



ISRAEL'S FIRST LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENT REPORTED IN CRITICAL BUT STABLE CONDITION IN RAMBAM HOSPITAL

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Israel's first liver transplant patient, Mira Schichmanter, 39, was reported in critical but stable condition at Rambam Hospital in Haifa at noon Wednesday after 20 hours in the operating room and 18 hours of surgery.

Dr. Yigal Kam, who performed the operation, said it will not be known for three days whether the transplanted liver will be rejected. If the patient survives after that period she will be declared out of danger.

Liver transplants hitherto were not permitted in Israel because of objections by the religious authorities and patients needing them for survival were forced to go abroad for surgery. Dr. Kam trained in the technique in Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Rambam Hospital claims to be the first in Israel with full facilities to perform the complex operation.

It received permission in principle several months ago. The specific license to operate on Schichmanter was issued Tuesday by Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Amoslin, her first act after taking office in the new Cabinet. She gave approval without consulting the halachic authorities because time was of the essence.

Schichmanter, from Kfar Saba, a mother of two, suffered from a chronic liver ailment for seven years. Her health deteriorated recently and according to hospital sources only a transplant could save her life. The donor was a 19-year-old woman soldier, Rivital Brandt of Kibbutz Shaar Ha'amakin, who was killed in a road accident earlier this week.

Rabbinical Committee To Consider The Issue

The Chief Rabbinate has established a committee of rabbis and medical doctors to consider the issue of liver and heart transplants. The problem lies in the difference between medical and rabbinical definitions of death. According to medical science, death occurs when the brain ceases to function. Religious tradition considers a person to be alive as long as the heart beats. But hearts can be kept beating by artificial means long after the brain dies.

Livers suitable for transplant must be extracted while the donor's heart is still pumping blood. Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira said Wednesday that he is praying for Schichmanter's life and health, but that the definition of death has yet to be settled.

UN ASSEMBLY REJECTS ARAB MOVE TO DENY ISRAEL ITS CREDENTIALS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The General Assembly rejected by a large margin an Arab resolution sponsored by Oman calling for the suspension of Israel from the current 41st session of the Assembly.

The vote against the Arab move to deny Israel its credentials to the Assembly was 87-41

with 13 abstentions. Seventeen countries were absent when the voting took place.

Israeli diplomats hailed the outcome of the vote as a "victory" for Israel, noting that the vote last year on a similar Arab-sponsored resolution was 83-41, showing an increase of four in the number of countries which opposed the anti-Israeli move this year.

The four new countries that rejected the Arab attempt Tuesday night were Burundi, Mali, Sierra Leone and Papua-New Guinea. In addition, Bulgaria, which last year voted with the Arabs, was absent Tuesday during the vote, joining two other Communist bloc countries, Poland and Hungary, who absented themselves from the votes last year and again Tuesday night. The Soviet Union and the rest of the Communist countries joined in support of the Arabs and against Israel.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declared after the vote: "It is an important victory to the cause of moderation. The extremist bloc is dwindling from year to year to find itself isolated, just where they tried to isolate Israel."

The Arabs have been introducing resolutions to suspend Israel from the General Assembly each year since 1982, with no success.

NEW CABINET IS SETTLING IN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres' tenure as Foreign Minister began this week with an internal row that Peres managed to settle, but not to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. Premier Yitzhak Shamir, on the other hand, ensconced himself in office smoothly, choosing Herut hardliners as his top aides.

Peres' troubles stemmed from his plan to divide the position of Director General of the Foreign Ministry between two men. This was necessary to create a senior post for Peres' close associate, former Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin, after his nomination to be Israel's next Ambassador to the U.S. was vetoed by Likud.

The Cabinet approved Peres' plan Monday. But Avraham Tamir, who was slated to be Director General, balked. He refused to share his office with anyone else and threatened to resign. Tamir's chief political patron, Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman, was furious.

Tamir had served as Director General of the Prime Minister's Office during the two years that Peres headed the Labor-Likud coalition government. Weizman also served in the Prime Minister's Office as liaison for Arab affairs. He had planned to continue his functions in the Foreign Ministry but Attorney General Yosef Harish advised that this would be constitutionally incorrect.

Peres' Efforts At Conciliation Prevails

Peres' efforts at conciliation prevailed and on Wednesday Tamir agreed, reluctantly, to a proposed compromise. He will serve as Director General with authority over Third World and Middle East affairs. Beilin's ambit will be Europe, the United States and diplomatic appointments.

Nevertheless, Tamir would not conceal his disgruntlement and Weizman, twice frustrated and

still angry, went abroad on vacation. Peres for his part is still pushing Beilin's candidacy for Ambassador to Washington. Under the terms of an accord he signed with Shamir, the matter may be settled within three months. Peres is to submit a list of candidates for the all-important Washington post from which the Prime Minister will select the next Ambassador.

Peres formally handed over the office of Prime Minister to Shamir on Tuesday. The Likud leader named Yossi Ben-Aharon, a militant Herut ideologue, as Director General of his office. He had been Shamir's bureau chief for many years.

The post of Chief of Bureau to the Prime Minister was assigned to Tzachi Hanegbi, son of Tehiya Party MK, Geula Cohen. Shamir retained his two spokesmen, Avi Pazner and Yossi Ahimeir.

Ehud Goll, a career diplomat, was appointed by Peres to be Foreign Ministry spokesman, the position formerly held by Pazner. Uri Savir will serve as media adviser and Chief of Bureau to Peres and Dr. Nimrod Novik continues as his policy adviser.

NEW STUDY OF CHURCHILL SAYS HE FAILED TO HELP EUROPEAN JEWRY IN THEIR HOURS OF GREATEST NEEDS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- A highly critical new study of Sir Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime leader, finds him guilty of failing to give direct help to the Jews of Europe in their hours of greatest need.

Contrary to the usual sympathetic Jewish view of Churchill, it also questions the depth of his support for the Jewish cause in Palestine and suggests a strong trace of opportunism in his support for Zionism early in his career.

These are among the key conclusions of Prof. Michael Cohen, a British-born historian who teaches at Bar Ilan University in Israel, and is a familiar figure at several American universities.

His conclusions seem to diverge from those in the monumental portrait painted by Churchill's official historian, Dr. Martin Gilbert, who, like Cohen, is a British-born Jew. Gilbert's multi-volume biography is still not complete, but he has already dealt with most of the periods covered by Cohen.

Book Virtually Ignored By The Press

Although Cohen's book has been in the hands of British newspaper reviewers for several months, they have so far given it virtually no attention. In view of the high acclaim received by his earlier books on the emergence of the modern Middle East, there is a suspicion that this silence is a measure of the impact of his radical reassessment of his subject.

In a chapter entitled "Churchill and the Holocaust," Cohen explores to what extent Churchill was guilty of turning a blind eye to the wartime information about the progress of Hitler's destruction of European Jewry.

Other historians have agreed to single Churchill out as the one man who did understand the enormity of the crimes against the Jews. But Cohen's verdict is that however much Churchill may have been moved by the wartime plight of the Jews, "He was not willing to deal with the problem personally on any regular basis."

Of Churchill's Zionism, Cohen writes that it was not religious or evangelical in origin, as

claimed for other gentile Zionists, but was based on two "good British" motives.

First, he believed the Zionist movement commanded powerful political and economic influence especially in the U.S. Secondly, having originally opposed Britain taking the mandate for Palestine, he later welcomed the influx of Zionist capital and technology into the country mainly as a way of minimizing the cost to the British taxpayer.

Cohen stresses these underlying attitudes to explain why after the 1944 assassination of his close friend, Lord Moyne, by Jewish terrorists, Churchill's sponsorship of the Zionist cause "jolted to an abrupt halt."

It also explained Churchill's "stony silence" on the Palestine drama between the end of the war and the establishment of Israel. When he did speak up, writes Cohen, it was only to chastise the government for not getting out of Palestine sooner.

"Thus, during the two periods of the Jews' greatest need -- during the Holocaust, and the struggle to secure diplomatic recognition for the State of Israel -- they found Churchill wanting," he concludes.

"Churchill and the Jews," by Michael Cohen, is published in Britain by Frank Cass, and in the United States through Biblio-Distribution Center in Totowa, New Jersey.

TUTU TO VISIT ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his campaign to end apartheid in South Africa, will be visiting Israel shortly, as the guest of Israel's International Center for Peace. The invitation was extended by phone Tuesday by Citizens Rights Movement Knesset member Yossi Sarid.

Sarid said that Tutu replied that he was accepting the invitation because it was extended by an Israeli organization which opposed apartheid and carried out a public campaign against that racist practice.

Tutu, who visited New York in 1984, praised the Jewish people as "a light unto the nations," but at the same time expressed criticism of both Israel and the Arab nations. Addressing some 300 students and guests at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Black South African human rights leader said he was distressed by Israel's "collaboration" with South Africa, which is "carrying out policies that are so reminiscent of Hitler's Aryan madness."

He also said that he was "sad that Israel, with the kind of history and tradition her people have experienced, should make refugees of others. It is totally inconsistent with who she is as a people."

At the same time, Tutu criticized Arab nations for "being totally unrealistic in not recognizing" Israel that he said should "be given every bit of security and she should have her territorial integrity guaranteed."

WIESEL ON HIS WAY TO MOSCOW

LONDON, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel left London for Moscow Wednesday on a mission to discuss the plight of Soviet Jews with the top Soviet leadership.

According to BBC, the 58-year-old author and academician who is a survivor of the Auschwitz and Buchenwald death camps, said on his departure that he hoped for a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, though nothing has been arranged yet. He also said he would attend services at the Moscow Synagogue.

Wiesel's first book devoted to Soviet Jewry, "The Jews of Silence," was published 20 years ago. He presently resides in the U.S. where he is chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

IVORY COAST, UNDER HEAVY ARAB PRESSURES, TO MOVE ITS EMBASSY FROM JERUSALEM TO TEL AVIV

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Ivory Coast will move its Embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, Radio Abidjan reported Wednesday, apparently under massive pressure from the Arab League member states which decided at a meeting in Tunis last week to break diplomatic relations with the West African nation.

Ivory Coast, which broke relations with Israel after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, restored them last December and opened its Embassy in Jerusalem to become the third country to have an Embassy in the Israeli capital.

Radio Abidjan announced Wednesday that President Felix Houphouet-Boigny has asked his government to approve the Embassy move and, according to diplomatic sources here, approval will be automatic. French radio reports said Houphouet-Boigny consulted by telephone with King Hassan of Morocco before deciding on the move. They hinted that Hassan, who hosted Israeli Premier Shimon Peres on a visit to Morocco last summer, backed the decision.

Ivory Coast Information Minister Simon Ake was quoted as saying that Ivory Coast opposed what he called Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem. He called on the Arab states "not to do anything rash" and urged them to reconsider their decision to break with his country.

Houphouet-Boigny, 80, has been President of Ivory Coast since the former French colony became independent in 1960. He is considered one of the most influential African leaders and his decision to restore diplomatic ties with Israel was seen as a major breakthrough in Israeli-African relations.

Israel has expanded its cooperation with Ivory Coast since relations were restored and there are presently hundreds of Israeli experts in various fields in that country. Observers here believe Houphouet-Boigny's decision to move his Embassy from Jerusalem was a response not only to Arab pressure but to the fact that 23 percent of his country's population of 10 million is Moslem.

In addition, there are about 100,000 Arabs of Lebanese and Syrian origin in Ivory Coast where they dominate the country's commercial life and wield considerable influence over its economy.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH IMPACT ON SWISS SOCIETY

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- There are only 20,000 Jews in Switzerland, a country of over 6.3

million. But they have an impact on Swiss society, particularly attitudes toward Israel. While there are pockets of anti-Semitism on the far right, it is not tolerated by the vast majority of Swiss. An example is the almost universal outrage expressed at a Lausanne high school teacher who claimed publicly that the Holocaust never occurred.

The largest Jewish communities are in Zurich, Basel, Geneva and Lausanne. The latter city has 600 Jewish families, about 2,500 people, and they are especially active and take great pride in their community.

Izak Menase, who came from Istanbul and settled in Lausanne in 1956, was recently elected president of the local Jewish community. He is an energetic man. He initiated the building of a new community center and the renovation of the beautiful synagogue built in 1910.

Two years ago, he organized a tour of Israel for 40 prominent citizens of Lausanne, including bankers, businessmen, journalists and politicians. The expenses, amounting to 200,000 Swiss Francs, were paid by the community. The good will that resulted was soon evident. A Lausanne daily which had been anti-Israel changed its tone. Menase initiated the annual celebration of Israel Independence Day. He is also president of the Swiss Friends of Beersheba University.

Expression Of Anti-Semitism

On the negative side is the open anti-Semitism of Mariette Paschoud, who taught history and French at a Lausanne high school. At a press conference in Paris last August, she expressed doubt that there were gas chambers at Nazi concentration camps.

Paschoud, who is also a military judge in the army reserves, was strongly attacked by the Swiss media, and public opinion polls showed widespread disapproval. While she still teaches French, she no longer teaches history. The parents of her pupils refused to subject their children to "the teaching of history distorted by that woman."

The Swiss Officers Organization publicly dissociated itself from her views, though she retains membership in the organization. A Swiss military officer told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "Of course what she said should have never been said, but do not forget that privately there are people who think just the way she does."

Paschoud's husband publishes a newsletter called "Pamphlet" which reflects the views of the extreme right.

Doctor Goes On Trial

A trial was held last month of a Swiss builder who threatened his family doctor with the remark that all Jews had to be exterminated. The doctor is not Jewish, but the defendant selected a Jewish lawyer to represent him. It was brought out at the trial that the man had swastikas all over his flat and grew a mustache resembling Hitler's. He is considered to be a mental case.

Lausanne is also the home of the infamous Swiss banker, Francois Gehoud, who served the Third Reich during World War II and paid for the defense of Arab terrorists who attacked an El Al plane in Zurich in 1969. He also aided the Swiss terrorist, Bruno Breuget, who tried to enter Israel with explosives. He is believed to be the man who handles the finances of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Switzerland.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A CONTROVERSIAL CASE By Margie Olster

(Part Three Of A Three-Part Series)

NEW YORK, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The allegations of U.S. officials' involvement in the plan to sell \$2.5 billion worth of American weapons to Iran were met with uniform denials by those officials or their spokespersons.

The allegations, presented in an affidavit by defense attorney Paul Grand in support of a joint motion by attorneys in the case to dismiss the charges, indicate that U.S. officials debated and eventually approved the sale of American weapons by several of the defendants to Cyrus Hashemi, a government informant who presented himself as a weapons buyer for the Iranian government.

The affidavit named Vice President George Bush, Marine Corps commandant Gen. P. X. Kelley and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger among those officials with whom the defendants had contacts with.

Grand, the attorney for defendant Samuel Evans, also claimed in his affidavit that there was a general policy debate within the Administration over the possibility of approving covert arms sales to Iran.

With the indictment of four Israelis in the case, the Israeli government was faced with questions about reported Israeli sales of American weapons to Iran. The Israeli government denies the reports and has disassociated itself from the defendants in this case, although several defendants claimed the Israeli government was fully aware of their involvement in alleged negotiations to sell weapons to Iran.

Responses To Allegations

Prosecuting Attorney Lorna Schofield had no comments to the JTA on the affidavit except to say she had filed papers in response to the motion to dismiss charges. Those papers are not presently available in the public court record of the case.

American government officials responded to the allegations against them with denials and reiterations of American policy on arms sales to Iran.

State Department spokesman Don Kaufman told the JTA, "The U.S. is neutral in the war. We do not ship arms to either side and do not grant licenses to ship arms from other countries."

Kaufman explained the U.S. ban on weapons sales to Iran, saying, "Iran is intransigent in efforts to bring the war to an end. We are opposed to any arms going to Iran."

Vice President Bush's spokesman Stephen Hart told the JTA, "Allegations that (Bush) had a role in this are ridiculous -- the Vice President had no role in this." Hart said he could not respond to questions about a general policy debate within the Administration over covert arms sales to Iran.

Marine Corps spokesman Maj. Anthony Rothfork said Gen. Kelley is aware of the investigation and the allegations concerning him but does not know anything about the case itself. Rothfork said Kelley does not know the defendants John de la Roque or Bernard Veillot, who stated repeatedly on the tapes that they were in contact with Kelley. Rothfork said Kelley was not involved in any decision on selling American arms

to Iran through the defendants. Kelley himself was not available for comment.

A Pentagon spokesman gave similar responses to questions of involvement of Pentagon officials and said they could not comment on a case still in litigation.

Prior to the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979, America considered Iran a critical ally in the region. The 1979 hostage crisis effectively severed official U.S. relations with the present day regime and cut off all arms sales.

Officially, until today the U.S. government maintains a hard-line stance on Iran; no diplomatic relations, no weapons and that means no licenses for resale of American weapons by other countries.

The Israelis pledged to stop such shipments in 1979 when the U.S. charged they were undermining the government's attempts to block the sale of all American weapons to Iran following the seizure of the hostages at the American embassy in Teheran.

Israeli Consul spokesman in New York Baruch Binah told the JTA that Israel fulfilled certain "contracts" with Iran until 1981 and Iran paid for those goods.

Since 1981, Israel has never acknowledged any sales of American arms to Iran. Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres on recent visits to the United States were questioned repeatedly by the press on these reports of arms sales and categorically denied government involvement in each instance.

In the most recent press reports last month, the Danish Sailors' Union announced it had evidence of Israeli shipments of thousands of tons of American-made weapons to Iran aboard Danish ships. The Israeli government has denied the newest charges, also.

Shortly after the arrests of the four Israelis in Bermuda, investigators discovered that Gen. Avraham Bar-Am carried a letter authorizing him to seek out buyers for Israeli military exports including weapons and technology.

The letter, however, as Israeli officials hastened to note, did not authorize Bar-Am to negotiate arms deals and specifically not the deal alleged in this case. Binah said Bar Am is "a private person acting on his own" and "had a license to deal in arms, not to break any laws."

Defense lawyers interviewed by the JTA said they expect the questions of American and Israeli official involvement to be central issues in the trial scheduled for late November.

CONGRESSIONAL PANEL SAYS ISRAEL'S ESTIMATE OF LAVI'S COST IS ACCURATE

TEL AVIV, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- A Congressional committee has found "extremely accurate" Israel's estimates of the costs of the Lavi, its second generation jet combat plane, Israel Radio reported from Washington Wednesday.

The Israeli figures differ sharply from estimates by the Pentagon which found that the production costs -- to be borne mainly by the U.S. -- were excessive. A prototype of the new aircraft has been built by Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) incorporating many components, including the engine, built in the U.S.

The dispute over costs has held up the project. Israeli officials said the Americans based their higher figures on salaries and other expenses prevailing in the U.S. which greatly exceed production and wage levels in Israel.