stated that no invitation for Waldheim to visit Canada is under consideration. In a letter from Joe Clark, Canadian Minister for External Affairs, to David Matas of B'nai B'rith Canada, Clark stated, "I can confirm that there are at present no plans to invite him to Canada, nor has he expressed a desire to visit this country."

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
750 UJA FEDERATION CAMPERS
EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET JEWS**
By Ellen Pober Rittberg

COLD SPRING, NY, Aug. 20 (JTA) — Seven hundred and fifty campers and staff members, the entire population of United Jewish Appeal-Federation's Surprise Lake Camp, locked arms to form a chain a half mile long along the banks of the camp lake. The event, dubbed "Hands Across Surprise Lake" by the organizer, camp supervisor Joel Kaufman, was staged to demonstrate the campers' solidarity with the Jews in the Soviet Union who want to leave but who are not allowed out.

"In July, only thirty-one Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union. This is less than a trickle, when you realize that in 1979 an average of more than 4,000 Jews were allowed out each month. There are four hundred thousand Jews waiting to leave," Kaufman said.

"Many of our campers have relatives still in Russia," said executive director Jordan Dale. "The problems the Jews face in Russia hits close to home with them."

James Shekhter, 11, left the Soviet Union five years ago. "My grandparents are still there. They used to babysit for me every day. They always bought me a lot of toys. It doesn't seem fair that there people can't leave but here they can go as they please. My grandparents can't even visit me. I miss them," Shekhter said.

Donna Marder, 10, left the USSR when she was four. "I feel sad thinking about my grandparents in Russia. But I feel happy today because I know people here care about them," she said. Larry Parker, 9, says he knows his parents came here so that he could live in freedom. "They could have stayed there," he said. "My mother says it was cleaner over there. But she wanted me to have the opportunities and education in America."

'The Kids Got All Fired Up About It'

"When we first decided to do this, we were thinking we would raise money for Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry in Manhattan," Kaufman said. "We told the kids they could contribute no more than a dollar each. But we soon realized that their willingness and enthusiasm to participate in the event meant much more than the fund-raising part. The kids got all fired up about it. They came up with the idea of having their human chain undulate. Participation in the event was optional, and yet every camper and staff member chose to participate in it."

"The kids have such a rich spirit of giving. It's a joy to watch them doing something for others and at the same time having a good time at it," Dale said.

"The kids know that giving isn't a one-day only thing around here. Our camp adopted several Soviet Jewish families and wrote letters to them. We also participated in 'Wish Upon a Jewish Star,' a New York Conference for Soviet Jewry project. Each camper made and decorated a Jewish star from ice cream sticks. The stars were tied together and will be tied with other camps' stars and sent to President Reagan to show their solidarity with the Jews of Russia."

The camp, located in the lush foothills of Putnam County's Hudson River Valley, celebrated its 80th anniversary earlier this year. The late Eddie Cantor, singer Neil Diamond and New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams were former Surprise Lake campers. Many of the camp's activities center around the camp's pristine lake.

**NEW YORK ARCHDIOCESE STILL
MUM ON REPORTED INVITATION
TO O'CONNOR TO VISIT ISRAEL**

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) — The Archdiocese of New York is continuing its silence on reports that the Israeli government has formally invited Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor to visit Israel.

Archdiocese spokesman Joseph Zwilling told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that "the Cardinal has no comment" on the press reports published this week. Zwilling said an announcement will be made at the appropriate time. Last week he told the JTA that he could not release any information until O'Connor returned from a visit to the Dominican Republic last weekend.

Press reports said O'Connor had received an invitation to visit Israel from the Israel Consulate in New York, but Consulate officials would neither confirm nor deny this.

In a July 17 article in the JTA Bulletin, O'Connor was quoted as saying that he would visit Israel upon a formal invitation from the government. He also stated that such a visit would require approval by the Vatican.

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS TO GATHER AT
STATUE OF LIBERTY TO THANK AMERICA**

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA) — Several thousand Jewish survivors of the Holocaust and their families from across the country will gather at the Statue of Liberty on Sunday, September 7 "to thank America for providing them with a home and haven," it was announced here.

At a news conference, Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said the Liberty Island ceremonies, to be followed by a reunion and dinner that evening at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, would celebrate "40 years of a new life." The American Gathering and Federation represents 55,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors in the U.S. and is co-sponsoring the September 7 program with HIAS.

Robert Israeloff, president of HIAS, told the news conference of his organization's pride at being instrumental 40 years ago "in helping those who survived the long nightmare of the Holocaust to restart their lives in freedom and dignity."

The flags of 11 American Army units that liberated the Nazi death camps will be displayed during the Statue of Liberty program, beginning at 11:30 a.m., which will include performances of patriotic American compositions and Yiddish music by the 100-member U.S. Army Band and Choir, Meed said. A high-ranking Administration official is expected to address the gathering, he said.

The "Liberty Reunion" September 7 will be the first to be held in New York, according to Meed. The first international gathering took place in Jerusalem in 1981, followed by a 1983 reunion in Washington.

Israeloff said the September 7 events would "pay homage to the extraordinary dynamism of the four decades during which the survivors have given so much to this country."