

**REAGAN PRAISES PERES AS
A 'STATESMAN FOR PEACE'**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan said farewell Monday to Shimon Peres as Israel's Prime Minister by praising him as a "valued friend and statesman for peace."

"No one has done more than Prime Minister Peres" in the effort to bring about peace, Reagan said in a statement in the White House Rose Garden after the two leaders had met for an hour, including a 30-minute meeting just between themselves. "His vision, his statesmanship and his tenacity are greatly appreciated here," Reagan said of Peres.

Left unsaid was that Peres came to Washington just before he has to turn over the Premiership to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir in October in accordance with the terms of the national unity agreement between Labor and Likud. He will then become Foreign Minister.

But a senior Administration official, briefing reporters on the White House talks, stressed that Peres had "succeeded" in staying within the guidelines of the government of national unity during his two years as Premier. He said the U.S. expects "no change in the conduct" of Israel's foreign policy when Peres and Shamir exchange jobs next month. The official said that the bulk of the discussion at the White House was on the peace process.

Committed To Search For Negotiated Peace

In his Rose Garden remarks, Reagan stressed that the U.S. and Israel are committed "to search for a negotiated peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors." Reagan said that both Peres and he "have agreed that a steady determined effort is needed by all if the remaining obstacles to direct negotiations are to be surmounted."

Peres said that "peacemaking is a process which requires constant patience and cultivation." He said the next step should be "direct negotiations between the parties concerned." He stressed that an international forum, which is demanded by Jordan, should only be an "opening occasion" that would bring about direct negotiations, "not substitute for it."

Reagan said that also discussed was the "need to maintain a strong and secure Israel." But he stressed this does not only mean military strength, but also "a vigorous and growing Israeli economy."

Reagan Cites A Remarkable Success

Reagan said Peres and his national unity colleagues "have achieved remarkable success in stabilizing the economy." He said they are now trying to achieve growth "with our full support."

Reagan also stressed the U.S. commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry. "The United States government remains deeply concerned about the plight of Soviet Jewry," he said. "This subject will continue to be in an important part of our dialogue with the Soviet Union."

Secretary of State George Shultz, who met with Peres earlier in the day, and Reagan, in talking about their meetings with the Israeli

leader, said the discussions "reflected the close dialogue that Israel and the United States enjoy as friends and partners."

**DEMJANJUK TRIAL EXPECTED
TO BEGIN EARLY IN 1987**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- The trial of John Demjanjuk, the alleged Treblinka death camp guard known to inmates as "Ivan the Terrible," is expected to begin early in 1987, Justice Ministry sources said Tuesday.

They said the charge sheet against the Ukrainian-born former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, is presently under study by State Attorney Yona Blatman and a final draft should be ready to be presented in court before the end of the month. Demjanjuk, who was stripped of his U.S. citizenship, is the only suspected Nazi war criminal extradited to Israel to stand trial. His current remand in custody expires October 1.

He was brought here last February 28 and has been confined to a maximum security prison near Ramle without being formally charged. Justice Ministry sources denied speculation that the State prosecutors were finding it difficult to put together an air tight case against the 65-year-old former automobile worker. The sources said the relatively long delay in filing charges is due to the "masses of evidence" which had to be processed.

Demjanjuk allegedly operated the gas chambers at Treblinka where 900,000 Jews died in 1942 and 1943. He insists he is a victim of mistaken identity. That, apparently, will be the line of defense by his American attorney who has been granted permission by the Justice Ministry to plead before an Israeli court.

**AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL CENSURES
ARABIC-LANGUAGE PAPER FOR PUBLISHING
VIRULENT ATTACKS AGAINST JEWS**

SYDNEY, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- The Australian Press Council has censured an Arabic-language newspaper, An Nahda, for publishing "violent attacks on Jews as a group" including the infamous blood libel.

The Council acted on a complaint by the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies against three articles published in September, 1985 by the newspaper which is the organ of the Syrian National Socialist Party here. It deemed them to be "anti-Semitic, disparaging and belittling of Jews and calculated to incite racial hatred."

The Press Council monitors all branches of the press in Australia and adjudicates complaints. Its Adjudication No. 294 relating to An Nahda, cited as one example of "a number of wild and unsubstantiated allegations" the paper's assertion that "in most parts of the world" the Jews have "boldly embarked upon kidnapping Christian men and children and slaughtering them to obtain their blood for the purpose of kneading it with the unleavened bread of the Passover celebration."

The Press Council noted: "The articles contain extreme and generalized statements about 'Judaism', 'Jews' and 'the Zionist movement.' The

editor emphasized that two of the articles had been reprinted from Lebanese papers and reflected the strong and bitter feeling generated by the conflict with Israel. These feelings are understandable but they in no way justify the violent attacks on Jews as a group, some of which are couched in the classical language of abhorrent anti-Semitism ... There is no place for such material in the press of this country."

Graham de Vahl Davis, president of the Jewish Board of Deputies, commended the Press Council for its ruling. "An Nahda, by publishing these calumnious libels has threatened not only harmonious communication between Australian religious and ethnic communities, but has dredged up the ugly specter of physical violence against the Jews," he said.

LARGEST JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN WEST GERMANY OPENS IN FRANKFURT, THE FIRST EVER BUILT IN THAT CITY

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 16 (JTA)-- The largest Jewish community center in West Germany was officially opened in Frankfurt Sunday, symbolic of the revival of Jewish life and culture in the country where the Holocaust was planned.

The \$50 million edifice was funded by the Jewish community, the Frankfurt, municipality and the Federal State of Hesse. It houses a synagogue, a school and kindergarten, a home for the aged and a youth center, offices and meeting rooms.

There is also a sports arena which will serve as headquarters for the local Maccabi club and a training center for athletes. The large kosher restaurant on the premises was reported booked solid for the next few weeks because of the International Book Fair in Frankfurt which attracts hundreds of Jewish publishers from all over the world.

Salomon Korn, the architect who designed the center, said it was the first ever built in Frankfurt where Jews have lived for 800 years. The structure has Jewish motifs. The entrance is dominated by a huge decalogue. There are large slashes across the twin tablets which Korn said symbolize the past rupture between Jews and Germany.

The school and kindergarten will enroll non-Jewish children up to a quarter of capacity. Community officials said the purpose is to avoid isolation and to promote understanding. "We do not want to live in a ghetto," said Michel Friedman, a spokesman for the Jewish community. He said the center as a whole would be open to the general public.

About \$7 million was spent on security devices which include bullet-proof windows and a closed circuit television monitoring system. The community, however, rejected a proposal to surround the building with a high wall.

The center is located in Frankfurt's residential West End and there is a certain irony in its locale. The neighborhood was the scene of leftwing demonstrations in the 1960's and 1970's, some of them directed against the alleged wrongdoings of Jewish real estate developers. The latter were castigated in the play "Garbage, the City and Death" by the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder, which is widely considered anti-Semitic.

NISSIM: ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC, FOREIGN POLICIES TO REMAIN UNCHANGED UNDER THE ROTATION OF THE PREMIERSHIP

BALTIMORE, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Moshe Nissim of Israel told 400 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada that when the Israel unity government's rotation process takes place next month, and Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir exchange positions, "Israel's economic and foreign policies will remain unchanged."

Addressing a gala dinner at the 1986 National Leadership Conference of State of Israel Bonds at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sunday, Nissim said Israel will continue to reject the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria and repudiate negotiations with the PLO, which he termed "the most vicious terrorist organization in the world today."

Referring to the talks last week in Alexandria between Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Finance Minister stated: "The battle against terrorism must not distract us from our search for peace, and a true and honorable peace can only come from direct negotiations."

Economic Situation Assessed

Turning to Israel's economic situation, Nissim pointed out that it was a unity government which introduced bold austerity programs that have helped to reduce inflation and stabilize the country's economy.

He reported that the Finance Ministry has started to introduce additional reforms, while continuing the general policy of restraint, to further reduce inflation to Western levels, to increase economic growth and to improve the country's balance of payments.

"The required reforms are in taxation policy, the capital market, the general economic structure and the extent of public involvement in the marketplace," Nissim asserted. "These reforms, together with continued budgetary restraint, will encourage investment, strengthen production, increase our exports and raise our level of productivity."

Although the reforms involve enormous difficulties, Nissim said, "We are determined to carry them out. Without such basic reforms, we will not be able to achieve economic health and independence."

ORTHODOX WOMAN CHALLENGES RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT FOR HER RIGHT TO SERVE ON LOCAL RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- An Orthodox woman has challenged the religious establishment for her right to serve on the local religious council in Yeruham, southern Israel, to which she was appointed several months ago.

Lea Shakdiel, 35, a school teacher active in public affairs, was nominated to the religious council by the local authority on which she serves as Labor Party councillor. But the appointment was blocked by the Religious Affairs Ministry, which informed her that it was "not in the realm of possibility" for a woman to fill such a post.

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira agreed and indicated that he would issue a hala-

chic ruling if necessary in the case. But Shakkidiel decided to fight.

She noted that religious councils are in fact lay bodies which do not draw their legal authority from halacha, religious law. She added that as an observant woman she attends religious services and has found their standards often to be deplorable. Therefore, she said, it is her duty to serve on the religious council.

The councils function alongside municipalities and other local authorities. They are responsible for providing and supervising religious infrastructures including synagogues, mikvas and kashrut, usually in consultation with the local rabbinate.

They are funded jointly by the government and the local authorities. The latter nominate some of the members. Others are nominated by the rabbinate and the Religious Affairs Minister.

There have been woman nominees in the past, in Jerusalem and Haifa, but the nominations were withdrawn under pressure from the religious establishment. Shakkidiel has made clear she will not withdraw. She said she would appeal to a standing committee comprised of the Prime Minister and the Religious Affairs and Interior Ministers. If she loses there, she will take her case to the Supreme Court.

CEREMONY LAUNCHES COMMEMORATION OF BEN GURION CENTENNIAL IN THE U.S.

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Binyamin Netanyahu, Jerusalem Mayor. Teddy Kollek and New York City Mayor Edward Koch shared their personal memories of Israel's first Premier, David Ben Gurion, in a ceremony here Tuesday to kick off America's commemoration of the Ben-Gurion centennial.

To celebrate the 100th birthday anniversary of the man credited with leading the Jews to statehood, the David Ben Gurion Centennial Committee of the U.S. has planned seminars, multi-media presentations, educational exhibits and a May 20 culminating bash in Washington, D.C.

President Reagan has agreed to serve as honorary chairman of the Centennial Committee and numerous Congressmen also have signed on.

The celebration will begin in New York on October 16 at the Jewish Museum with a presentation on the American media and Ben Gurion. Allon Ben Gurion, Ben Gurion's grandson, will attend the ceremony and an interview of Ben Gurion by the renowned journalist Edward R. Murrow will be presented. Koch said a street in mid-Manhattan will be renamed for Ben Gurion to commemorate the centennial.

Tuesday's ceremony, the first public announcement of the centennial in America, featured reminiscences about Ben Gurion.

Kollek was with Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Navon and Moshe Dayan, one of Ben Gurion's proteges and closest companions. He said Ben Gurion's task was the most difficult faced by any statesman of the 20th century, creating a state with a tiny population against great odds.

The Zionist idea in the days of Ben Gurion did not have the virtually universal approval of world Jewry as it does today, Kollek said. He recognized the clash between traditional Judaism, and a modern state and searched for the compromises, Kollek said.

But Kollek focused mainly on Ben Gurion the intellectual. He recalled a trip to America about

40 years ago when he and Ben Gurion visited Albert Einstein at Princeton University.

Einstein and Ben Gurion talked only philosophy for hours Kollek said. The two discussed the possibility of replacing the human brain with computers and Ben Gurion said nothing could replace human initiative. Both acknowledged the idea of a supreme body, a unity that governed the university.

Ben Gurion's interest in philosophy and particularly in Buddhism took him some years later to a Burmese Buddhist monastery where he isolated himself for almost eight weeks, Kollek said. He brought with him, only his secretary and body guard. "The world has changed since then," he said.

One of the great disappointments of Ben Gurion's life, Kollek said, was the failure of Israeli youth to follow his example of settling the Negev.

Netanyahu, who broke away from the opening day of the UN General Assembly to attend the ceremony, recalled Ben Gurion's disdain for the international body. Nevertheless, he said, "Ben Gurion understood the importance of alliances."

ISRAEL'S LAVI ONE OF SIX FIGHTER PLANES CONSIDERED BY SWITZERLAND

GENEVA, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's second generation jet fighter plane, the Lavi, is one of six highly sophisticated combat aircraft under consideration for purchase by the Swiss Air Force. The Defense Ministry announced last week that preliminary studies have been completed and the final decision will be based on tests of the competing aircraft.

The Lavi, designed and built by Israel Aircraft Industries and powered by American Pratt & Whitney engines, is due for its first test flights in Israel this month. It is competing against three U.S.-made planes, the F-16, Hornet and Tiger-shark F-20; the Mirage 2000 built in France; and the Swedish-built Gripen JAS-39.

The Swiss authorities said each plane will be tested in its country of origin and two finalists will be selected for further tests in Switzerland. The Swiss Air Force presently has 57 French Mirage-3 fighters. Millions of Swiss Francs will be spent on new acquisitions.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A \$1 postage stamp honoring Dr. Bernard Revel, the first president of the institution that later became Yeshiva University, will be issued by the U.S. Postal Service in a special ceremony September 23 at the University's Midtown Center in Manhattan, it was announced by Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the university.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Some 80 members of the Israel Committee for Solidarity with the People of Chile, supported by the Israel branch of Amnesty International, demonstrated outside the Chilean Embassy here last Thursday against the policies of President Augusto Pinochet of Chile. The demonstrators described his policies as fascist. Many of the demonstrators, who still have relatives in Chile, wore masks to avoid possible reprisals against their families.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET REFUSENIKS

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Sept 16 (JTA)--The new national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal boarded a plane in Moscow September 4 and returned to the United States. His hosts were unable to book a similar ticket.

Martin Stein of Milwaukee had spent the week visiting 36 Soviet Jews denied permission to emigrate. Through his Yiddish, a companion's Hebrew and the English spoken by many of the refuseniks, Stein heard stories and witnessed events he thought rich in hope and courage.

"You talk to these people, and they laugh and they joke and they talk about someday going to Israel," Stein said, expressing admiration for their "faith that they're going to make it and the dedication and the community spirit."

Encounters With The Refuseniks

In a recent interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Stein recalled some of his encounters, both tragic and inspiring. Many of the refuseniks, but especially Vladimir and Maria Slepak, prove Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev erred when he said no Soviet Jews had refusenik status for more than five years, according to Stein.

He said Maria told him: "We've been in refusal now for 17 years...We're now 60 years old. I don't know if we've got 17 more years to wait."

Tanya Edelshtein also is waiting. Her husband Yuli is serving a three-year prison sentence for illegal possession of drugs, which they claim were planted on him.

Yuli, 45, is ill with kidney complications from an operation on his urethra following an accident at his labor camp. Last year, he broke a femur in another accident and requires physiotherapy on the healed leg, now two centimeters shorter than the other.

Tanya also is worried that the log-splitting and carrying of rough timber assigned to Yuli when he's well will damage his hands so that he'll never again be able to perform surgery.

'Next Year In Jerusalem'

In another household, Stein met a young girl whose father also is imprisoned. Arriving home from the first day of school, where she had sat silently through the traditional Peace Day anti-American, anti-Zionist lessons, she ripped her red bandana from her neck, "threw it on the ground and stepped on it," Stein said.

At her guests' request, she made a drawing of her choice: It was of Israel, with "Next Year in Jerusalem" and her families' names written in Hebrew.

A man told Stein that he began to practice Jewish ritual late in life. His son, who wears sidelocks and a prayer shawl beneath his clothing, was ritually circumcised 10 years ago at age eight. The procedure took place in the only Jewish apartment in a complex, Stein related, so the boy was told he must not scream. The boy cried, but silently.

When his father asked how he stifled his screams, the boy replied, "When the pain got so it was unbearable, I looked up to the heavens, and I said 'Sh'mah Yisroel,' and the pain went away."

Stein met the father at a glatt kosher Sabbath dinner hosted by another refusenik. "We had soup and we had meat and we sang songs... (The host) was a Lubavitcher guy. You would have thought that you were in Crown Heights (N.Y.)," said Stein. "There were pictures of the rebbe around, and there was a Torah in the other room, and they davened every day three times a day in that house."

Message To American Jews

The refuseniks advised him that the West could help them by applying economic pressures and embarrassing the Soviet leadership. The refuseniks were not enthusiastic about the recent meeting between Soviet and Israeli delegations, considering it "a real estate deal."

Their message to American Jews was "Not to forget them, and that we're their only hope. We're the people that can make the difference for them," Stein reported.

UJA is participating in a national Jewish effort coordinated by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. A petition urging President Reagan "to continue to insist that human rights remains a key issue of East-West relations" will be circulated in the hopes of gaining one million signatures.

And people are being asked to come to Washington to demonstrate on behalf of human rights issues including Jewish emigration during the Gorbachev-Reagan summit there in November.

Stein was UJA national chairman for Operation Moses, which raised \$63 million from November 1984-March 1985 for Ethiopian Jews airlifted to Israel. He said the plight of the Soviet Jews merits the same degree of attention.

"Although it's different, because people aren't starving, it is, I believe, as essential, because of the numbers," he said.

About 2.5 million Jews live in the Soviet Union and 400,000 are thought to want to emigrate. Jewish emigration was 896 in 1984, 1,140 last year and is 505 in 1986 through August.

ROYAL VISITORS TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- Former Queen Juliana of The Netherlands will pay her first visit to Israel next month as the guest of the Jewish National Fund, accompanied by her husband, Prince Bernhard. They will arrive on October 14 for a week's stay, it was announced Monday.

According to the JNF, Juliana will inaugurate a forest in Galilee in the name of her daughter, Queen Beatrix, the present sovereign, and will visit a forest planted years ago in her own name. She is also scheduled to dedicate a grove of trees at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in the names of two "righteous gentiles," residents of a Dutch village who saved local Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

Juliana will plant a tree herself at Moshav Kadesh Barnea in the Negev, which has been adopted by the Dutch as their own special project. Although officials here emphasize that the visit by the royal couple will be a private one, they are scheduled to meet with President Chaim Herzog, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem.

Juliana and Bernhard are in their mid-seventies. Nevertheless, Bernhard plans to pilot the royal jet from Amsterdam to Ben Gurion Airport.