

# REPORT CLAIMS THAT ISRAEL WAS A CONDUIT FOR W. GERMAN ARMS TO IRAN

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- West Germany supplied arms to Iran as early as 1973 but channeled them through Israel in order to keep the deals secret at a time when Bonn officially embargoed arms sales to areas of tension, including the Middle East, according to reports that surfaced here over the weekend.

Die Welt, a leading conservative daily, reported that in 1973, Iran, then ruled by the Shah, obtained rights to produce two West German tank cannons and the ammunition for them. A year later, West Germany shipped 58,000 hand grenade fuses to Iran, through Israeli channels, the paper said.

Israel was used to avoid embarrassment and to head off possible Arab criticism. Israel was then governed by a Labor-led government. The information is based on government leaks to counter an opposition campaign against the sale of submarine blueprints to South Africa.

The conservative government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl apparently seeks to show that previous governments led by the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) had a record of selling arms to any country, regardless of officially stated policies. Shipments were also made to Chile, Argentina and Peru.

## BACKGROUND REPORT A CASE OF MURDER OR ANTI-SEMITISM?

By Edwin Eytan

BESANCON, France, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- In this provincial city of 100,000, tucked away in the Jura mountains 400 kilometers southeast of Paris, nine out of 10 of the inhabitants had never heard of William Nakash, a 25-year-old French Jew of North African origin, of Avraham Sharir, the Justice Minister of Israel, or of the fierce legal battle that erupted in Israel when Sharir refused last week to extradite Nakash to France for the crime of murder.

Now, however, the case is front-page news. The local daily, "Le Republicain De L'est," devoted a full page to it last Friday and the police, the city fathers and the townsfolk, including the tiny Jewish community, are angered by the obloquy heaped on Besancon and its citizens by Nakash's defenders.

Nakash, known to his friends as "Vivi," was convicted in absentia by a French court for the murder, with two accomplices, of 20-year-old Abdelali Hakkar, an Algerian Arab, on the night of February 24, 1983.

He was given a life sentence, a formality under French law when a defendant flees the country. The law provides for automatic re-trial when the fugitive is apprehended.

Nakash fled to Israel under an assumed name. Only after he was arrested there for attempted robbery did his identity become known and France requested extradition. Suddenly, he was surrounded by supporters. Nakash, who claims to be a Baal Tshuva, has been passionately de-

fended by Orthodox Jews and rightwing nationalist elements.

They have depicted him as a hero who killed an Arab in self-defense, a "nationalistic" act forced on him by unbearable harassment by Jew-hating Arabs, abetted by a climate of rampant anti-Semitism in Besancon.

## Sorting Out The Facts

Was that true? This reporter visited Besancon to find out what happened on the night of the murder, the background and motivation for the crime, and the political climate here. And, is Besancon indeed known for its anti-Semitism or racist feelings?

The court minutes of the trial of a 24-year-old Algerian, Hassen Hamoudi, one of Nakash's accomplices, provided some answers. In May 1984, Hamoudi was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. The second accomplice, Charlie Mimi, a 23-year-old youth of mixed race, was arrested in Miami, Florida, on April 15, 1985 and will go on trial here January 16.

The charge sheets against the three suspects, interviews and on-and-off-the-record conversations with police officials, prosecuting attorneys, local reporters and some of the city's 500 Jews yielded more information.

The police inspector who was in charge of the case, a veteran of the Paris Serious Crimes Squad, confessed to be "deeply surprised" by the agitation and political turmoil.

"Without a shadow of a doubt," he told this reporter, the murder was "a straightforward settling of accounts which got out of hand. Vivi, a small-time hoodlum who tried to play the tough guy, got carried away...There was no racket, no gang warfare. Politics? Anti-Semitism? You must be out of your mind to imagine something like this. Atoush (the victim's nickname) would probably not have found Israel on a map and cared as much about politics as about last winter's snow."

## 'Revolted' By Insinuation Of Anti-Semitism

Jacques Lorach, president of the Besancon branch of LICRA, the International League Against Anti-Semitism, told this reporter he was "revolted" by insinuations that Besancon might be a hotbed of anti-Semites.

Lorach, a 72-year-old lawyer, served as Deputy Mayor for 25 years. "Never in all my life, and certainly not in my political career, have I heard or been told about any anti-Semitic remark," he said. "Not even my bitterest political opponents, including the extreme right, have ever tried to use this weapon (anti-Semitism) against me."

Lorach's wife, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen who lost most of her family at Auschwitz, founded a local museum in honor of French Jewish deportees in the Citadel which overlooks the city. It is one of the largest and most impressive memorials to the Holocaust outside the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

It was financed exclusively by the city and the regional authorities. The museum covers four floors and has a staff of more than 20. At its entrance, carved in rock, stands a figure repre-

senting the Jewish deportees, a gift of the region's best known sculptor, Gerard Oudinot.

Ironically, Oudinot's son was guilty of the only anti-Semitic manifestation known in Besancon, one seized upon by Nakash's defenders in Israel as "proof" of an anti-Semitic atmosphere. The young man posted a sign outside a cafe he owned saying "Jews and monkeys are forbidden to enter this bar." He was sued by LICRA and fined 5,000 Francs.

"There might be anti-Semites in Besancon--we cannot read into peoples' hearts," Lorach said. "All I know is that after the Rue Copernic Synagogue bombing (in Paris in 1980) over 3,000 people marched in protest through this city's streets." There are 150 Jewish families and fewer than 500 Jews in Besancon.

#### Background Of Local Jewish Community

About a third of them came here from North Africa in the 1950's and early 1960's. They have had integration problems. Besancon is a cold city, climatically and psychologically. But those who spoke to this reporter said they encountered no anti-Semitism.

What of Nakash's family? Its first member to arrive in Besancon was Vivi's older brother, Marco, born in 1954 in Setif, Algeria, when it was still a Department of France. The entire family moved to France after Algerian independence. In 1958 they settled in Bagneux, a poor and dreary Paris suburb.

Marco worked as a clerk, then as a salesman at a flea market. In 1976 he was arrested and sentenced for pimping. After serving time, he arrived in Besancon and took a job as a waiter at a restaurant/bar owned by a Jewish family from Algeria, the El Beze brothers. One of the latter reportedly has a criminal record.

#### Hoods Work Over Recalcitrant Patrons

Later, Marco opened a bar of his own in partnership with an Alsatian Catholic couple. It was called "The Select." Like other bars in town, it catered to a working class, and, in some cases, criminal clientele. When patrons failed to settle their bills, musclemen were hired to "collect."

One of the bar's problem customers was Hakkar, who drank a lot, didn't pay and boasted of it to his friends. He was known locally as a hoodlum. According to Hassen Hamoudi's testimony at his trial, Vivi Nakash asked him and Charlie Mimi to help his brother Marco deal with the problem. The three of them were childhood friends from Bagneux.

Police stressed that Nakash would not have asked an Algerian Arab, Hamoudi, and Mimi, a mulatto, to help if his reasons for attacking Hakkar were political.

#### Guns Obtained In Paris

The three obtained guns in Paris. According to Hamoudi, they planned to use them in a hold-up and to give Hakkar no more than a thorough beating. Police tend to believe that version. After tracking down Hakkar on the night of February 24, they chased him. For some reason they panicked and opened fire. When police reached the scene of the shooting, Hakkar was dead with 14 bullets in his body.

The murder was quickly solved, but by then Nakash had fled to Israel and Mimi to Florida. They got away because of a jurisdictional mixup at police headquarters between the city and

regional police. Hamoudi was arrested a few days later in the south of France.

Janine Simonin, a non-Jewish lawyer who has close ties to the Jewish community here, said she was "horrified" by what she read and heard about the defense put up for Nakash in Israel.

As for anti-Semitism in Besancon, she recalled that when the Israeli Ambassador, Ovadia Soffer, visited the city last year "he was welcomed like a king." The museum of the French Jewish deportees was decorated with huge Israeli flags. "Can anyone doubt our city's feelings toward Israel?" she asked.

On Monday, Israel's Supreme Court will decide whether or not to overrule Justice Minister Sharir's decision not to deport Nakash.

#### **GROUP CLAIMS NAKASH IS 'MILITANT' WHO WAS FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- A newly formed "Committee Against the Extradition of William Nakash" claimed at a press conference here Sunday that the fugitive from French justice had been a member of an organization of Jewish militants fighting a wave of anti-Semitism in France.

Nakash, 25, was convicted and sentenced in absentia for the 1983 murder of an Algerian Arab in the French city of Besancon, southeast of Paris. According to his cousin, Albert Nakash, who appeared at the press conference, the killing was not a criminal act but the act of a "militant Jew" fighting Arab terrorism and anti-Semitism.

He said William Nakash belonged to a group of Jewish militants in France known as Tel Hai and that an even more militant Jewish group, Pessah, was active there. Neither the Committee nor Albert Nakash offered any proof of their claims. They cited Palestine Liberation Organization statements of sympathy for the murdered Algerian.

Nakash has drawn support here from Orthodox and rightwing nationalist circles who oppose extradition. They maintain that if he is returned to France to serve the life sentence imposed on him, his life would be endangered by Arab prisoners. Justice Minister Avraham Sharir ruled last week against extradition and ordered Nakash released from custody. The ruling has been appealed to the Supreme Court, which is expected to render a decision Monday.

#### **POLISH-ISRAELI RELATIONS**

BRUSSELS, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski of Poland said here that his country cannot re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel under existing conditions, though it was moving in that direction. Israel and Poland recently established mutual interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv, respectively.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a two-day official visit to Belgium, Orzechowski maintained that the causes that led Poland to break ties with Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War still exist. He cited the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian issue.

"The conditions must be created in the future to make possible the renewal of relations with Israel. Our position since we broke off relations has been clear and unequivocal," the Polish diplomat said.

# BRAVVES ARRIVE IN THE U.S. By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Former refusenik Rimma Bravve arrived in New York Friday after what she called "waiting for this day to come for eight years." Speaking in fluent English, the 32-year-old woman, who is suffering from advanced ovarian cancer, wiped back tears as she embraced her mother, Khanna Anbinder, whom she had not seen in six years.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Bravve at a press conference at JFK Airport here Friday afternoon. This sentiment was echoed by her petite mother, a retired pediatrician who has been living in Rochester, NY, since 1980.

Bravve and her husband Vladimir, who emigrated with her, were met by a large retinue of supporters, including her sister, Larisa Shapiro, a computer scientist living in Rochester who accompanied her sister from Vienna; Larisa's husband, Boris; Leon Charny, a Soviet emigre who has been publicizing Bravve's plight as well as that of his brother in Moscow, Benjamin Charny, another cancer patient refusenik; Gerald Batist, a Montreal oncologist who has worked tirelessly since last spring for Bravve's release and that of other cancer patients; and Sens. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) and Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ), both instrumental in pushing for their release.

Also in attendance were members of the Rochester Jewish Federation, who wore placards with photographs of other cancer patient refuseniks.

The Bravves received their visas December 16 following a month-long period of publicity after the Soviet Ambassador to the Helsinki Accord follow-up talks in Vienna announced their visas and following which the Bravves repeatedly sought to obtain these visas, which were delayed.

## 'Victory Of Hope Over Despair'

The attractive young couple flew to Vienna last Thursday, accompanied on their flight from Moscow by Sen. Gary Hart (D. Colo.) who, while visiting the Soviet Union, met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Bravves were accompanied by D'Amato on their return flight from Vienna. The New York Senator had been in constant contact with their family, as well as with Leon Charny and Batist, about the other cancer patients.

D'Amato eased the Bravves' immigration process and customs clearance with the State Department in Vienna. He was there as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which did preparatory work for the Helsinki talks.

D'Amato called Bravve's release "a victory of hope over despair, a victory of courage over indifference and a victory of love over disdain." He remarked on the coincidence of Bravve's release and that of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, who was told by phone Friday by Gorbachev that his six-year internal exile in the closed city of Gorky was ended and he could return to Moscow.

Sakharov's wife, Yelena Bonner, also exiled to Gorky, was pardoned for her "anti-Soviet activities," for which she was convicted in 1984.

"We hope," said D'Amato, "given the news about Dr. Sakharov and his wife, that maybe Mr. Gorbachev is beginning to move toward a new era." He added, "We watch hopefully, expectantly."

In Vienna, D'Amato told a news conference with the Bravves that he will continue to press for the release of the cancer patient refuseniks who seek to be reunited with their families in the West. He said that "One can't but wonder if you can trust a government on international issues such as arms control when they continue to abuse their own citizens."

## Another Cancer Patient Allowed To Leave

In a related development, cancer patient Inna Meiman, 53, was told last Thursday that she can leave for treatment of a tumor on her neck. However, her husband, Naum, 75, who is also reported ailing, will not be allowed to accompany his wife. Hart spoke to Gorbachev specifically about Meiman's case during his Moscow talks with the Soviet leader.

Rimma Bravve wore a placard with Meiman's photograph as she spoke to the press Friday at JFK Airport. "I left in Moscow my friends, who are still awaiting the decision of their fate, while every day -- every hour -- is important for them." She spoke specifically about every cancer victim awaiting a visa, including Charny, 49, and Meiman, both of Moscow, Leah Maryasin, 61, of Riga, and Yuri Shepizman, 54, of Leningrad.

Anbinder, brushing away tears and hugging her daughter, told the press that "since seeing Rimma and Volodya (Vladimir's nickname), a hope exists that others will not suffer so much the way my daughter did."

Larisa Shapiro told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that waiting so long for her sister's release, during which time she flew to Vienna and attended several press conferences, "was like pulling on a long, long rope" and waiting to get to the end of it.

The entire retinue, including D'Amato, flew from JFK Airport to Rochester, where Rimma will be medically evaluated at the University of Rochester Medical Center. An oncologist there, Dr. Jackson Beecham, has offered to treat her.

## POLICE SEARCH TWO YESHIVAS FOR WEAPONS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Police searches of two yeshivas here last Friday failed to yield explosives or the type of offensive weapons suspected of being concealed on the premises, police sources indicated Sunday.

The targets of the raids were the Shuvu Banim Yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter of the Old City and the Diaspora Yeshiva on Mount Zion. Large quantities of material were removed from both, but their nature was not disclosed.

The raids followed the arrest of Shuvu Banim student Moshe Shalgi after a police chase late last Wednesday night. He was released on bail by a magistrates court despite a police request that he be remanded in custody.

Shalgi is suspected of participating in recent attacks on Arabs and in a new wave of arson against bus stop shelters that carry advertising posters offensive to ultra-Orthodox Jews. A bus shelter in the Romema district was set on fire last Thursday morning, the sixth such attack in recent days.

The Shuvu Banim Yeshiva, run by the Breslav Hasidim, was the school attended by Eliahu Amdit, whose stabbing death on November 15 touched off a week of attacks on Arabs and their property by Orthodox Jews.

## REAGAN BECOMES ALUMNUS OF YESHIVA U.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- President Reagan is now an honorary alumnus of Yeshiva University. He was inducted into the university's ranks during a special White House ceremony last Thursday honoring the institution's centennial. Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the university, presented Reagan with a Doctor of Laws degree.

The private reception in the Cabinet Room marked the first time that a Yeshiva University delegation had been invited to the White House. The event also marked the first time the university had conferred an honorary degree upon an incumbent President, although John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon received honorary degrees from the institution before they were elected to the presidency.

After receiving the honorary degree, Reagan saluted the university, America's oldest and largest under Jewish auspices, and said, "Its history, representing as it does both freedom of secular inquiry and freedom of religion, is the story of America."

### The Citation To Reagan

Lamm, who is completing his first decade as president of the university, read a special citation and conferred the degree upon Reagan. The citation read, in part:

"As President, you have placed the stamp of your unique personality on a new era in our great country. As a unique American institution, Yeshiva University is proud to celebrate its 100th birthday in that era. Yeshiva University draws confidence from the confidence of the Reagan era -- and we are confident that this larger confidence will neither fail nor falter.

"A Jewish sage once said, 'When a man is able to take abuse and not respond in kind, he is worthy to become a leader upon whom the sun will shine.' Even during crises and criticism, you have never wavered from basic human decency, you have never lost your sunny sense of humor, and we know you will never permit a passing cloud to dim the luster of your leadership."

In addition to the citation, Lamm also presented Reagan with a sterling silver menorah in honor of the Chanukah holiday season. He also gave a facsimile of a letter written in 1818 by Thomas Jefferson in which the former President of the United States decried anti-Semitism and religious intolerance.

Leading the university delegation were three officers of the institution's Board of Trustees: Herbert Tenzer, chairman of the Board; Stanley Stern, vice chairman; and Max Etra, chairman emeritus. Dr. Israel Miller, senior vice president, chaired the ceremonies.

Two Yeshiva University alumni serve as major government officials -- Max Kampelman, chief U.S. negotiator at the Geneva arms control talks, and Judge Abraham Sofaer, U.S. State Department Legal Advisor.

### Reagan: Mazel Tov

In September, in a letter to the university, Reagan declared that Yeshiva University "has maintained a tradition of excellence and creativity." The President concluded by stating: "Nancy joins me in wishing you Mazel Tov and another 100 years of success."

The ceremony at the White House was another in a series of special events commemorating the centennial of the university, which has

grown from a tiny yeshiva into what is today an international, multi-faceted university.

Last September, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp honoring Dr. Bernard Revel, the university's first president. At the university's centennial convocation, Secretary of Education William Bennett extolled the university as a model for other educational institutions. To date, 18 states have issued official proclamations in honor of the centennial.

Yeshiva University comprises 15 schools, divisions, and affiliates. There are five undergraduate schools, seven graduate and professional schools, and three affiliates with campuses in New York, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem. Total enrollment is some 7,000 men and women. The full-time faculty numbers nearly 1,400.

## A MESSAGE FROM REAGAN TO GORBACHEV

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- President Reagan told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik that "sustained improvement in Soviet human rights performance, including the treatment of Soviet Jews, is indispensable for an improvement in overall U.S.-Soviet relations," it was reported here last Friday.

At a news conference, Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, made public a letter he had received from the White House in which the President described his conversations with the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in Iceland last October.

The President's letter, dated December 5, states: "Please accept my assurances that the tragic circumstances of Soviet Jews will continue to be an issue of the highest priority in all our dealings with the Soviet Union." He added: "We will not forget how much they suffer because of their desire to live in freedom and practice their religion without persecution, and we will do everything in our power to help them."

Asserting that "the plight of Soviet Jewry is a matter of deep personal concern to me and to the other members of the U.S. government," Reagan said in his letter to Abram: "Private organizations such as those you represent make an important contribution to our efforts to bring about an improvement in the human rights situation in the Soviet Union. Your commitment and activism provide a concrete example of how deeply Americans care about human rights and freedom of movement."

Of his conversations in Reykjavik, the President wrote: "We discussed with the Soviets many areas in which progress is possible, such as regional issues and the vitally important area of arms control. I made it very clear to the Soviet leaders, however, that sustained improvement in human rights performance, including the treatment of Soviet Jews, is indispensable for an improvement in overall U.S.-Soviet relations."

"The American people simply will not have it otherwise," Reagan wrote.

\* \* \*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The film "Avanti Popolo," set against the background of the 1967 Six-Day War, will be Israel's candidate for an Oscar in the category of "Best Foreign Film" of 1986, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry informed the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles.