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**On Eve Of The Helsinki Accords Review Meeting:
SOVIET UNION INDICTED FOR HARSH
TREATMENT OF ITS JEWISH CITIZENS
By Reinhard Engel**

VIENNA, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- A severe indictment of the Soviet Union for harsh treatment of its Jewish citizens, particularly those seeking to emigrate, was lodged here Tuesday on the eve of the East-West follow-up conference on implementation of the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

The conference, attended by delegations from 35 countries and hundreds of observers, opens Wednesday.

On Monday, Abraham Harman, president of the Israeli Public Council for Soviet Jewry, told the media that implementation of the Helsinki accords in relation to Soviet Jews is a clear test of the integrity of the Helsinki Final Act.

The Committee for Jews in the Soviet Union, meanwhile, presented a detailed report on the situation of Jews in the USSR which showed it to have deteriorated sharply despite the strengthening of the Helsinki human rights provisions at the Madrid follow-up conference in 1983. The Committee consists of representatives from Austria, Canada, France, Israel, Switzerland, Britain and the U.S.

The Committee's charges were supported by the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, a Vienna-based non-governmental organization, and by the personal testimony of five prominent former Soviet Jewish refuseniks. Although they were allowed to emigrate after prolonged ordeals, their presence here is to appeal before an international forum for the release of next of kin still in the USSR.

Elements In The Report

The report by the Committee for Jews in the Soviet Union, presented at a heavily attended press conference, noted first of all that the emigration of Jews has been virtually halted by the Soviet authorities even though nearly 400,000 have expressed their wish to leave for Israel.

The sharp decrease in emigration was documented by the number of arrivals in Vienna, the way-station where Soviet Jews continue on to Israel or to Western countries. While in 1980 the average monthly arrivals were well above 1,700, only an average of 64 a month passed through Vienna during the first six months of 1986.

According to the report, 11,000 Jews are known to have been refused permission to leave. Thousands more have been denied even the right to apply for exit permits. These refuseniks live as outcasts from Soviet society. They have no legal redress against harassment and victimization, the report said.

In some cases, it noted, refuseniks have been subjected to long prison terms on false charges. The real reason for their incarceration is their demand for civil rights and the right to uphold their Jewish identity, the report said.

The report noted that Jews are the only recognized nationality among the hundreds of nationalities in the USSR that is not allowed to

study its language, Hebrew, or to transmit its cultural heritage and tradition to its children. Soviet Jews are the only religious denomination that has no central organization, no theological seminary and no facilities for regular contacts with co-religionists elsewhere in the world, the report stated.

Anti-Semitism Part Of Everyday Life

It charged further that anti-Semitic discrimination and propaganda continues to be part of everyday life in the Soviet Union.

The press conference, held at the Jewish Community Center here, took note of the occasional releases of prominent Soviet Jews to go to Israel or Western countries. While these are welcome, the Committee said, the Soviet Union must not be allowed to confuse world opinion by such gestures.

"We are here to draw public attention to the overall condition of Jews in the USSR to which the Vienna Conference must address itself in its efforts to restore the integrity of the Helsinki accords in all their aspects and assure their effective implementation," a Committee statement said.

The Committee's charges against the Soviet regime were confirmed by the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights at a separate press conference. Its report said that the Hebrew language has been rendered virtually inaccessible to Soviet Jews. There are no Jewish schools in the USSR, not even in the erstwhile Jewish autonomous region of Birobidjan, in eastern Siberia, where only one half of one percent of the present population is Jewish.

Refuseniks Offer Personal Accounts

Refuseniks at the press conference of the Committee for Jews in the Soviet Union offered personal accounts of their ordeals. Vladimir Brodsky, a medical doctor released from prison only two weeks ago and allowed to emigrate, said he endured repeated beatings, harsh forced labor, hunger and disease. He saw his release as a positive sign, however, because it came about without any trade for a Soviet spy in the West.

Brodsky attributed his freedom to the pressure of Western public opinion, not the intervention by any head of state. "I hope that mine will not remain a singular case," he said.

Alexander Gonorusky, who now lives in Israel, pleaded for the release of his crippled father who has tried in vain to obtain an exit permit for 13 years.

Vladimir Magarik, also an Israeli citizen, begged for the release of his son, Aleksei, a Hebrew teacher who has been indicted for illegal possession of drugs and put in a cell with murderers who beat and harass him.

Ilana Fridman called attention to her sister, Ida Nudel, who after imprisonment and exile has once more been exiled to Bendery in Moravia.

Alexander Slepak reminded the world media that his parents, Vladimir and Maria, have been trying for 16 years to obtain permission to leave the USSR, without success.

SHAMIR: SOVIET JEWS WHO IMMIGRATE TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN ISRAEL ENDANGER EFFORTS TO EASE EMIGRATION FROM USSR

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir charged that Jews who leave the Soviet Union with Israeli visas but settle in countries other than Israel gravely endanger efforts to ease emigration restrictions for Soviet Jews.

During a Knesset debate on the issue Monday, Shamir said Israel should use every means at its disposal to end the drop-out phenomenon. He appealed to the Soviet government to allow direct flights from Moscow to Israel. At present, Jews leaving the USSR go to Vienna where they decide their ultimate destination. Only 104 Jews left the Soviet Union last month. The number who chose not to go to Israel was not immediately known.

Shamir also appealed to the Soviet authorities to grant Jewish citizens equal rights. Israel "does not seek to intervene in the internal affairs of the Soviet regime," he said, but the fact is that of all Soviet national minorities, only the Jews are not allowed to live a national life of their own.

USSR AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY TELL GOLDFARB'S DAUGHTER TO APPLY FOR EMERGENCY VISA TO VISIT HIM IN NEW YORK WHILE HE UNDERGOES SURGERY By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The daughter of former refusenik David Goldfarb has reportedly been told by Soviet authorities to apply for an emergency visa to visit her father in New York who is scheduled to undergo surgery here Wednesday.

Alex Goldfarb, David Goldfarb's son, told the press that he learned in a telephone call with his sister Olga in Moscow that she had been told she may apply for a visa only for herself and that her request to bring any other member of her family with her had been denied.

The response from Soviet officials followed a letter that David Goldfarb sent Sunday to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev through Soviet officials in the United States asking that his daughter be permitted to come to New York now as a humanitarian gesture.

David Goldfarb was diagnosed last Wednesday as having lung cancer following a bronchoscopy performed by attending physician Kenneth Prager at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, where Goldfarb was being evaluated for heart disease and severe complications of diabetes. The finding of cancer was reported unexpected. Prager said that never during Goldfarb's four-month hospitalization in Moscow had a chest X-ray been taken of him.

Prager said that during a prior hospital stay in Moscow in 1984, an X-ray had revealed "something suspicious," although Soviet doctors reportedly told Goldfarb not to worry. Alex Goldfarb said he was "puzzled" that his father's cancer wasn't diagnosed in the USSR and has requested his father's X-rays from Moscow with the assistance of the U.S. State Department in the matter.

Prager indicated that surgery will be performed to remove an upper lobe of one lung, which he described as "a dangerous situation."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES 30 YEARS AFTER THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Thirty years ago, on November 4, 1956, some 200,000 Hungarians began fleeing their country after Soviet tanks smashed the 13-day revolution against Stalinist oppression. No fewer than 20,000 of the refugees were Jews, representing about a fifth of the Hungarian Jews who had survived the Nazi Holocaust a decade earlier.

Paradoxically, though, many of those against whom the revolution was directed were themselves Jews. Matyas Rakosi, Hungary's tyrannical dictator, was one of a Jewish foursome who ran its affairs. His colleagues were Erno Gero, the economic overlord; Mihaly Farkas, in charge of security; and Jozsef Revai, the chief cultural commissar.

Nine of the 25 members of the Hungarian Communist Party's first Central Committee were Jews, most of whom had spent the war in Moscow and re-entered Hungary in the wake of the victorious Red Army.

The hated political police, against whom the revolution vented much of its wrath, was commanded by Gabor Peter, a former tailor, and included many other Jews among its commanders.

Anti-Zionism Was Not A Central Issue

It was these people who had staged the Stalinist show trials in Hungary. But in the Hungarian trials, anti-Zionism did not assume as much central importance as, for example, in Czechoslovakia, where it was used to incriminate many Jewish Communists who had, in fact, been fierce anti-Zionists.

Yet even in Hungary, the Jewish issue was never far in the background. When the Kremlin was urging the unpopular Rakosi to step down prior to the revolution, Lavrenti Beria, the Soviet security boss, told him:

"Listen to me, Rakosi. We know that there have been in Hungary, apart from its own rulers, Turkish sultans, Austrian emperors, Tartar khans, and Polish princes. But, as far as we know, Hungary has never had a Jewish king. You can be sure that we won't allow it."

Imre Nagy, the stop-gap Premier whom the Russians executed once the uprising was crushed, was chosen for his post largely because he was not Jewish.

When hard-line Communist rule was brutally restored under Janos Kadar, the Hungarian government tried to discredit the revolution by denouncing it as anti-Semitic. But even though the uprising did have anti-Jewish overtones, it did not last long enough for pogroms to break out. Whether they would have occurred is another matter.

Jews On Both Sides Of The Barricades

Nor should it be forgotten that Jews were on both sides of the barricades. Two of the nine leaders of the October uprising were of Jewish origin. One, Miklos Gimes, was executed in June 1958 together with Imre Nagy and Gen. Maleter, the Defense Minister of the Revolution.

Paul Lendvai, a Jewish journalist who fled after the uprising, later wrote in a book on anti-Semitism in post-war Europe that Hungary was a

haven of relaxation and an island of security for the fully assimilated Jewry, not only in theory but also in practice.

In the 30 years which have elapsed, Hungary has been far less antagonistic to Israel or Zionism than the Soviet Union or other Soviet bloc countries. Although Budapest cut diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967, there is a considerable volume of tourist traffic between them and visa restrictions have recently been waived.

Anti-Semitism still exists at various levels, as it does in most countries. One Hungarian diplomat was reportedly asked to divorce his Jewish wife if he wanted a foreign posting. Hungarian film makers hesitate to deal with the Holocaust in their productions.

Yet Budapest boasts the only rabbinical training academy in the Soviet bloc, numerous synagogues, kosher butcher shops, and several other Jewish facilities. The Hungarian government together with the World Jewish Congress, recently funded the refurbishment of the Jewish Museum, adjacent to the birthplace of Theodor Herzl, founder of political Zionism.

In its official events to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Hungarian government also associated itself last year with somber commemorations of the martyrdom of 600,000 Hungarian Jews.

CHIEF RABBINATE COUNCIL RULES THAT HEART TRANSPLANTS ARE PERMISSIBLE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS OF JEWISH LAW By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Leading Israeli physicians and Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino welcomed the Chief Rabbinate Council's ruling Monday that heart transplant operations are permissible under certain conditions according to religious law.

A leading heart surgeon commented Tuesday that the halachic decision means that Israel is now among the world's enlightened countries. The Hadassah Medical Center here announced preparations for the first heart transplant surgery. The hospital indicated that it is fully qualified and equipped for the procedure but had delayed only because it wanted to comply with rabbinical directives.

The Chief Rabbinate ruling came after weeks of discussion between the 12-man Rabbinate Council and a panel of doctors. The issue was the definition of death, as applied to the donor of the heart or other vital organs.

Many rabbis had long insisted that death occurs only when the heart stops beating, regardless of the fact that hearts can be kept beating by artificial means after the brain ceases to function. Now apparently the Chief Rabbinate accepts the medical definition of death, which is death of the brain.

Shlomo Goren, the former Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, said in an article published in The Jerusalem Post Sunday, that death occurs when the part of the brain responsible for breathing has ceased to function for a minimum of seven minutes.

Goren wrote in connection with Israel's first two liver transplant operations performed at Rambam Hospital in Haifa last month without rabbinical sanction because the transplants were urgently needed. Both patients are in critical condition from post-operative infections.

SHAMIR: GOVERNMENT HAS REASONS FOR SILENCE ON THE VANUNU AFFAIR By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that the government has reasons for remaining silent on the Vanunu affair. It would comment "when it sees fit," he told reporters.

Shamir was referring to Mordechai Vanunu, the missing former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility allegedly imprisoned in Israel. Police Minister Haim Barlev said Monday that Vanunu was not in any prison run by the police or the Prisons Authority.

He did not mention and therefore did not exclude detention facilities maintained by the special security services, reporters noted. The comments by Shamir and Barlev were the first passed by the censors on the Vanunu affair. Until now, the Israeli media was forced to rely on foreign press coverage.

Vanunu, who is a convert to Christianity, was reported missing in London on October 1 and it was charged in some quarters that he was kidnapped by Israeli agents. He broke into the news in September after giving the Sunday Times of London a story that Israel has a substantial arsenal of nuclear weapons.

HAPPY ENDING FOR A PLANE MISTAKE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- A French charter plane carrying tourists to Eilat landed by mistake in Aqaba, Jordan, a few miles away, Monday. But after an hour on the tarmac it was allowed to leave, with the good wishes of Jordanian soldiers and police.

Finance Minister Chaim Corfu thanked Jordan Monday night for its good neighborliness. The error was attributed to the French pilot who was not familiar with the region and thought he was on the Eilat airfield when he was not.

ISRAEL WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FAIR IN MARCH

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Israel will participate in the Cairo International Fair scheduled to open in March, 1987, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced Monday. The Fair is the major trade exhibition organized by the Egyptian government. Dozens of countries participate.

The Ministry said it would organize the Israeli pavilion in cooperation with the Export Institute for the display of Israeli industrial products. The decision, which involves the appointment of a Trade Attache at the Israel Embassy in Cairo, was taken in order to foster and improve trade relations between Israel and Egypt, the Ministry's announcement said.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Four Israel Defense Force soldiers were wounded by mortar fire in the security zone of south Lebanon Tuesday afternoon. None was seriously hurt, an IDF spokesman said. The soldiers were repairing an army post west of the Christian village of Ashiya when they were fired on. They were the first Israeli casualties in south Lebanon in some months.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA)-- An ugly and mean-spirited incident at a Reform congregation in the Baka suburb of Jerusalem on Simchat Torah eve has sensitized the public to the issue of religious pluralism in Israel as rarely ever before and has given the Reform movement here a sympathetic hearing to press its case for equal treatment.

Most Israelis were shocked when Orthodox zealots in Baka, led by the local chief rabbi, Eliahu Abergil, disrupted the Reform congregation's services at the neighborhood community center and attempted to forcibly wrest Torahs from the congregants while hurling curses at them.

Most Israelis were further repelled by the subsequent public comments of the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Mordechai Eliahu, and others of the Orthodox religious establishment, justifying the incursion. Abergil was arrested and faced charges of violating the criminal code.

But last week he expressed regret for his actions and gave a written promise never again to interfere with Reform worship. Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman of the Reform Kol Hanesama congregation withdrew the complaint and the two rabbis embraced outside the police station.

Certainly no Madison Avenue PR firm could have conjured such favorable publicity for the Reform movement--only 5,000 strong in a country of four million--especially as it is about to dedicate its massive new center in Jerusalem.

Broader Questions Remain Unanswered

While editorial writers and pundits welcomed the amicable resolution of the Baka incident, they point out correctly that the broader questions it raised remain unanswered. Is there in fact freedom of worship for Jews in the Jewish State? In the sense that they are free to pray to God in whatever way they choose, the answer is doubtlessly yes.

But insofar as the question pertains to State recognition of non-Orthodox Judaism, the answer, most certainly, is no.

Marriages, divorces and conversions, the three principal elements of personal status, reside exclusively in the jurisdiction of the Chief Rabbinate which is entirely Orthodox. Some departures are permitted, but they are all in the direction of ultra-Orthodoxy, not toward Reform or Conservative Judaism.

The Reform Movement In Israel

With two kibbutzim in Israel and a third planned, the Reform movement has had an impact on certain areas of Israeli life. By the same token, it has failed so far to attract any mass following and is therefore in no way comparable in terms of popular strength to the Reform movement in the United States.

Nevertheless, Reform leaders here and in America are not discouraged. They are enthusiastically involved in transforming what was once a bastion of anti-Zionism in the U.S. into a thoroughly pro-Zionist movement.

Reform rabbinical students in the U.S. are required to take one year of courses at the Hebrew Union College (HUC) Center in Jerusalem. That is only one reflection of the trend toward

identification with Israel by the Reform movement. The new HUC Center building, a magnificent \$30 million edifice on King David Street in the heart of Jerusalem, is an extension of the desire to make the HUC and Israel inseparably linked.

All of the key lay and clergy leaders of Reform Jewry will be here this week for the dedication ceremonies. But this is not to say that a surge toward Reform Judaism in Israel is imminent.

The reasons for the Reform movement's lack of popular appeal have never been carefully researched or clearly understood. But plainly there is resistance which goes far beyond the influence of the Orthodox establishment. Reform leaders, American and Israeli, will be pondering this in the weeks ahead.

ISRAELI MEDIA RAPPED FOR TRYING TO INTERFERE IN RELIGIOUS LIFE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- An official of the Education Ministry attacked the media for "trying to interfere in religious life and dictate the nature of co-existence" between religious and secular elements in Israel.

Yaacov Hadani, director of the Ministry's religious education department, warned against "indifference among religious Jews in the wake of leftist dictatorship in the media." He spoke at a national conference of rabbis convened here last week by the Center for Religious Education in Israel.

Expanded Religious Education Urged

Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapiro, the Sephardic and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbis of Israel, respectively, urged expanded religious education in Israel's schools to combat "violence and permissiveness." Shapiro called on rabbis to become more involved in the educational system to make sure that every child receives a religious education.

Hadani said that rabbis must make sure that "everywhere in the country there will be Torah students who obey the mitzvot." Those who do not should be expelled from religious educational institutions, he said.

He also maintained that parents' committees have no right to change "religious principles." He was referring to the objections by parents in a Jerusalem elementary school against the practice of separate classes for boys and girls.

A RARE KNESSET PHENOMENON

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- A rare phenomenon occurred in the Knesset this week. A member vacated his seat voluntarily after only two years in office.

Mordecai Bar-On, who held one of the three Knesset seats of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), said he was leaving office in order to work on his doctoral thesis on the 1956 Sinai campaign. Bar-On is a former Israel Defense Force colonel.

He said that since he did not intend to run for the Knesset in the next elections, it was only fair to hand his seat over to the next in line on the CRM list. His replacement is Dedi Zucker, 38, a former leader of the Peace Now movement.