

GOLDFARB ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE USSR

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Long-time refusenik David Goldfarb was released Thursday from a Moscow hospital and flown to the United States on industrialist Armand Hammer's private plane, accompanied by his wife Cecilia. He landed at 6:30 p.m. at the Newark Airport Thursday and was met there by his son Alexander Goldfarb, a Columbia professor who has been pleading his father's case since David Goldfarb was refused an exit visa in 1979.

David Goldfarb is a retired geneticist who suffers from severe complications of diabetes, including the possibility of amputation of his leg. David Goldfarb lost his other leg as a Soviet soldier during World War II.

David Goldfarb was expected to be given a medical examination on board the plane by Dr. Kenneth Prager, a physician at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, who has taken a personal interest in the case and who had been denied a request to attend to Prof. Goldfarb in his Moscow hospital.

David Goldfarb's exit visa was rescinded in 1984, shortly after he finally received it, when he refused to help the KGB frame American reporter Nicholas Daniloff. Daniloff, the Moscow correspondent for U.S. News and World Report, was released September 30 from the Soviet Union following a month's detention in Lefortovo Prison and then in U.S. Embassy custody following his arrest August 30 after accepting an envelope from a friend that the KGB claimed contained secret materials.

U.S. Pleased By Goldfarb's Release

David Goldfarb's release was confirmed by State Department spokesman Pete Martinez, who said, "We welcome the resolution of this case." Martinez said the U.S. had followed the Goldfarb case closely for a number of years.

He had no information to link Goldfarb's release with last week's summit meeting in Iceland, where there were reported discussions on human rights between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Alexander Goldfarb returned Monday from Iceland, after also speaking with Yuri Dubinin, Soviet Ambassador to the U.S., who was seated near him on the plane.

Hammer reportedly also took special interest in the case. He was in Moscow last month following a visit to Israel. There were no public disclosures of Hammer's specific talks.

CARNAGE IN JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- A grenade attack on Israeli soldiers and their families in the Old City Wednesday evening killed one person and wounded 69 in the bloodiest terrorist foray in Jerusalem in more than two years.

The fatality, Dov Porat, 46, was buried in Holon Thursday. He was one of hundreds of parents and relatives who had just attended the swearing-in of 300 Israel Defense Force recruits

of the elite Givati Brigade at the Western Wall, a short distance from the scene of the carnage.

As of Thursday noon, 34 of the wounded were still hospitalized. One was described in serious condition and seven others were reported to have suffered "medium" wounds.

Police and border police detained 18 Arab suspects for questioning and a curfew was clamped on the Old City. But the search for the terrorists spread to the West Bank where the Jordan River bridges were closed to block a possible escape route for the killers. Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy ordered an immediate inquiry into the circumstances of the attack.

'A Bloody Hell'

It occurred at 8:20 p.m. local time, as the young IDF soldiers, having just taken their oath and been presented with rifles and Bibles, were strolling with their families to a parking lot at the Dung Gate to board buses and private cars for home.

According to police, three Soviet-made F-1 grenades were hurled at them from ambush by two men who escaped in a car driven by a third. Within moments the place was "a bloody hell," one eyewitness said. Dozens of wounded lay on the pavement crying for help.

Within hours, the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for the assault in an announcement from its office in Cairo. But two other terrorist gangs also boasted of responsibility for attacking armed IDF soldiers. They are the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Naif Hawatmeh and a hitherto unknown group calling itself the Islamic Jihad Legion.

Such claims from different quarters are commonplace after terrorist attacks and are seen as attempts to enhance the status of competing terrorist organizations and to confuse the authorities. In this case there is some confusion over the nature of the attack.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was on the scene Wednesday night, said he doubted the attackers were aiming specifically at the soldiers. "PLO terrorists try to hit us anywhere, at any time, and any target will do," he said.

Gen. (Res.) Rehavam Zeevi, a former advisor on terrorism to the Prime Minister, said on a radio interview Thursday that if Rabin's assessment is based on information, he had nothing to add. But if the Defense Minister was merely speculating, "one should take into account the worst possibility, that is that the terrorists deliberately selected a military target. If so, they showed a greater degree of chutzpa (effrontery) and courage" than in the past, Zeevi said.

The inquiry ordered by the Chief of Staff will try to determine whether the swearing-in ceremony for the recruits, conducted under brilliant spotlights at the Western Wall, had been adequately protected and if proper security measures were taken, inasmuch as many civilians were at the ceremonies. Zeevi called for a more intensive war on terrorists. He said it should be continuous, employing whatever measures are necessary and should not ebb and flow along with

the incidence of terrorist acts. He urged capital punishment for convicted terrorists.

The grenade attack also had repercussions on Israel's relations with Egypt, which have warmed considerably of late since Egypt returned its Ambassador to Tel Aviv. The fact that the PLO announcement claiming responsibility emanated from Cairo triggered angry reactions among Israelis.

The Egyptian envoy, Mohammad Bassiouny, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Thursday and handed a formal letter of protest to his government. It said the Cairo announcement was contrary to "the new spirit" in relations between the two countries. One Knesset member, Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party, urged Israel to demand that the Egyptians close down the PLO office in their capital.

Experience Of One Recruit

The tragedy was personalized in the experience of one recruit, Omer Porat, 18, whose father was fatally wounded. His mother, Naomi, 43, and his sister, Liat, 21, were also among the casualties. Hit by grenade fragments, they fell bleeding at his feet. The young soldier, also wounded, administered first aid to his mother and sister and then went in search of his father, who had disappeared in the confusion. He found him at the entrance of the parking lot, bleeding profusely while an officer attempted to revive him.

"He (his father) was losing a lot of blood from his chest," Omer told reporters at his hospital bed. "He was breathing heavily." After bandaging his father's wound he accompanied him in an ambulance to the hospital. There doctors tried to save his life, but in vain. "He died in my arms," Omer said.

The previous worst terrorist attack in Jerusalem occurred in April 1984 when a Palestinian gunned down 48 persons in a downtown street, killing one and wounding the rest.

SOME PROGRESS ON PREMIERSHIP ROTATION

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Significant progress was reported Thursday by Premier Shimon Peres and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir in their continuing efforts to resolve differences that have delayed implementation of the Labor-Likud rotation-of-power agreement.

Political sources said a coalition delegation representing both parties would call on President Chaim Herzog late Thursday to recommend that Shamir be formally nominated as Prime Minister. In that case, Shamir would probably present his new unity coalition government to the Knesset for approval on Sunday or Monday.

According to the sources, Peres and Shamir are near agreement on the two main obstacles--the future status of Likud Liberal Yitzhak Modai, who was forced to resign as Finance Minister last July, and Labor's appointment of Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin to be Israel's next Ambassador to the U.S. It is opposed by Likud.

The sources said Modai will probably be included in the new Cabinet as a Minister-Without-Portfolio. The naming of an envoy to Washington will be postponed, but Shamir has promised not to veto any of Peres' candidates.

CANCER VICTIM SAYS HE HAS ONLY A MONTH TO LIVE UNLESS HE GETS A BONE-MARROW TRANSPLANT FROM HIS SISTER WHO IS NOW IN THE SOVIET UNION By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Michael Shirman, a 31-year-old Soviet immigrant to Israel, calmly told a Capitol Hill press conference Thursday that he has been given about a month to live unless he receives a bone-marrow transplant "immediately" from his sister now in Moscow.

Shirman, who suffers from acute leukemia, said that while his sister, Inessa Flerova, and her two daughters are finally being allowed to emigrate from the USSR, the Soviet Union is refusing to let her husband Viktor leave.

The young biologist, who immigrated to Israel with his mother in 1980, said he will not allow his sister to come to Israel without her husband. He said he cannot allow her "to save my life at the cost of the destruction of my sister's family." He has expressed fear that if the operation was not successful she would be alone in Israel without a brother or a husband.

The press conference was held under the auspices of Sens. Paul Simon (D. Ill.) and Charles Grassley (R. Iowa).

Before going to Capitol Hill, Shirman met at the State Department with Thomas Simon Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Soviet Union Affairs, according to John Rosenberg, a spokesman for the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. Shirman presented a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz to Simon asking that Shultz "intervene on my behalf with the Soviet authorities." Rosenberg noted that Simon discussed the case with Soviet officials during the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 11-12.

Talked To Soviet Officials

Shirman, who was also in Iceland at the time, said he also talked to Soviet officials. He said they told him "your case is very small" and they were dealing with major issues.

Sen. Simon said that Iceland showed the need "to build a base of better trust and understanding" between the United States and the Soviet Union. "Here is one small gesture that will cost the Soviet Union nothing," he said. Grassley said in a statement that "it is incomprehensible that the Soviet Union has remained obstinate and unbending in such an obvious case of human need."

Shirman said after he was told in December 1985 that he should try to have his sister come to Israel for a bone-marrow transplant, she sought permission for a temporary visit. But she was told she could not visit a Soviet emigrant, he said.

The entire Flerov family eventually sought to emigrate and were given permission last August. But then Viktor Flerov's father refused to sign an official release. Viktor is now on a hunger strike. Shirman said he no longer responds to chemotherapy. He said the usual statistics in cases such as his are that the patient dies within 30 days. He was scheduled to enter Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York Thursday night.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL SAYS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES 'HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER' By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA)-- Thomas Pickering, the United States Ambassador to Israel, declared Wednesday night that Israeli-American relationships have "never been better."

Addressing more than 500 people attending the annual dinner of the American Friends of Haifa University at the Pierre Hotel here, the American envoy said that "despite some tough tests over the past year, it's (American-Israeli relations) as good as it has ever been. Some tell me it's better than it's ever been. We have a thriving security relationship, and we are partners in strategic cooperation. We are working together on a peace process. Israel's economy is recovering."

Pickering noted, however, that there are also "challenges" in American-Israeli relations and "we need to continue to work together to deal with problems that arise between us."

One of the challenges, the Ambassador said, is the need for Israel to become independent economically and to reduce its dependence on U.S. economic assistance. "Obviously, I am not suggesting that Israel's future security needs in the absence of peace can be met without U.S. help. But on the economic side, there should be ways to reduce the dependence and thus increase the harmony and mutual respect which both nations feel for each other," he said.

Cites Remarkable Economic Performance

Pickering praised the "remarkable economic performance of Israel over the last fifteen months." But now, he observed, Israel should take the next step "which is no less crucial. This is the challenge of economic growth."

Noting that U.S. military assistance to Israel is "now running at the rate of \$1.8 billion each year," the Ambassador underscored American commitment to Israel's survival and security.

"Israel still faces serious military threats, despite the steady progress we have been making toward peace. I reaffirm to you tonight that the United States remains fully committed to ensuring that Israel retain its qualitative military edge in the region."

Pickering said that commitment to Israel's security serves the goal of advancing peace in the Mideast. He added that the cooperation between Israel and America today in the security realm benefits both countries "in many practical ways."

The envoy disclosed that in a number of instances, Israel helped the U.S. with intelligence information regarding terrorist activities against America. He said, "We have avoided loss of life and great damage to property because of Israel's help." He did not elaborate.

Other 'Problem Cases'

Turning to other "problem cases" between Israel and the U.S., Pickering cited the Jonathan Pollard espionage case. He said it was a "painful" experience for both countries, but the case was dealt with "in a cooperative way" by both governments.

"With continued goodwill, cooperation and close consultation I am convinced we can continue to deal with the troublesome remains of the Pollard case. Israel, of course, has continued to

commit itself that activities of this kind in and against the United States are absolutely ruled out by our friendship," Pickering said.

The Haifa University annual dinner honored, in addition to Pickering, Eugene Grant, a communal leader and a prominent New York realtor and philanthropist. Grant has served as director of the American Friends of Haifa University and is a trustee of Haifa University.

Pickering was awarded a special Scroll of Merit presented by Ephraim Evron, Haifa University president and former Israeli Ambassador to Washington.

EL SALVADOR JEWISH COMMUNITY ESCAPES INJURY IN EARTHQUAKE

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Members of the small Jewish community of El Salvador escaped injury in last week's massive earthquake and even managed to hold Yom Kippur services Monday, according to information received by Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, Latin American Affairs director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He said, however, that ADL was advised by Jean-Claude Kahn, president of the Jewish community of El Salvador, that many of them suffered damages to their homes and businesses. Rosenthal said Kahn urged that the American Jewish community assist in the general earthquake relief effort. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee announced Wednesday that it was opening its mailbox for receipt of contributions to aid the earthquake victims.

Kahn, who owns a textile factory in San Salvador, is working with other local businessmen to manage the flow of international aid into the country. The program is being coordinated by the private sector, working with the United States Agency for International Development.

ISRAEL AIDING EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Israel is rushing medical and other supplies to help the estimated 100,000 people affected by the earthquake in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, last Friday. The supplies are enroute to the Central American country by a special El Al flight via New York. President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador reported 8,76 dead, 8,176 injured and 30,988 families homeless as a result of the quake.

CONGRESS DECLARES WEEK OF OCT. 19 GAUCHER'S DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Congress has adopted a joint resolution declaring the week of October 19 National Gaucher's Disease Awareness Week. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) and Rep. Lawrence Smith (D. Fla.) to help bring public attention to the little known, but devastating genetic disorder.

Gaucher's Disease afflicts approximately 20,000 persons in the United States and is most prevalent among Jews of East European origin, according to Michael Epstein, president of the National Gaucher Foundation.

The Washington-based foundation was founded in 1984 to initiate research programs aimed at development of a cure and treatment for the disease which is even more prevalent among Jews than the better-known Tay-Sachs Disease.

FOCUS ON ISSUES **THE POPE'S PRAYER MEETING IN ASSISI**

By Marc Tanenbaum

(Editor's note: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international relations of the American Jewish Committee, was the only rabbi present at Vatican II.)

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- On the face of it, the meeting of representatives from the world's major religions to pray for peace on Monday, October 27 in Assisi, Italy, is a positive development. Called by Pope John Paul II, leaders of Catholics, Protestants, Sikhs, Hindus, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists, Shintoists and animists will meet in St. Francis of Assisi's birthplace for prayer, and then will assemble the next day to discuss ideas for the promotion of peace.

While clearly Judaism's leaders are deeply committed to the idea of "shalom," the organization of this prayer demonstration has not been without problems for Jewish spokesmen.

First is the problem of calendar. The prayer day is scheduled to take place on the morning after Simchat Torah, the final day of Succot. In practical terms that means that no Jewish religious leader, certainly no Chief Rabbi, would violate yom tov by traveling overseas to Assisi on the Sunday before. As of now, only Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Italy is expected to be present as a Jewish religious representative. He will need to travel only a short distance from Rome.

Earlier, an official invitation had been extended to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), which relates to the Vatican and the World Council of Churches as coordinating body for the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith International, the Synagogue Council, the World Jewish Congress, and the Israel Interfaith Committee. Because of the conflict with Simchat Torah, Waxman will not attend.

Some individual rabbis and Jewish organizational people reportedly will come to Assisi, but they have not received official invitations.

Some 'Theological' Difficulties

Beyond the calendar problem, there are some "theological" difficulties which are being discussed in Jewish and other non-Catholic circles. When the idea of a world peace meeting was first discussed in Rome several years ago, the conception that some of us set forth was that the foremost recognized leaders of the major Western and Oriental religions would join together in inviting representatives of their respective communities to join in appropriate prayers and discussion for world peace.

Such "ecumenical" invitations would have precluded any possibilities of religious "one-upmanship" or triumphalism. As it turns out, this meeting is now being perceived essentially as a "Papal" or "Vatican" meeting to which other religions are being invited to take part.

One consequence, whether intended or not, might be to establish the Pope as "the moral conscience of mankind" to which these world's religious representatives -- not necessarily the elected leaders of the major religions -- would seem to attest by their presence.

That imagery of a predominantly Catholic initiative with interreligious participation rather than a genuine pan-religious event will be underscored by the fact that the climactic prayer event

will take place in the Basilica of St. Francis instead of some more neutral assembly place.

In any case, the threat of nuclear catastrophe is so great and the cause of world peace so compelling that religious leaders appear to be ready to put aside ecumenical protocol for the time being in order to make a strong public demonstration for the cause of world peace.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA **NOBEL LAUREATE'S LIFE SHAPED** **BY THE FATE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE** By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, who this week shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology with American biochemist Stanley Cohen, comes from a family of Italian Jewish intellectuals in Turin. Now, at 77, this small, elegant, bright-eyed woman recalls first hearing the expression "freethinker" from her father, Prof. Giuseppe Levi, at the age of three.

That and deeply ingrained feminism -- her idol, she says, was Simone de Beauvoir -- defined her life and work. But her distinguished career was also shaped by the people and events that marked the fate of the Jewish people in this century.

Her family left Italy to escape the stultifying and repressive atmosphere of Mussolini's fascism. They lived in Belgium for a time, but when the Nazis invaded in 1940, they fled back to Italy. Because she was Jewish she was denied employment and research facilities, though she already held a Doctorate.

Forced To Live Clandestinely

Because of the family's opposition to fascism, they were forced to live clandestinely in Florence under the assumed name of Lovisato, from "southern Italy," a disguise belied by their northern Italian accent.

In a makeshift laboratory, set up in her bedroom, Levi-Montalcini conducted experiments secretly during the war years. She begged for eggs "for needy children" from farmers and extracted the embryos for her work. The results of her experiments went unpublished in fascist Italy because "she belonged to the Jewish race."

Recognition came in post-war Italy and in the U.S., where she went in 1947 to accept a teaching and research post with Prof. Viktor Hamburger at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Levi-Montalcini was the first woman admitted to the Pontifical Academy of Science and, in 1968, the sixth woman to gain admittance to the American Academy of Science. Long before getting the Nobel Prize, she won two major international prizes, the Medicinetrinelli in 1969 and the St. Vincent in 1970.

Her Nobel Prize stemmed from work completed in the U.S. in 1951: discovery of NGF, a protein growth factor that stimulates nerve cell development. It was the result, she says, of an intuition best described in a Latin proverb which states that there is physiological connection between a sound mind and a sound body.

The discovery, and parallel work by Cohen, hold out promise that cures can be found for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, which attack the human nervous system. It has also led to further research on the relation between nerve cells and the immunological defense system.