



NOV 10 1986

**DAILY NEWS BULLETIN**

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PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 165 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10036-2574 • (212) 575-9370

Vol. 64 - 69th Year

Friday, November 7, 1986

No. 213

# **SOVIET JURIST SAYS HIS COUNTRY INTENDS TO STREAMLINE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT VISAS**

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union intends to streamline and speed up the processing of applications for exit visas, according to Anatoly Movtchan, a member of the Soviet delegation attending the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the follow-up conference on implementation of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

Movtchan, a specialist in international law, told the newspaper Arbeiterzeitung that his country will introduce a new emigration law early next year to eliminate bureaucratic impediments for persons seeking to leave the USSR. His announcement was later confirmed by emigrants who came here to fight for exit visas for relatives. They said they had received similar information from other Soviet delegates to the conference.

Movtchan said the new law would abolish unwarranted delays and sloppiness in handling visa applications. In the future, standard applications will have to be acted upon within a month, though complicated cases may require six months to be processed, he said.

Applications filed for permission to leave in order to seek medical treatment abroad will be answered within three days, the Soviet delegate said. But there will be no change in present policy which refuses exit visas to persons considered privy to military or technological secrets or those awaiting trial in the USSR.

Meanwhile, Soviet Jewry activists here noted a pronounced change in the attitude of the Soviet delegates. Whereas at former international conferences they were completely ignored, they are now being listened to by Soviet diplomats and sometimes even engaged in lengthy personal discussions, the activists said.

## **ISRAEL SIGNS \$5.1 MILLION CONTRACT WITH THE U.S. ON SDI RESEARCH**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Israel signed a contract with the U.S. Wednesday to undertake research on anti-ballistic missile defense systems, a project related to the Reagan Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), commonly known as Star Wars.

The contract, reported to be in the neighborhood of \$5.1 million, is the first of its kind entered into by the U.S. with a non-NATO country. It was signed here by David Ivri, Director General of the Defense Ministry, and Gordon Smith, deputy director of the SDI Organization.

It is regarded as Israel's first bid for a share in the \$27 billion SDI research allocation, based on the U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation signed by the two countries last May.

Apart from participating in lucrative SDI contracts, Israel has a special interest in anti-ballistic missile research to counter the advanced Soviet SS-21 short range missiles reportedly in Syrian hands. The SS-21s are capable of reaching any part of Israel from Syrian territory.

Meanwhile, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense William Taft, touring Europe and the Middle East, began a three-day visit to Israel Wednesday. He met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and senior officials of the Defense Ministry Thursday at Israel Defense Force headquarters.

Israel Radio reported Thursday that Taft will renew a contract with Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) for the maintenance of 15 Israel-made Kfir jet fighter-bombers on lease to the U.S. Navy. The Israeli planes are used to simulate Soviet aircraft in combat exercises.

## **JOINT ACTION AGAINST GLOBAL TERRORISM By Edwin Eytan**

PARIS, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Council of Europe announced in Strasbourg Thursday that it will establish an ad hoc committee to plan joint action by the Western European nations to fight international terrorism. The committee will consist of the Deputy Ministers of Interior of the 21 member-states of the Council.

France announced during the Council session that it will ratify the 1976 European Convention against terrorism. The French delegate, Interior Minister Robert Pandraud, said his government will ask the National Assembly to vote "at the earliest" moment to ratify the convention.

According to Council rules, the body's decisions must be ratified by the parliaments of all member-states to become operative. France, Greece, Ireland and Malta have not yet ratified the anti-terrorist convention.

The Council of Europe, which is not the same as the 12-nation Parliament of Europe, consists of members of parliaments from the 21 countries. Its role is advisory, but its decisions are often followed by concrete measures that reflect Western European political attitudes.

## **A POSSIBLE U.S.-ISRAELI-IRANIAN CONNECTION SEEN IN EFFORTS TO GAIN RELEASE OF U.S. HOSTAGES IN LEBANON By Margie Olster**

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 (JTA)-- The United States may have received the cooperation of Israelis in supplying American weapons spare parts to Iran in efforts to negotiate the release of American hostages in Lebanon, according to an Israel Radio report.

The broadcast said that Robert McFarlane, former National Security Advisor to President Reagan, met with Israeli officials, including David Kimche when he was Director-General of the Foreign Ministry until last month when Yitzhak Shamir replaced Shimon Peres as Premier under the national unity government's rotation agreement. McFarlane and Kimche are reportedly very friendly. The Israel Consul General in New York was not available for comment.

Earlier this week, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hajatolislam Hashemi Rafsanjani, announced that McFarlane and four other Americans made a secret mission to Iran in September offering American spare parts.

Sources in the U.S. government confirmed that the Administration was involved in an ongoing

ing effort to allow spare parts to reach Iran through third parties in efforts to win Iranian assistance in controlling terrorism, according to press reports.

Rafsanjani was quoted in the Iranian and American press as saying that McFarlane and four unidentified Americans arrived last September on a plane loaded with spare parts, posing as crew members. Iran reportedly purchased the equipment from international arms dealers. McFarlane and his four escorts were reportedly held in a hotel room for five days and then deported.

#### Background Detailed In JTA Series

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported in a series dated October 21, 22 and 23 on a court case involving a \$2.5 billion arms sale of American weapons to Iran by international arms dealers including Israelis.

In the case, 17 defendants, four of them Israelis, are charged in a New York court with conspiracy to sell some \$2.5 billion worth of American-made weapons and spare parts to Iran through a third party.

Attorneys for defendants in the case filed papers in court contending that high-ranking U.S. Administration, State Department and Pentagon officials considered and eventually approved covert arms sales of American military hardware to Iran.

The lawyers said the U.S. officials had used some of the defendants, who were international arms merchants, as intermediaries to sell the arms to Iran.

The defendants in the case negotiated with an Iranian who they said posed as a buyer for the Iranian government but who was actually acting as an informant for the U.S. government. That man, Cyrus Hashemi, is the cousin of the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who first released the story on McFarlane's visit.

#### Acknowledgement By U.S. Government Sources

Government sources in the U.S. have acknowledged that Teheran was promised, in exchange for assistance in getting the American hostages in Lebanon released, that the U.S. would not block the sale of surplus American arms and spare parts to Iran from third parties, according to reports this week.

Although there is no ostensible link between the McFarlane caper and the court case involving the Israeli arms dealers, the most recent reports seem to confirm much of what the lawyers in the case have alleged in regard to the U.S. government's involvement in third-party sales of American surplus military hardware.

For example, in the JTA report, sources in Washington were quoted as saying one motivation for opening up covert arms sales to Iran might be to cultivate the more moderate elements in Iran. Wednesday, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig said publicly that he did not doubt that the U.S. is trying to cultivate the moderate elements in Iran.

JTA also reported on the case that U.S. officials were using middlemen like Israel to deliver the American weapons to Iran. The Israel Radio report also seemed to confirm these earlier comments by officials.

Sources in the government had acknowledged previously that an active debate existed between the different agencies of government on whether to open up the covert sales of weapons to Iran. The most recent reports back this up. ABC News

reported that the McFarlane mission had taken place with only the knowledge of the National Security office and a few high-placed officials.

Attorneys in the case of the Israeli arms dealers said that based on their interviews with defendants, the State Department, Pentagon and the Administration were the key governmental bodies deciding on the policies of arms shipments to Iran.

U.S. officials denied any roles in approving the deal in question in the New York City court case. But this week many U.S. officials seem much less reluctant to acknowledge that the U.S. has been working with Iran to free the hostages and, for the most part, the government has not denied that some arms shipments to Iran through third parties like Israel have taken place with the tacit approval of the U.S. government.

#### MEXICO'S CARDINAL VISITING ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Justice Minister Avraham Sharir met here Thursday with Cardinal Ernesto Korfio Omada, spiritual leader of 80 million Mexican Catholics, who is visiting Israel. He used the occasion to extend a formal invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit Israel. Omada will have an audience with the Pope in Rome after leaving Israel, to be followed by a meeting with King Juan Carlos of Spain in Madrid.

Omada's meeting with Sharir, who also heads the Tourism Ministry, was seen here as part of an overall effort to improve the atmosphere between Israel and the Vatican. The Cardinal called on Catholics to visit Israel and especially Jerusalem.

Omada was accompanied by senior representatives of the Catholic Church in Mexico and of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic lay organization.

#### THE CENTRAL CONSISTORY OF FRANCE HAS TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWN FROM CRIF IN A DISPUTE OVER THE ROLE OF THE WJC By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Central Consistory, which administers and represents most synagogues in France, has temporarily withdrawn from the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) to protest the latter's recent affiliation with the World Jewish Congress. The Consistory was sharply critical of the WJC's campaign to expose the Nazi past of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim which, it maintains, only assured Waldheim's election.

The Waldheim affair was cited by the Consistory as one example of what it sees as the WJC's tendency to act and claim to speak on behalf of world Jewry on major issues without prior consultation with the various Jewish communities it purports to represent.

The Consistory charged that the current WJC president, Edgar Bronfman, and the late Nahum Goldmann, former president of the WJC, were both guilty of this practice.

The Consistory, France's Jewish religious organization, is one of the three main constituents of CRIF. The others are the FSJU (Fonds Social Juif Unifié), which runs the United Jewish Appeal campaigns and is responsible for social and cultural activities, and the French Zionist Movement. CRIF joined the WJC last spring, to create the 'European' Jewish Congress, which has been headed since October 1 by CRIF president Theo

Klein. The campaign against Waldheim was launched by the WJC's New York office without bothering to sound out the various European communities, the Consistory charged. As a result, it triggered a strongly nationalistic backlash in Austria which propelled Waldheim to the Presidency.

Klein, meanwhile, dismissed the Consistory's withdrawal as "an episode without great importance."

#### ARAB GROUP IN THE UN CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR ITS PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS By Margie Olster

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Arab group in the United Nations Committee on Disarmament introduced a draft resolution Tuesday condemning Israel for its refusal to renounce the production of nuclear weapons in the country. The draft resolution also calls upon all states and international organizations to refuse to cooperate with Israel in the nuclear field.

The committee will vote on adopting the resolution next week.

The Arab resolution, which comes up in one form or another almost every year during the General Assembly session, followed a sizable report recently in the Sunday Times of London in which a former Israeli nuclear technician at the Dimona plant, Mordechai Vanunu, reportedly told the Times that Israel had been researching and developing nuclear weapons for 20 years.

The Israeli representative to the disarmament committee, Shalheveth Freier, said it is unreasonable to take political action based on unconfirmed news reports.

"By quoting newspaper reports or speculations on Israel's nuclear capabilities and making this out to constitute a danger, the group of Arab states simply seized on one more expedient in order to wage the multi-pronged campaign against Israel at the UN."

In response to the Arab allegation, Freier said such newspaper reports and speculation on the nuclear capabilities of many industrialized countries have become commonplace throughout the years. These speculations, however, do not constitute grounds for a UN resolution condemning Israel.

Freier cited a statement by the head of the International Atomic Agency who said that scientific knowledge and skills necessary to produce nuclear weapons are within the reach of almost any advanced industrialized nation.

Freier also said that Israel's expansion of nuclear technology should not be construed as a threat to the Arab nations. Israeli leaders have said repeatedly that Israel would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

#### GOLDFARB UNDERGOES A SUCCESSFUL FOUR-HOUR LUNG CANCER OPERATION

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Former refugee David Goldfarb underwent a four-hour lung cancer operation at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital Wednesday which his son Alex described Thursday as having been successful. David Goldfarb remains in the intensive care unit, but Alex said that his father was joking with visitors and is in a good mood. Alex, a microbiologist at Columbia University, also said Thursday that his sister Olga in Moscow told him in a telephone

call that Soviet authorities told her to call back in a week for an emergency visa to visit her father in New York. "This is good news," he said. David Goldfarb had written a letter last Sunday from his hospital bed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asking that his daughter and family be permitted to join him as a humanitarian gesture.

David Goldfarb, 67, a retired geneticist, was released suddenly from his Moscow hospital bed last month upon the personal intervention of U.S. Industrialist Armand Hammer with Soviet leaders, and immediately flown to the United States with his wife Cecilia. His release followed a long campaign for his freedom by Alex.

David Goldfarb has been suffering from severe complications of diabetes, including partial amputation of his foot. Goldfarb lost his other leg as a Soviet war hero in the Battle of Stalingrad during World War II. He also suffers from heart disease and is due to undergo further surgery sometime in the future, Alex said.

#### SOLON WARNS AGAINST RELIGIOUS RIGHT

WALTHAM, Mass. Nov. 6 (JTA)-- Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) warned here that the religious right and its allies in Congress and the Administration are waging relentless war against individual liberties and freedom of thought and urged activism to thwart their agenda for the country.

Metzenbaum, speaking at Brandeis University's first Founder's Day convocation Sunday, quoted the university's namesake, the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis who always cautioned against public inertia in preserving liberty.

Today, the Senator said, religious extremists are threatening freedom in America. Libraries and schools across the country are under attack. "All over the country, would-be censors are trying to purge libraries and public school curricula of every fact and every idea they see to be in conflict with their religious views," Metzenbaum said.

"In the name of combatting secular humanism, these crusaders for conformity have tried to use the paper shredder on the works of Shakespeare and Steinbeck, Homer and Mark Twain."

In Congress, Metzenbaum said, "we've faced sustained campaigns to ban abortion and to permit state-sponsored prayer in public schools. We've seen the spectacle of rightwing Senators circulating to prospective nominees for the federal bench a questionnaire designed to measure ideological purity. And from the very highest quarters, we've heard voiced the pernicious, dangerous theory that the Bill of Rights does not apply to the states." Metzenbaum was referring to recent remarks by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Activism "in defense of the separation of church and state, of the rights of women...and racial and religious minorities," is urgently needed, he said, adding, in a quotation from Justice Brandeis, "the greatest menace to freedom is an inert people."

Metzenbaum also reminded his audience that to be a Jew in America is never to accept the status quo. "I'm not convinced that we dare as Jews in America or as Americans to glory in the status quo," he said.

Brandeis University, the first American institution of higher learning under secular Jewish auspices, announced its first nationally organized capital campaign to raise \$200 million.

## TWO PROMINENT JEWS OFFER DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO ATTAIN A PEACEFUL WORLD

By Andrew Muchlin

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- In a hostile world capable of obliterating itself with nuclear weapons, what can concerned Jews do to wage peace? Two Jews renowned for their own such efforts offered different approaches here Thursday.

Nobel peace laureate Elie Wiesel, an author and lecturer, suggested words as a limited, but the only, tool for peace. "...I am much more pessimistic than many of you. I used to believe that words can work wonders. I no longer believe that," he said.

"I do believe that the best language available to human beings is still words. When words fail, what replaces them as a form of communication? There's only one available form -- violence -- so we must use words, and in this area, we Jews have been masters."

Speaking to 375 people at the presentation of the Jewish Peace Fellowship's second Abraham Joshua Heschel Peace Award at the Lindenbaum Jewish Community Center, Wiesel pondered why the issue of peace "hasn't penetrated the Jewish community to a sufficient degree ... Somehow the Jewish community turns off. It's not ready to listen, let alone act."

### A True Measure Of A Jewish Humanity

The reason, he postulated, may be a feeling of helplessness. "I agree there is something to that," he said, considering the god-like powers of the leaders of the U.S. and USSR to begin the destruction of the world with the push of a button. "We must stop that international death wish that exists occasionally in society," Wiesel stated.

Even with words well used, he doesn't foresee imminent and complete change. "I don't believe that we can change the course of human destiny now," he said. "But I do believe that if we continue together, we shall have more people like us."

In Israel, this compassion could catch fire with Jews and Arabs, he predicted, causing "an awakening of their own humanity toward each other." Wiesel stated that the true measure of a Jew's humanity is his or her attitude toward Palestinians.

### The Role Of Action-Oriented Activities

Rabbi Bruce Cohen, the recipient of the Heschel peace award, embodies that attitude in his work, Interns for Peace. The 10-year-old program has placed 73 Arabs and Jews from Israel, the U.S. and other countries in more than 25 Jewish and Arab villages in Israel.

During their one or two-year placements, the interns first learn how to act as catalysts for peace. Then they attempt to develop educational, social, recreational or community development projects that Cohen said involve their Arab and Jewish participants on equal footing. The program has directly affected 8,000 people, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and indirectly thousands more.

Rather than utilizing words for peace, as Wiesel suggested, Cohen advocates "direct and concrete experience" manifested in cooperative activity. However, his intended result jibes with Wiesel's: a geometrically increasing cadre of

people imbued with compassion and empathy, willing to seek peaceful solutions to conflict.

"By focussing on action-oriented activities, not words, we believe we're influencing the future," he said. "You really cannot appeal to groups to come together out of simple, pure altruism, morals or ethics. Rather, you can bring together different groups ... to join in projects that benefit both parties equally."

The most successful Interns projects become integrated into the daily lives of the villages, he explained. Cohen hopes to reorganize the program to maintain 30 interns in the field and thus expand its programs and add participants from throughout the Middle East.

The peace award is named for late rabbi and educator known for his integration of theology and efforts for peace. He was involved with the fellowship, in opposing the Vietnam war and in the civil rights movement.

His daughter Susannah Heschel, an author, recalled at the ceremony her father's participation with Dr. Martin Luther King at the crucial civil rights march in Selma, Ala. The family feared for the rabbi's safety, but he returned home unscathed and undaunted. She recalled that he told his family, "I felt like my legs were praying."

## MAZEL TOV TO THE SHCHARANSKYS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- A 5.2 pound baby girl was born by Caesarian section to Avital Shcharansky, wife of Soviet Jewry activist Nathan Shcharansky, at Misgav Ladach Hospital here Thursday morning. It is the first child of the couple who were reunited last February after Nathan spent nine years in Soviet prisons and labor camps.

The proud father told reporters at the hospital shortly after the birth that his daughter is "a very beautiful little girl." He went so far as to say she is "an exact copy" of her dad. The infant will be named at a religious ceremony this Sabbath.

## CLASSES OUT AS TEACHERS WALK OFF JOBS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- There were no classes Thursday for tens of thousands of school children from the third grade up as teachers walked off the job for the second successive day to protest the late payment of their salaries.

Most teachers had in fact received their October checks by Thursday. The walkout was to express solidarity with those who did not. Meanwhile, the Education and Finance Ministries continued to argue over the disbursement of funds from the education budget.

The Finance Ministry insists there are sufficient funds available to pay all teachers on time. The Education Ministry contends that it needs the monies for other priorities and will not accept dictation from the Treasury.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- U.S. military aircraft will land 800 American soldiers in Israel later this month to bring the American contingent of the United Nations peace observer force in Sinai up to full strength. Military transports are being used for the first time because of the crash of a chartered civilian plane over Newfoundland last December which killed 248 marines on their way home from duty in Sinai.