

JEWISH WRITER-PHILOSOPHER AND TWO JEWISH SCIENTISTS RECEIVE NOBEL PRIZES

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- A leading Jewish Holocaust survivor, author and human rights activist was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize Tuesday and two Jewish scientists shared a Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for their contributions to the study of cell growth and tissue development.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize to Elie Wiesel citing his unceasing efforts on behalf of "human dignity."

The Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine to Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, who holds dual American and Italian citizenship and Dr. Stanley Cohen, an American. Cohen, a biochemist, and Levi-Montalcini, a developmental biologist, "Opened new fields of widespread importance to basic science," the Nobel Assembly in Stockholm announced Monday.

"As a direct consequence, we may increase our understanding of many disease states such as developmental malformations, degenerative changes in senile dementia, delayed wound healing and tumor diseases," the announcement said.

Contributions To Science

Levi-Montalcini, 77, is a senior scientist at the Institute of Cell Biology in Rome, and Cohen, 63, is a professor of biochemistry at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn.

Together at Washington University in St. Louis in the 1950's, the two worked under a renowned American biologist, Viktor Hamburger, and conducted significant basic research on cancer, brain disorders, nervous disorders and birth defects.

Last month, they shared the highest American honor in biomedical research, the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for 1986. This month, the two will share the approximately \$290,000 Nobel cash prize.

Levi-Montalcini grew up in Turin, Italy, and received her medical degree in the university there. She worked in the University of Turin until 1939 when the fascist government of Benito Mussolini prevented her from working in the university or practicing medicine. She continued her cell research in her bedroom with a makeshift laboratory until the Nazi occupation of Italy drove her and her family underground. The family fled to Florence and remained there until the occupation ended. She returned to Turin after the war and in 1947 moved to the United States.

Among the two scientists' major breakthroughs were a discovery by Levi-Montalcini in the 1950's of a protein growth factor that stimulated nerve cell development and a subsequent discovery by Cohen of an epidermal growth factor related to the nerve growth substance.

Their work has the potential to help combat Parkinson's Disease, cancers and Alzheimer's Disease among other ailments. One future use of Cohen's discovery might be the quicker repair of

skin wounds or cornea wounds after injury or surgery, according to the Nobel committee.

Wiesel's Accomplishments Are Legion

Elie Wiesel's name and his accomplishments are perhaps much more familiar to both the Jewish and non-Jewish world communities. He is an acclaimed spokesman for Holocaust survivors who has championed civil rights and human rights for peoples of the world, including the Cambodian boat people, the Meskito Indians of Nicaragua and the Blacks of South Africa.

He has published some 30 novels, many of them biographical accounts of his own dramatic survival of the Auschwitz and Buchenwald death camps as a teenaged boy.

Wiesel is currently a professor of humanities at Boston University, a lecturer at the 92nd Street YMHA in New York and chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Before Wiesel made the painful decision to write his testimonies of the Holocaust, he worked as a correspondent for the Israeli daily, Yediot Achronot, in Paris and New York in the 1950's.

'Today I Will Be Heard'

In a press conference in New York Tuesday morning, Wiesel, who said he shuns publicity and "the limelight," stated that he wanted to take the occasion to voice his views on important issues because "today I will be heard."

Wiesel said he was "profoundly grateful" to the chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee. "Today, thanks to the very great honor I have received, I feel these words will have a stronger future," he said. The prize, Wiesel said, would allow him to speak louder and reach more people.

Wiesel said he shares his honor with all the survivors of the Holocaust. "It belongs to all the survivors who have tried to do something with their pain, with their suffering, with their lives."

The survivors are an example of "how not to succumb to despair," Wiesel said. He said he has tried to use his suffering to prevent further suffering. "I have developed a romance with many causes ... Soviet Jewry is surely one of the most exalting of all."

A Plea To Gorbachev

Wiesel, one of the founders of American activism on behalf of Soviet Jewry in the 1960's, said the Soviet Jews are "an example of courage and nobility."

He made a personal plea to Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to release Yosef Begun, Ida Nudel, Andrei Sakharov and several other imprisoned dissidents.

Wiesel has received a visa and plans to visit the Soviet Union for five days starting Tuesday, October 21. He is going officially to meet with Soviet representatives for an upcoming international conference on non-Jewish victims of the Nazis.

Wiesel spoke briefly about faith after the Holocaust. "I have never lost faith in God," he said. "I never left God although he might have left me." Wiesel said he came from a religious Jewish heritage and called himself a "yeshiva

bocher from Sighet," a small town located in the Transylvania region of Rumania, where Wiesel grew up. The prize Wiesel said, has special significance coming the day after Yom Kippur. "I believe that in Jewish history, there is no coincidence." The prize, coming the day after Yom Kippur, "means that some of my friends and I have prayed well," Wiesel said.

Wiesel, 58, said he did not think the prize would change his life; he will continue his teaching, his publishing and his activism for human rights."

"I decided to devote my life to tell the story because I felt that having survived, I owe something to the dead. They left me behind ... That was their obsession -- to be remembered. Anyone who does not remember betrays them again. That is why I devoted my life to tell the story," Wiesel said.

Worldwide Congratulations To Wiesel

Israeli Premier Shimon Peres sent a telegram to Wiesel congratulating him on the award and praising him for teaching a "holy lesson" to the world and preserving the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Nazis.

"You are ceaselessly striking the bells of collective memory, the pain of the murdered Jews," Peres said in the telegram. "Without forgetting our people's isolation in the darkness of the Holocaust, you teach us untiringly a holy lesson," Peres said.

Yitzhak Arad, chairman of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem said, "Doubtlessly, the prize serves the promotion of the knowledge and awareness of the Holocaust, but Wiesel also promotes such knowledge as a warning to the whole of mankind against hatred and racism." Wiesel is the honorary chairman of the International Society of Yad Vashem.

French President Francois Mitterrand and dozens of French celebrities cabled their congratulations to Wiesel, who lived in Paris from 1944 until 1956. Wiesel has written all his books in French. A French writer and philosopher, Francois Mauriac, reportedly encouraged Wiesel to write his first autobiographical novel, "Night."

Richard Krieger, executive director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, said "Elie Wiesel is not only the chairman of the U.S. Memorial Council. He is its prophet, its guide, its inspiration and its soul. I cannot think of any instance in history in which an organization of the U.S. government has been so associated with the spirit and character of one man."

ROTATION IS HANGING FIRE

By David Landau, Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The rotation of power process ran into a last minute snag Tuesday when Labor and Likud failed to settle outstanding differences between them over the composition of the new unity coalition Cabinet and other matters.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir met for 35 minutes Tuesday afternoon but apparently resolved nothing. No date was set for a further meeting. Shamir told Israel Radio afterwards that neither side changed its position and the rotation is hanging fire.

Peres submitted his resignation as Premier to President Chaim Herzog on Friday. It became effective under law 48 hours later, on Sunday. Peres, who technically heads a care-taker govern-

ment, was scheduled to hand over his office to Shamir Tuesday and the latter had been expected to present his new Cabinet to the Knesset Tuesday night for formal approval.

Some Of The Issues Awaiting Resolution

That sequence of events seems not likely to take place as scheduled. Shamir reportedly rejected Peres' proposal that a Cabinet of 23 ministers be formed now with the question of including former Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai left open for later discussion.

Modai was forced to resign from the government last summer after an angry personal confrontation with Peres. Likud activists have demanded his re-instatement as head of the Treasury in the new government. It was reported earlier Tuesday that Labor was amenable to Modai in the Cabinet as a Minister-Without-Portfolio.

Apart from Modai, Labor's nomination of Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin as Israel's next Ambassador to the U.S. is opposed by Likud. Labor, for its part, took issue with Likud's plan to appoint the hawkish Moshe Arens as Minister-Without-Portfolio with special responsibility for Soviet Jewry affairs. Likud, in turn, wants to replace Ezer Weizman as Minister-Without-Portfolio in charge of Arab affairs.

Accusations And Counter-Accusations

Each coalition partner has accused the other of ill will. Labor Party Secretary General Uzi Baram and Labor Knesset faction chairman Rafi Edri held a press conference Tuesday at which they accused Likud of trying to introduce structural changes in the government in violation of the coalition agreement. Baram said he would convene the Labor Party's General Assembly Thursday to "decide the future of the government."

Likud maintains that the rotation should be implemented in full without preconditions by Labor. A Likud spokesman said Tuesday that remaining differences can be settled after Peres and Shamir exchange offices.

The rotation process was suspended over Yom Kippur. Dire predictions of a government crisis even before there is a new government seemed to be without substance Sunday night when Peres and Shamir, in a public display of amity, prayed side-by-side at Kol Nidre services in Jerusalem's Great Synagogue, to the obvious delight of the overflow congregation.

They walked home together, Shamir dropping Peres off at the Prime Minister's residence and continuing on to his Foreign Minister's residence about 300 yards away. The two men are to exchange official residences as well as jobs. It was hoped that Shamir would be able to present his Cabinet to the Knesset Wednesday.

FAILURE OF SUMMIT MEETING MAY DIMINISH POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The failure of President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to reach an agreement on arms control during their meetings in Iceland may also diminish possibilities for improvements in Soviet human rights practices, including Jewish emigration from the USSR.

Both Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz in their reports on the Iceland talks

stressed that human rights were discussed and Shultz hinted that a statement on the issue was in the offing.

But Reagan emphasized in his nationally-televised speech from his White House office Monday night, that he had told Gorbachev, as he had when the two first met in Geneva last year, that the United States will judge Soviet action on human rights not just words.

'We Are All From Missouri'

"I made it plain that the United States would not seek to exploit improvement in these matters for purposes of propaganda," Reagan said in his Oval Office television address. "But I also made it plain, once again, that an improvement of the human condition within the Soviet Union is indispensable for an improvement in bilateral relations with the United States."

Reagan said he told Gorbachev, "again in Reykjavik as I had in Geneva, we Americans place far less weight upon the words that are spoken at meetings such as these than upon the deeds that follow. When it comes to human rights and judging Soviet intentions, we are all from Missouri. You have got to show us."

Russians Got Material About Jewish Emigration

While Reagan did not specifically mention Soviet Jewry, Shultz did in response to a question on human rights at his briefing in Reykjavik after the Reagan-Gorbachev talks ended.

"The issue of human rights was brought up on a number of occasions and some very significant material was passed to the Soviet Union, which they accepted," Shultz said. He said this material "stated not only our views, but in detail things about Jewish emigration, the numbers of people who have signified their desire to leave, lists of people and things of that kind."

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry had provided Shultz with charts on Jewish emigration, which totaled only 126 in September and 667 for the first nine months of 1986, as well as a list of Jewish Prisoners of Conscience and the names of 11,000 of the estimated 400,000 refusees.

Shultz suggested there might have been a statement on human rights if the arms agreement had not collapsed at the last minute. "And in what might have been a statement coming out of the meeting dealing with this issue, the subject is explicitly referred to," he said. "Perhaps at some point there is a prospect of setting up some kind of systematic basis for discussing it. But of course that remains to be seen."

ADL STUDY SHOWS THAT THE LaROUCHE ORGANIZATION IS ON THE ROPES

NEW YORK, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The LaRouche organization, already reeling from federal indictments, also suffered battering defeats in the 1986 primaries, according to an Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith analysis. The ADL said that of 234 candidates in 26 states, only 13 managed to win, of which nine were for uncontested nominations, and none of the 13 is expected to win in November. In making the study public, Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director, attributed the La

Rouche candidates' overall poor performance--more than half received less than one-tenth of the vote -- to an informed electorate made aware of the true nature of the LaRouche-sponsored National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) in the aftermath of its startling victory in Illinois last spring.

He pointed out that since the two LaRouchites' surprise victory in the Illinois Democratic primary nominations for Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State, "the media has given much coverage to the LaRouche cult's extremist and outlandish views. Its effect has been salutary for the purpose of an informed electorate."

Perlmutter added, however, that although so many LaRouchite candidates have been rejected, the NDPC managed to register just enough gains "to create the appearance -- basically a false one -- that LaRouche and his followers are a political force of consequence."

Roundly Defeated In Numerous Races

The ADL analysis noted that since Illinois, the LaRouchites were roundly defeated. They lost 6 gubernatorial candidacies out of 6 primaries entered; 14 out of 14 U.S. Senate primaries entered; 137 out of 144 contests for the U.S. House; 24 out of 27 State Senate primary races; and 32 out of 33 State House primary races.

The ADL analysis, based on reports from its regional offices around the country and prepared by the Fact Finding Department of the agency's Civil Rights Division, revealed the following:

* NDPC candidates ran in Republican as well as Democratic primaries in 8 states -- New Hampshire, Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Texas, California and Oregon -- indicating a trend toward more evenly dividing their forces between the major parties.

* The LaRouche candidates benefitted in certain instances from low primary turnout, particularly in areas where the party in whose primary they ran was weak.

* They fared far worse in primary races where they ran against well-known candidates. In Maryland's Democratic senatorial contest, for example, longtime LaRouche activist Debra Freeman, running against Congressmen Michael Barnes and Barbara Mikulski, received a mere one percent of the vote.

* Although the LaRouche organization has long espoused anti-Semitic views, the candidates generally avoided openly expressing them.

Areas Of Victories

The 7 Congressional nominations won were in uncontested Democratic primaries in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas (two of the 7 later dropped out). A LaRouchite won an uncontested Democratic primary for the State House of Representatives in Idaho, and in Maryland, a LaRouchite won the Republican primary for the State Senate, also uncontested. Two LaRouche candidates in Michigan won the Democratic nominations for the State Senate in strongly Republican districts.

Perlmutter said that "so long as the LaRouche cult remains active, exposure is its most effective antidote."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS PLEAD CAUSE OF SOVIET JEWRY AT REYKJAVIK SUMMIT

By Edwin Eytan

REYKJAVIK, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Jewish activists and families of refuseniks from a half dozen countries pleaded the cause of Soviet Jewry at the summit meeting here between President Reagan and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, October 11-12. They prayed in public and demonstrated peacefully, joined by Icelandic sympathizers and others. Some activists erected a symbolic cage outside the Hofti House where the two leaders held their final meeting Sunday.

The Soviets, for their part, seemed to offer a slight ray of hope that restrictions on Jewish emigration from the USSR might possibly be eased in the future. One Soviet spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "things are changing" and hinted that the authorities may be more accommodating in the future.

A member of the Soviet delegation, Samuel Zivs, who came here to deal with "the Jewish issue," met several refusenik families whom he asked for details of their relatives' cases and promised to facilitate their departure.

Line By Official Soviet Spokesmen

The line taken by official Soviet spokesmen was that while the USSR refuses to let "foreign countries meddle in its internal affairs," it is now prepared to study some of the issues raised by Soviet Jews on a case-by-case basis "out of humanitarian considerations."

The Soviets said that message was also relayed to the American delegation with which they met in an ad hoc commission dealing with humanitarian issues, regional conflicts and bilateral affairs.

But these hints were vague and hopes for any substantive change for the better for Soviet Jews diminished after the summit ended Sunday night without agreement on the major issue of arms control, and the U.S. and USSR each blamed the other for the failure.

In private conversations before leaving Reykjavik, Soviet officials claimed that had the talks succeeded, a compromise solution on humanitarian issues would have been reached. "All this is a pity," one Soviet spokesman said of the summit's failure.

Jewish Groups Achieved Objective

But the Jewish leaders and others who had converged on the Icelandic capital last week, days before the start of the summit meetings, achieved their objective of bringing the plight of Soviet Jewry to the attention of the superpower leaders while international attention was focussed on them. American Jews were represented here by delegations from the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), headed by its chairman, Morris Abram, and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry. David Wakesberg of San Francisco, a UCSJ vice president, summarized their purpose last week when he said "We will be presenting cases to the media and delegations and try to insist that Soviet Jews are not forgotten."

Two Knesset members, Nava Arad of Labor and Uzi Landau of Likud, were part of an Israeli delegation that included relatives of prominent refuseniks. They met with the President of the Icelandic Parliament, Thorvakkur Gardar Krist-

jansson, who expressed support for the cause of Soviet Jewry.

Arad also met with women members of Parliament whom she asked to take up the cause of "the mothers of the prisoners" in the USSR and to intercede on their behalf.

A Poignant Case

Especially poignant was the case of Michael Shirman, an immigrant to Israel from the Soviet Union who is suffering from bone cancer and needs a marrow transplant which only his sister, Inessa Flerova, can supply. Flerova has been unable to leave for Israel because an exit visa has been denied her husband, Victor Flerov, to accompany her.

Shirman camped outside the summit meeting hall for two days, sometimes in heavy rain, carrying a poster "to remind President Reagan that he is meeting the man (Gorbachev) who is murdering me."

Jewish Prayer Services Held

On Friday night, two Jewish students from Britain spent the entire night outside the Saga Hotel which housed the Soviet delegation, intoning prayers and reciting the names of 11,000 refuseniks. Other demonstrators held up photographs of long-time refuseniks. They attended Soviet press briefings with posters urging the Kremlin leadership to "prove it has changed by allowing Jews to emigrate."

Jewish prayer services were led by Yosef Mendelevich who immigrated to Israel from the Soviet Union in 1981. He was joined by an Israeli rabbi, Benjamin Lehman, who noted that custom dictated that in times of crisis, Jews pray in public.

Police refused to permit the service outside the hotel. The group gathered outside the press center, about 150 yards away. Icelandic sympathizers sang with them, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." The Jews sang Hatikva, Israel's national anthem.

An Icelandic Foreign Ministry spokesman told the JTA, "Everybody is free to demonstrate in our country. The only thing we demand is that the summit meeting should be able to go along undisturbed as planned."

Jews weren't the only demonstrators. Two young men unfurled a banner outside the Saga Hotel accusing the Soviets of oppressing the Hare Krishna sect. The Greenpeace movement brought its ship, Sirius, to anchor at the Reykjavik harbor approaches. Coast Guard vessels prevented it from entering the harbor.

SAUDIS GIVE PLO \$28.5 MILLION

LONDON, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Saudi Arabia gave the PLO \$28.5 million earlier this month, the World Jewish Congress reported. Announcement of the transfer of the funds was made in a statement from the Saudi Press Agency in Riyadh, monitored here by WJC sources.

Rafiq Al-Natshah, the PLO representative in Riyadh, said that the sum represents Saudi Arabia's annual contribution to the PLO and was in accordance with the resolution of the Baghdad Arab summit held in 1979. Natshah said, "More than any other state Saudi Arabia has fulfilled its commitment to support the PLO regularly and consistently, not only financially but also politically and socially."