

**O'CONNOR INDICATES VATICAN-ISRAEL RELATIONS COULD DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE**  
By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- John Cardinal O'Connor seemed to indicate here Monday, after an informal meeting with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, that he thought Vatican-Israel relations could develop in the future.

The New York Archbishop, on the final day of his visit to Israel which began Thursday, breakfasted with Peres at the latter's home. Pressed by reporters afterwards on Vatican-Israel relations, he remarked: "I have found, contrary to disappointment I found in New York, I found here that the Foreign Minister is open to an extraordinary number of possibilities."

He did not elaborate on the "possibilities" but said "My understanding is that until the Holy See is satisfied that those concerns (regarding the status of Jerusalem and its holy places) can be appropriately resolved, it will maintain its current position."

The Vatican's position not to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital put considerable strain on the Cardinal's visit. He would not meet with Israeli leaders in official capacity at their offices here. He stressed repeatedly that his hour-long meeting with President Chaim Herzog at the Presidential residence Sunday evening and his breakfast with Peres Monday morning were strictly private and unofficial.

At the same time, he apologized profusely to the Israeli people and government for the constraints imposed by Vatican policy.

**The Nature Of The Meeting**

Peres, for his part, implied that the nature of his meeting with O'Connor was in the eyes of the beholder. "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and it makes no difference if anybody recognizes that fact or not," he said. "And if someone comes to me and says I am coming to you as a private individual -- so what? Does that make me a private individual?"

He said his hour-long talk with O'Connor covered a wide range of issues, including the situation in the Middle East.

The Cardinal, who wore plain clerical garb on his visit to Peres, as he did when he called on Herzog the previous evening, said, "I was primarily returning a very friendly, courteous visit which the Foreign Minister, when he was Prime Minister, made on me when he was in New York... I say publicly that I consider Mr. Shimon Peres a friend and am just delighted that we had this opportunity. I had hoped, from the beginning, that I would be able to return that call, as he was the one who invited me to Israel."

O'Connor was referring to Peres' visit to him at his residence in New York last October, when the invitation to come to Israel was extended.

Following their breakfast meeting, O'Connor went to the Gaza Strip where he toured churches and the offices of refugee relief groups supported by an organization he heads in New York. He also visited recent immigrants from Ethiopia living in

villages in the Negev. The prelate will fly to Rome Monday night. Earlier, he summed up his visit for reporters. "I think I have a much clearer understanding for my own personal reflections, of the problems that have impinged upon the potential of formal diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Israel," he said.

Of his impressions of Israel, O'Connor observed that he had "met a number of Israeli people, a number of officials of the government, very informally. I have been deeply impressed by what seems to be their sincerity. I hope I have conveyed a very clear impression of affection and respect, and indeed, love for the Jewish people and for Israel."

**LEUKEMIA VICTIM RECEIVES BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT FROM HIS SISTER**  
By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Michael Shirman, a 32-year-old leukemia victim, received a bone marrow transplant from his sister, Inessa Flerova, at Hadassah Hospital here Sunday, in a final attempt to save his life.

The outlook, however, is not good, according to doctors. Although the chances for success are best when the donor is a sibling, Shirman's condition deteriorated seriously during the long wait while his sister sought to obtain an exit visa from Soviet authorities to come to Israel. She first applied last February. Shirman immigrated to Israel in 1980.

His sister was finally granted a visa in November after the Soviet authorities relented and allowed her husband and their two daughters to accompany her. Shirman himself had urged her not to come without her family because she might never see them again.

Shirman's case drew international attention, especially after he appeared at Reykjavik last October, during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting, to appeal directly to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to intervene to grant visas to his sister and her family. Although he did not get to see Gorbachev, Moscow came under intense international pressure because of the humanitarian aspects of the case. Later, Shirman came to Washington and renewed his appeal at a press conference on Capitol Hill.

The transplant procedure was further delayed after his sister's arrival in Israel two months ago because of extensive tests that had to be made and because of Shirman's weakened condition.

**TARNOPOLSKY FAMILY TOLD THEY CAN LEAVE THE USSR**  
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Ten-year refusenik and former Prisoner of Conscience Yuri Tarnopolsky has been told that he may leave the Soviet Union with his wife, Olga, and daughter, Irina. Tarnopolsky was called to the OVIR emigration offices in Kharkov on December 31 and told they would be allowed to emigrate. The information came from Nancy Rosenfeld of the Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, which has been pressing for Tarnopolsky's release for almost four years.

Chicago Action is a member organization of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, also involved in the case.

In addition, the plight of dissident chemist and poet Tarnopolsky has been the subject of an international campaign of scientists and government leaders, especially in France, where former Prime Minister Pierre Maurois personally travelled to the Soviet Union in recent months to speak with Soviet authorities specifically about Tarnopolsky.

Tarnopolsky, 50, spent three years in prison and a labor camp for "fabrications which defame the Soviet state and social system." His arrest was part of a policy of increased harassment of emigration activists in Kharkov, which began with the 1981 sentencing of refusenik Alexander Paritsky to a three-year term in a labor camp.

Tarnopolsky, Paritsky and other Kharkov activists had set up an unofficial "Jewish University" in Kharkov for children of refuseniks who were not permitted higher education because of their parents' applications to emigrate. Paritsky is an acoustics physicist.

After Tarnopolsky and Paritsky were arrested, the university was closed by Soviet authorities and there ensued a series of apartment searches, police detentions and interrogations, and threats of criminal prosecution of remaining Kharkov activists.

#### First Applied To Emigrate In 1976

The Tarnopolskys first applied to emigrate in 1976 and were refused in 1979 on the basis of "insufficient kinship" abroad. As a result, Yuri Tarnopolsky lost his job as a full professor at the Polytechnical Institute in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. He was subsequently prevented from working in his field, organic chemistry, about which he authored over 60 scientific papers.

Despite everything, he continued to speak out publicly against the state of refusal of all Jews who sought to emigrate, and wrote an account of refusenik life, "Description of a Disease," describing refuseniks as "an oppressed Jewish minority ... created in the USSR," denied protection by "the Soviet constitution and Soviet law" and whose "fate is in the hands of the secret police."

Tarnopolsky also writes poetry, "about everything," said former refusenik Tanya Bogomolny, a Russian-English translator who described Tarnopolsky's poetry as "among the best I've ever read from any writer."

Bogomolny, who spoke out on behalf of Tarnopolsky as soon as she arrived in San Francisco in October, had expressed interest in translating his works into English to help his campaign.

Tarnopolsky's poetry has been translated into French. While Tarnopolsky was in the labor camp, a group of prominent French poets issued an appeal on his behalf.

#### The French Connection

Moves to pressure the Soviets to free Tarnopolsky began in France in October by Maurois, who, as Mayor of Lille, had "twinning" his city with Kharkov. Maurois travelled to Moscow in October with aides and spoke to Politburo members about Tarnopolsky. Maurois was advised by the Kremlin not to travel to Kharkov to see Tarnopolsky and Paritsky, which was his original plan. Instead, he sent his aides.

On December 4, Rosenfeld in Chicago got a call from Paris from a committee of concerned scientists and was told that the Soviet Embassy in Paris had just contacted Maurois, saying that a decision on Tarnopolsky would be made in two months.

On December 24, Tarnopolsky was summoned to OVIR by its chief, where he was told that they had not made a decision and asked him to reapply for an exit visa. He refused and told them to work with his existing application. That night, he was visited by what he described as a member of the militia, who had also visited his neighbors and asked questions about him.

Exactly one week later, Tarnopolsky was called back to OVIR and told that his entire family had permission to emigrate. Rosenfeld said they are hopeful they will be able to leave in about two weeks.

#### **NUDEL'S APPEAL FOR FREEDOM PUBLICIZED BY A NOTED HISTORIAN By Susan Birnbaum**

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- An appeal to the West by refusenik Ida Nudel has been publicized by British historian Martin Gilbert. Gilbert, who campaigns worldwide on behalf of Soviet Jews and has written several books about them, wrote a letter on Nudel's behalf for the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Gilbert read this letter, which includes Nudel's appeal for freedom, at a gathering in Tel Aviv on December 25 commemorating Prisoners of Conscience Day. At that time, Gilbert and Natan Shecharansky placed a phone call to a Moscow apartment in which refuseniks and former Prisoners of Conscience were gathered to discuss their present situation in light of the pardon of Andrei Sakharov.

The dissident physicist and spokesperson for human rights and Jewish refuseniks and prisoners was allowed to leave his six-year exile in the closed city of Gorky and return to Moscow with his wife, Yelena Bonner, who was also pardoned. Nudel is exiled to the closed city of Bendery.

"With the return of Academician Sakharov from Gorky to Moscow," Gilbert wrote, "a leading dissident and courageous spokesman for human rights has been allowed home. Jews throughout the world recall with gratitude his long and outspoken championship of the right of the Jews of Russia to be reunited with their people in Israel ..."

"Academician Sakharov returns to Moscow, but one of those Jews on whose behalf he many times protested, remains in enforced exile in southern Russia, in the remote town of Bendery ... Ida Nudel ... first applied to leave Russia for Israel in the very year, 1971, in which Sakharov set up his Human Rights Committee."

#### 'Remember Those Who Are So Far Off'

Gilbert noted that in Nudel's letter of appeal she "writes of that festive moment when the people of Israel, and Jews throughout the world, light the candles which symbolize the resistance of the Maccabees."

Nudel wrote: "Remember those who are so far off, so isolated by distance and hostility ... whose life is being destroyed now in punishment cells, half hungry, half getting frozen for no crime at all, but only for being a Jew. Remember those who, despite persecutions and harassment, will celebrate our holiday, who will light up

candles, who will tell their children about the history and dignity of the people they belong to."

Gilbert, writing from Oxford University, asked, "Is it beyond the ability of the Western world to end her sixteen-year separation from the Jewish State, to enable her to light the candles of freedom next year at her sister's side?"

# PERETZ ACCUSES REFORM JUDAISM OF 'DESTROYING ISRAEL'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Outgoing Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, who formally resigned Sunday, accused Reform Judaism of "destroying Israel" and maintained that the recognition of Reform conversions was the "greatest tragedy which has befallen the people of Israel."

Peretz, who heads the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, offered those opinions in a "farewell interview" on Israel Radio Monday. He resigned rather than comply with a Supreme Court order to register as a Jew Shoshana Miller, an American immigrant converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in the U.S. four years ago.

"Those people (the Reform communities in Israel) are destroying Israel. They are bringing the Jewish people to destruction, to assimilation. Why do the government heads not wake up? Where are they?" asked Peretz who is an Orthodox rabbi.

He accused the government of "dealing with trivialities in the face of the greatest danger ever facing Israel—even more serious than Israel's defense problems, or the economic situation or the tax reform question."

According to Peretz, "The day will come when this government will stand before the historic judgement of the people of Israel. The day will come when this government will have to answer because it is about to give official approval for the entrance of Reform organizations into Israel."

Meanwhile, no successor has been named for Peretz. The Interior portfolio, traditionally held by a member of an Orthodox party, will be placed temporarily in the hands of Premier Yitzhak Shamir pending the appointment of a new Minister.

# KNESSET UNIT AGREES TO NEW REQUEST BY RELIGIOUS PARTIES TO HOLD A DEBATE ON 'WHO IS A JEW' ISSUE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The Knesset Presidium agreed Monday to a new request by the religious parties for another debate on the controversial "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return.

Under Knesset rules, a proposed measure can be brought up for debate six months after being defeated, as was the case with the Who is a Jew amendment when it last came up for a vote in the Knesset in 1986.

The Labor Party immediately expressed angry opposition to the attempt to revive the measure. It accused Likud of putting it on the agenda without prior consultation with, or agreement by its main coalition partner.

Under the coalition agreement, all of its members must consult with the Premier and Vice Premier on the timing of such an initiative. Laborite Rafael Edri, chairman of the coalition

Knesset faction, was furious with the religious parties in the coalition for failure to comply with the agreement.

Likud must vote against the amendment, he said. Labor has made clear that it will vote against it en-bloc, the position taken by the Labor Party caucus and in its election platform. Only Rabbi Menachem HaCohen, the Labor Party's spiritual mentor, was given dispensation on this issue.

The motion for debate was presented by Avner Shaki of the National Religious Party, Rabbi Avraham Werdiger of the Poale Agudat Israel and Avraham Shapira of the Agudat Israel.

The religious lobby seeks to amend the Law of Return, which confers automatic citizenship on every Jew desiring it, by defining a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted "according to halacha." The last phrase would render invalid conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The amendment has been voted down consistently over the years. The religious bloc apparently believes it will have Likud support this time and will try to push the amendment through this week. Likud has indicated support in an effort to persuade Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, to withdraw his resignation.

# Another Controversial Amendment Pending

The Shas Party is planning to introduce another controversial amendment in the Knesset this week that would circumvent the high court's ruling in the Miller case. It would give rabbinical courts in Israel the right of approval of all conversions performed abroad.

Critics charged that this is a back-handed attempt to establish the Who is a Jew amendment as law without voting directly for it. The religious bloc admits it would be a satisfactory alternative. It is assumed that Peretz would return to the Interior Ministry if it is passed.

The chances of both bills are unclear. Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday he would support still another proposal by Shas to do away with designations of nationality on identification cards. He said that would solve the issue of endorsing conversions without dividing the Jewish people by amending the Law of Return.

# U.S. SEEKING TO GROUND THE LAVI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli officials said Monday it could take some time before a final decision is reached on American proposals for an alternative to the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane.

U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Dov Zackheim, who arrived here Sunday night, is expected to propose at least five alternatives to the Lavi which the Pentagon believes is too costly to produce. Zackheim met Monday with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was accompanied by Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy and Air Force Commander Gen. Amos Lapidot.

Any decision on the future of the Lavi is not likely before Rabin's scheduled meeting with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in Washington at the end of February. While Rabin may have an answer for the Americans at that time, final decision is expected only after a full debate on the issue by the Knesset plenum.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
AN ACADEMIC TO BE ISRAEL'S  
NEW AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN**  
By Milton Jacoby

MADRID, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami, head of Tel Aviv University's School of History, has been designated to replace Samuel Hadass as Israel's Ambassador to Spain. Hadass will be returning to Jerusalem as soon as his successor has been formally confirmed by the governments of Israel and Spain, and arrives in Madrid to assume his important post.

The new envoy, who is a Laborite and a friend of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, is a noted scholar of Iberian history, and has written and lectured extensively on the subject. Born in Tangiers, Morocco, in 1943, he has lived in Israel since 1955.

A graduate of Tel Aviv University, Ben-Ami received his doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University and then returned to his alma mater as a lecturer in modern history. He has had a long-term association with the Staff and Command College of the Israel Army, and has also served as advisor to the army's National Security College. Since 1982, he has officiated as head of his university's School of History.

One of Ben-Ami's specialties has been the study of Spanish and Portuguese history and culture and he has lectured in this field in the United States, Mexico and Colombia.

The appointment of a distinguished academic, rather than a career diplomat, to an important Ambassadorial post is not without precedent in Israel. Jewish leaders in Madrid and Barcelona are looking forward to Ben-Ami's arrival with keen interest.

**ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION  
TO HALT PROSECUTION OF MILITARY  
JUNTA MEMBERS CAUSES DISMAY**

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith expressed its dismay at the Argentine government's decision that will close the door on the prosecution of those responsible for atrocities committed under the former military regime.

The law, submitted to Congress by President Raul Alfonsín and known as "Punto Final" (full stop), establishes a 60-day deadline for the submission of indictments against persons involved in the abduction, torture, and disappearance of thousands during the military rule from 1976 to 1983. Alfonsín signed the law on December 26.

According to the ADL, similar action has been approved in Uruguay, where President Julio Sanguinetti last month signed a law approved by the Chamber of Deputies providing total amnesty for those responsible for human rights violations during the military regime from 1973-1985.

Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the ADL and head of its International Affairs Division, said that while his agency commends the Alfonsín administration for bringing to trial members of the military junta and other select officials, "we deplore the recent legislative actions that would prevent military personnel and others from being brought to justice in Argentina and Uruguay. Those guilty of murder, torture and anti-Semitism in the jails ought not go unpunished."

Foxman added: "Commitment to justice through law is essential -- not only for the sake

of the memory of the disappeared and all those who suffered under military rule -- but also for the sake of the future of continued democracy in Argentina and Uruguay."

**4 SLA SOLDIERS KILLED**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Four soldiers of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were killed Monday and two were injured when a roadside bomb exploded near Markabe village in the south Lebanon security zone.

The SLA unit, on a routine patrol, came upon three persons acting suspiciously and gave chase when the bomb consisting of several kilograms of high explosives was detonated under them. The incident brought to 10 the number of SLA soldiers killed in the past week. Six died last week in a Hezbollah attack on their positions in Barashit village.

Bases of Hezbollah in two south Lebanon villages were targets of an Israel Air Force helicopter attack Sunday. Hezbollah (Party of God) is a pro-Iranian Shiite terrorist group.

The SLA has suffered 101 fatalities since the Israel Defense Force withdrew from Lebanon two years ago, leaving it the task of policing the security zone.

**EGYPTIAN JEW WHO HID IN A CELLAR  
FOR 22 YEARS DIES AT AGE 82**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Cesar Yaacov Douek, an Egyptian Jew who hid in a cellar for 22 years, died in Cairo Sunday at the age of 82, Israel Radio reported.

Douek went into hiding in 1957 when then Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser ordered Jews expelled from Egypt in the aftermath of the Sinai campaign. He concealed himself in the cellar of his sister's house. She had married an Egyptian attorney and converted to the Moslem faith.

Douek emerged from hiding when the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed in 1979. But he rarely left the house after that because of advanced age.

**IRAN CONDEMNS NOBEL PEACE  
PRIZE AWARD TO ELIE WIESEL**

OSLO, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Norway released a statement condemning the Nobel Peace Committee for its "historic mistake" in awarding its prize to Elie Wiesel, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

The Embassy released "an official statement" which said: "The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing 'deep regret,' condemns this historic mistake of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Committee and hereby demands to know how a man who supports the racist regime which has usurped and occupied Palestine can be the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize?"

The statement added: "This selection by the Norwegian Nobel Peace Committee once again revives the painful memory of a few years ago of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Sadat and the criminal Begin." President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel were co-winners of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978.