



PERES AND SHEVARDNAZDE DISCUSS STEPS TO ARRIVE AT FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND USSR

By Margie Olster

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres said after a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze here Monday afternoon that they had discussed "steps to arrive at full normalization" of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. He called their talk "an opening of the issues." (See related background report, P.4.)

Peres said at a briefing for Israeli correspondents that he and the Foreign Minister had discussed three subjects: relations between their countries, Soviet Jewry and the chances of an international conference for Middle East peace. He said both had promised to "think about" what the other said and agreed to continue negotiations but nothing definite was arranged.

Peres said he told Shevardnadze that "Jewish history will be richer if we find a solution to the problem of Soviet Jewry" and Communist history would not be the poorer for it.

Their meeting, in the South Lounge at UN headquarters, lasted an hour and 20 minutes. It had not been expected to run longer than a half hour. Present with Peres was his chief advisor, Nimrod Novick. Shevardnadze had only a translator with him. He spoke in Russian and Peres in English.

'We Did Begin A Dialogue'

Peres said he found the Soviet diplomat to be "open, a thinking man, not dogmatic" and also humorous. Their discussion, he said, "symbolized the search for steps toward normalization (of relations) between Israel and the Soviet Union." However, he stressed, all the problems between the two countries cannot be resolved in the course of 80 minutes. "But we did begin a dialogue," he said.

Peres characterized the talk as informal and said the fact it was held meant an opening up of relations. Israel has had no diplomatic ties with the USSR since Moscow broke relations during the 1967 Six-Day War. Peres met briefly with Shevardnadze at a diplomatic reception at the UN last year. In 1984, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir met at the UN with then Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

The Peres-Shevardnadze meeting was not on the agenda of Peres' current visit to the U.S. and caused him to postpone his return to Israel by one day. According to some sources here, it was arranged by the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Meir Rosenne.

Peres spoke briefly to reporters as he left the meeting. He told them it was a discussion of what steps had to be taken to normalize Israel-Soviet relations.

Shevardnadze, who left the meeting separately, was quoted as saying his talk with Peres was "very serious" and included such matters as bilateral relations, questions related to the Middle East and some of the problems involved in an international conference on the Middle East.

At The 41st General Assembly: REAGAN BLASTS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND CRITICIZES USSR FOR FAILING TO FULFILL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS

By Margie Olster

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- President Reagan blasted international terrorism in a speech at the opening session of the 41st General Assembly Monday and pledged that the United States "will do all in our power to help other law-abiding nations threatened by terrorist attack."

Reagan, who was the first world leader to address this year's General Assembly, sharply criticized the Soviet Union for not fulfilling its commitments to human rights "made more than 10 years ago in Helsinki." He said that "among those unfulfilled commitments" were "the persecution of scientists, religious leaders, peace activists, political dissenters and other prisoners of conscience."

In the course of his 30-minute address, the President listed world "trouble spots," naming Afghanistan, Central America and Angola. He made no reference to the Middle East.

"In addition to regional disputes," he said, "the grave threat of terrorism also jeopardizes the hope for peace. No cause, no grievance can justify it. Terrorism is heinous and intolerable. It is the crime of cowards, cowards who prey on the innocent, the defenseless, the helpless," Reagan said.

Defends Air Strike Against Libya

"With its allies and other nations, the United States has taken steps to counter terrorism directly -- particularly state-sponsored terrorism," Reagan said.

He noted the U.S. air strike against Libya last April "demonstrated that it will defend its interests and act against terrorist aggression. Let me assure all of you today, especially let me assure any potential sponsors of terrorism, that the American people are of one mind on this issue." Reagan added, "Like other civilized people of the world, we have reached our limits and attacks against our citizens or our interests will not go unanswered."

"We will do all in our power to help other law-abiding nations threatened by terrorist attack. To that end, the U.S. believes that the understanding reached by the seven industrial democracies at the Tokyo summit last May made a good start toward international accord in the war against terrorism." Reagan urged that the General Assembly consider the Tokyo resolutions.

CHINESE SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS WANT TO DEVELOP COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Chinese scholars and scientists want to develop technical and scientific cooperation with Israel, but the government in Beijing is not interested in formal diplomatic ties at this time, according to Prof. Josef Singer, president of the Haifa Technion.

Singer, who just returned from an 11-day visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese authorities, said the deans of universities, scholars and engineers plan to attend the next convention of the International Council of Aeronautical Science (ICAS) to be held in Israel in August 1988. Singer is the current president of the ICAS.

He told a press conference here that while China is prepared to receive Israelis at any international conferences there, it is not prepared to establish formal relations with the Jewish State.

CONGO APOLOGIZES FOR ALLEGING THAT ISRAEL RESEMBLES NAZI GERMANY

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- The People's Republic of Congo has apologized for remarks by its Foreign Minister alleging a resemblance between Israel and South Africa and Nazi Germany. The apology was sent to the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, who had lodged a strong protest against the analogy.

Walters reacted to a speech by Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga Oba to the General Assembly last Wednesday, on South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia (Southwest Africa), in the course of which he said South Africa resembled no other state of modern times unless it was Israel or Nazi Germany. Israel and Congo have no diplomatic relations.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith also reacted sharply. ADL national chairman Burton Levinson protested in a cable to President

Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo. "By linking Israel to the true perpetrators of racism you undermine the necessary effort of all peoples to work together toward ending the systems of apartheid and creating a just society for all in South Africa," Levinson said.

A spokesman for Israel's UN Mission said Sunday that Oba had apologized and gave assurances that he had not intended to equate Israel with Nazi Germany.

ISRAEL AND SPAIN ARE MOVING TOWARD CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israel and Spain are moving closer to trade relations since the two countries established diplomatic ties early this year. The Spanish Minister of Trade, Luis Valesco, will visit Israel early next year and an Israeli trade delegation will go to Spain next month.

The visits were arranged between the Spanish Minister and the Israeli Minister of Commerce and Industry, Ariel Sharon, during a conference of the member states of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Punta Del Este, Uruguay. Representatives from more than 90 countries attended.

The Israeli delegation will go to Spain as part of a trade committee to discuss strengthening economic and commercial ties. At Sharon's suggestion, a special official was appointed by the Spanish Trade Ministry to advance commerce between Israel and Spain. Israel has appointed an official for the same task.

JEWISH MEMBERS OF CANADIAN CHESS TEAM WON'T ATTEND OLYMPIAD IN DUBAI BECAUSE ISRAEL HAS BEEN EXCLUDED

By Mark Dodick

Staff Writer, Canadian Jewish News

TORONTO, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Two Jewish members of the Canadian chess team scheduled to play at the international Chess Olympiad in Dubai November 13-December 3 will not attend because Israel has been excluded from competition, and for security concerns.

Roman Pelts, 49, of Toronto, ranked as a chessmaster by FIDE (the world governing chess body, the Fédération Internationale des Echecs), and eight-time Canadian champion Abe Yanofsky of Winnipeg, chosen as team captain, say they will not participate in the tournament.

The Chess Federation of Canada had earlier protested Israel's exclusion, but has found two replacements and will still compete, says Stephen Ball, its executive director. Ray Stone of Toronto will replace Pelts, and Denis Allan of Hamilton will replace Yanofsky, Ball said.

The refusal of Pelts and Yanofsky to play in the Olympiad will not affect their position with the Chess Federation of Canada, Ball added, and both players said they would enter other competitions.

Pelts, who came to Canada from Odessa in 1978 and now operates a chess school in Toronto, wrote a letter to Ball explaining that he will not participate because the Israeli team has been refused permission to play.

He said it was the right of all nations to participate in the chess Olympiad and that the situation was unacceptable and contradicts games regulations. "People have to know the truth. They have to know why I will not go," Pelts said in an interview.

He said that he had never taken such political action before, and added that he did not feel his chess career in the Soviet Union was adversely affected by his being a Jew.

Concerns About Security

Yanofsky, speaking by phone from Winnipeg, cited the case of Leon Klinghoffer, the American Jew who was killed by terrorists on the Achille Lauro cruise ship, to explain his concerns about security in Dubai. As a Jew, even his Canadian citizenship might not protect him from being a target of terrorists, Yanofsky said.

"And since Israel is being prohibited from play, it just wouldn't be right for me to play," he said, adding that he was disappointed the Canadian team was participating.

Ball commented that he thought it "inappropriate" that political issues are interfering in a non-political activity, but the federation had already decided that boycotting the Olympiad would probably not help.

Will Try To Change Dubai's Position

However, Federation president Peter Stockhausen earlier said that Canada's representative to FIDE, J.G. Prentice, would make a last-minute attempt to persuade Dubai to allow Israel's entry. Thus far, only the Scandinavian and Dutch chess federations have said they will not participate if Israel is excluded.

FIDE regulations allow a country to exclude another with which it is at war, said Yanofsky, a lawyer, former Mayor of the Winnipeg suburb of West Kildonan and retiring Councilman. But under these circumstances, that is simply a technicality, said Yanofsky, who received the grandmaster title for his performance for Canada in 1964 at the Olympiad in Tel Aviv.

The American team (many of whose members are not now competing because of the embargo placed on Israel) plans to introduce an amendment to the regulations to prevent this from happening again, he said. If that amendment is not passed, Yanofsky said, the American team plans to withdraw from competition.

The chess Olympiad is held every two years with every other competition in Greece. When Israel hosted the games in 1972, much of the Eastern bloc stayed away.

Ball said the Canadian chess federation receives no governmental assistance of any kind and raises all funds privately through donations, memberships, and selling chess related materials. He added that because tournaments are so expensive to host, FIDE often has only one nation bidding for the position.

11,000 NURSES STAGE WALKOUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israel's 11,000 hospital nurses walked off their jobs early Monday afternoon. It was their third walkout since last Friday when the nurses staged a six-hour warning strike in support of demands for higher wages and better working conditions. On Sunday and Monday they refused duty in operating rooms, except for emergency cases.

The afternoon shift was ordered by the nurses' workers committee not to report to their wards and the midnight-to-morning shift received the same instructions. The walkout disrupted negotiations which began Monday morning. Dan Michaeli, Director General of the Health Ministry, staged a walkout of his own. He said the Ministry could not negotiate with the nurses while their patients were without proper care.

Michaeli told Israel Television later that he could not understand the nurses' action inasmuch as the Health Ministry had agreed to ease working conditions by hiring 1,500 more nurses and also agreed to a 33 percent wage increase over what the nurses were earning at the beginning of the year. He stressed that this was 21 percent more than workers in other sectors receive.

Last spring the hospital nurses struck for 17 days, crippling national health services. The weekend's job actions seemed to be a reprise of the earlier strike. Hospital services were not too severely affected Friday because elective surgery is not scheduled for Fridays. But on Sunday, patients who had been waiting for surgery--some for many months -- had to be sent home, and they were in an angry mood.

Nurses also walked out of the maternity wards, except those caring for premature infants and others needing special treatment. Emergency rooms and intensive care units were staffed by doctors. Health Minister Mordechai Gur said that while the nurses have a case, it was unethical for them to abandon their patients.

PERU REAFFIRMS ITS POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Peru has reaffirmed its policy of friendship with Israel, denying there had been any change in that policy which had been attributed to remarks made by President Alan Garcia in Lima. "President Garcia and his government in no way have changed the traditional policy of good relations and friendship with the State of Israel," Cesar Atala, Peru's Ambassador in Washington, wrote Israel Singer, Secretary-General of the World Jewish Congress.

Atala was responding to a cable from Singer expressing concern at remarks made by President Garcia at a Lima news conference following his return from the non-aligned summit in Zimbabwe last week.

Garcia reportedly stated -- in comments carried by the Peruvian press -- that resolution of the Middle East impasse required Israel to withdraw to borders specified in the 1947 United Nations partition plan and that sanctions against Israel to ensure compliance should be enforced.

Singer's cable on behalf of the WJC said the Jewish group viewed Garcia's remarks "with extreme gravity," recalling the "friendship and support the Jewish people has shown" for the restoration of democracy in Peru. Singer wrote Atala, "I hope and trust that our faith in your President is not misplaced."

"We trust that you will understand the sensitivities of world Jewry towards any statements regarding the security of the State of Israel," Singer added.

In his reply to Singer, Atala noted that "fortunately the facts do not seem to support your and my concern." The Ambassador expressed assurances that Garcia had stressed there was no change in Peru's Middle East position.

"Precisely on Saturday last, President Garcia ... reasserted Peru's position on this matter," Atala stated, adding that "President Garcia will be duly informed about the expressions of concern and good will" received from the WJC.

ISRAELIS TO DISCUSS R&D PROJECTS WITH CANADIAN INDUSTRIALISTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israel is sending a delegation of businessmen to Canada to discuss joint research and development projects with Canadian industrialists and government leaders.

The delegation will represent both the Israel government and the Manufacturers Association. It will be headed by Yigal Ehrlich, chief scientific advisor to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Ariel Sharon, Minister of Commerce and Industry, proposed the mission several months ago to promote cooperation in research and development with Canada along the lines of the agreements signed between Israel and the French and Dutch governments.

Ehrlich said the delegation will confer with senior officials at the Canadian Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Research Council on Cooperation on projects that can be carried out jointly at Canadian and Israeli plants. He said he hoped the visit would result in a memorandum of understanding between the two countries.

BACKGROUND REPORT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH ISRAEL-SOVIET TIES By Charles Allen, Jr.

(Editor's note: Private and public contacts between Israel and the Soviet Union and the Soviet bloc countries have been going on for a number of years. These contacts were reported first by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in 1982 in an article by Charles Allen, Jr. upon his return to the United States from Central Europe. The JTA is republishing his report for background reference in view of the Israeli-Soviet talks in Helsinki last month and the meeting on September 22 between Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.)

In the midst of a swing through Central Europe, I learned from astute and reliable Foreign Ministry and journalistic sources that medium-level Israeli diplomats allegedly have made off-the-record approaches to selected Eastern bloc offices about "near-term normalization" of relations between Israel and the Soviet bloc, including, of course, the Soviet Union. Israel does not have diplomatic relations with Soviet bloc countries with the exception of Rumania.

A diplomat of the Federal Republic of Germany had told me before leaving for Europe that "Just prior to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, reports of several (such) contacts were made, and we've taken them seriously." After the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut September 1982, this source averred, such attempts had been made by "low and middle level" Israeli envoys.

These asserted representations were made on "third-country soil," that is, on neutral territory that "positively took place in the United States as well as Western Europe," according to the West German diplomat.

A diplomatic source in the German Democratic Republic told me of such probes that "have taken place over the years." On one occasion, the source stated, "an Israeli official said that 'we know how active you were in taking action against Nazi war criminals after the war.'" While it is not widely known in the United States, East Germany's aggressive prosecution of war criminals and collaborators is a matter of record.

The Israeli official, allegedly, also stated that "Jerusalem" has "always been mindful" of East Germany's stringent laws and measures against anti-Semitism in contrast to the "constant anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi upsurges" in West Germany.

Thus far, the purported Israeli probes have been quickly rebuffed. "In light of the Lebanon matter and the PLO (which is recognized by East Germany), we told them (the Israelis) that such possibilities simply do not exist at this time," the East German source said.

Consensus interpretations of these rumored gambits by the Israelis in Europe view their moves toward East Germany as an attempted opening to the Soviet Union. Even before my departure from the United States, unconfirmed reports of Israeli demarches toward Moscow had appeared in the press.

When asked to evaluate such reports, a Dutch journalist in an Eastern European capital opined: "Yes, I think that such low-level soundings have been taken. It makes sense from the

Israeli side to do so. They must keep all options open, short of any public overtures to the PLO itself. Their invasion of Lebanon is, like it or not, a massive mistake, as events will show. There is a grim winter ahead in Lebanon. Her (Israel's) area of maneuverability is seriously reduced. They must examine other options.

"Moreover, assume an Israeli probe toward the Arabs. Assume further that comes the spring, (Premier Menachem) Begin and (Defense Minister Ariel) Sharon are turned out. Assume a strong condemnation from the special board of inquiry into the camp massacres. Israel must absolutely have ready an opening of its own, no matter how small, to the East."

It is of relevant interest to note that other Berlin-based journalists -- notably from Italian, French and Swiss media -- told me of similar reports as the ones which reached me.

LONG-TIME REFUSENIK ARRIVES IN ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Dr. Vladimir Brodsky, a Jewish activist unexpectedly released from a Soviet prison after serving one year of a three-year sentence for alleged "hooliganism," arrived in Israel Sunday night with his wife, Nina Zisserman Brodsky, and their baby daughter, Rachel.

Brodsky, 42, a former Moscow cardiologist, was sentenced in August 1985 to three years at a Soviet labor camp. He had been seeking an exit visa for Israel since 1980.

His wife, a journalist, told reporters in fluent Hebrew that her husband's early release was due to the intervention of many organizations. She mentioned the U.S. Peace Corps and West Germany's opposition Green Party, among them.

Brodsky said his family's joy on being in Israel was tempered by concern for fellow Jewish activists who remain in prison. He referred to Yosef Begun, serving a 12-year sentence, who he said recently lost 20 pound and cannot walk; and Ronald Zelichenok, serving a three-year sentence, who is forced to work as usual though he has had a cerebral hemorrhage.

Nina Brodsky said, "I hope that the Israeli authorities will never forget our prisoners and our refuseniks and will never stop their efforts for their release." She said she thought meetings such as that between Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the United Nations in New York Monday, could be "very, very useful."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- El Al, Israel's national airline, may be sold to private investors, Israel Radio reported Monday. According to the report, the sale is under consideration by the Ministers of Finance, Transport and Economic Affairs, who are discussing it with Los Angeles businessman William Beltsberg. The government-owned air carrier has an accumulated debt estimated at \$340 million.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israel police will establish a special unit to try to fight the national rash of vehicle thefts. Some 8,000 cars have been reported stolen inside Israel.