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**PERES: ISRAEL MIGHT NOT BE AVERSE TO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST TALKS IF IT EASES PLIGHT OF ITS JEWS**  
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres indicated here Thursday that Israel considers Soviet action to ease the plight of Jews in the USSR more important than the restoration of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union.

He hinted that such action could ease Israel's objections to Soviet participation in an international conference on Middle East peace. Israel is not averse to Soviet participation, he said, but Moscow must "pay the price" by making its own peace with Israel, and Israel's top priority is the rights and well-being of Soviet Jews.

Addressing an audience of Anglo-Jewish leaders, Peres recalled that Israel raised that issue at the brief meeting between Israeli and Soviet representatives in Helsinki last August and the Russians were furious that a small country dared to lay down conditions to a superpower.

The Russians wanted to discuss the status of Russian Orthodox Church properties in the Holy Land, Peres said. "Aren't people more important than property?" he asked. "We hope they (the Soviet leaders) will change their attitude toward Russian Jews. Then we won't place so much importance on having Russian diplomats in Ramat Gan." Ramat Gan is a suburb of Tel Aviv where many embassies are located.

Peace Process With Jordan

Peres also stressed the need to maintain the impetus of the peace process with Jordan. He claimed that Israel has "paved the way" by modifying its policies in the West Bank.

The Israeli Foreign Minister called for British and European economic aid to Jordan and other Arab countries of the Middle East suffering economically from the drop in oil prices. "At the gates of hunger you'll always have an assembly of bitterness and revolt," he warned. He referred also to the Iraq-Iran war which he called a no-win situation.

"Victory for Iran will pose a religious menace for the Arabs. If Iraq wins, it will be a religious menace to the (Arab-Israeli) peace process," Peres said.

Meeting With Thatcher

He delivered his address before going to meetings with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and with leaders of other political parties. Thatcher is preparing to visit Moscow in about six weeks and Peres is apparently seeking her good offices to probe Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's attitude toward Israel.

But his main purpose of meeting with Thatcher is apparently to build on the good relations he established with her when he was Prime Minister of Israel during the first two years of the unity coalition government.

**THEATER CANCELS ANTI-SEMITIC PLAY**  
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- The Royal Court Theatre announced Wednesday night that it has cancelled the presentation of a play which depicts Zionists as collaborators with the Nazis in the mass destruction of Hungarian Jewry during World War II.

The play, titled "Perdition," was due to open shortly for a five-week run at the prestigious West End theater. It was withdrawn following angry protests by the Jewish community and by scholars and historians who branded it a vicious travesty, after reading the script.

The playwright, Jim Allen, is a Trotskyist who makes no secret of his antipathy for Zionists though he claims to be pro-Jewish. "Perdition" is based loosely on the desperate attempts of Jewish leaders in Budapest to save Jewish lives by offering the Nazis trucks and money during the last year of the war.

Dr. David Cesarani, a London University historian, called the play "one of the most serious examples of anti-Semitic thinking seen in this country for many years. It revives the anti-Semitism that goes back to 'The Merchant of Venice.'"

Allen called the cancellation "an absolutely disgraceful form of censorship" and accused the Royal Court of succumbing to pressure. The cast also deplored the cancellation. Allen is reportedly looking for another theater to stage his play.

**ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM DROPPED 7 PERCENT IN 1986, ADL SURVEY SHOWS**

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Acts of anti-Semitic vandalism, including bombings and arson, directed against Jews, Jewish institutions and property totaled 594 across the United States in 1986 -- a drop of 7 percent from the 638 incidents reported in 1985.

Assaults, harassment and threats against Jewish individuals and institutions showed virtually no change in 1986 -- a total of 312 such incidents as against 306 reported in 1985.

These were the principal findings of the annual audit conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and made public Thursday. The survey described as "troubling" a rise in serious anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses, up from 12 in 1985 to 19 in 1986.

According to Burton Levinson, ADL's national chairman, the overall 1986 figures reflect a general downward trend in anti-Semitic incidents over the past five years which "in all likelihood is due to passage of anti-bias crime laws, more vigorous law enforcement and counteraction programs." In the past few years, 29 states have adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing ethnic vandalism, many of them based on ADL model legislation.

The ADL audit revealed that New York, with 186 vandalism incidents (down from 199 in 1985)

led the nation, followed by Florida with 79 (up from 47 in 1985), California, 62 (down from 85) and New Jersey, 48 (down from 74). Fifty-seven arrests were reported in connection with 33 vandalism incidents across the country compared to 78 arrested in 48 vandalism incidents the year before. As in past years, the overwhelming number of those arrested were in their teens.

Particularly noted was the fact that despite efforts by anti-Semitic extremists to scapegoat Jews for the economic hardships of farmers, the number of vandalism incidents in the Midwest's major farm states remained low and showed no significant change.

#### Incidents On College Campuses

The 19 anti-Semitic incidents reported on college campuses included the vandalizing of sukkahs at four colleges, the defacement of Jewish student property, the painting of anti-Semitic graffiti on campus buildings, and harassment of Jewish students stemming from friction with supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization and other anti-Israel groups.

Noting that the anti-Semitic incidents took place against a background of recent increases in racial incidents on campuses, the audit said that "any expression of prejudice or atmosphere of intolerance toward any minority at any education institution merits urgent action."

The ADL's survey, the eighth since 1979, was based on data reported in 33 states and the District of Columbia as gathered through the monitoring activities of the agency's 31 regional offices.

The audit report was prepared by the Research Department of the ADL's Civil Rights Division headed by Justin Finger.

In a section on counteraction, ADL described a new legal approach taken by Shaare Tefila, a Maryland synagogue, which was defaced by anti-Semitic graffiti and is seeking damages under the Civil Rights Act of 1866 that bans racially motivated discrimination. ADL has filed an amicus curiae brief in the case which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### **ORT DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL**

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) has developed some innovative programs for certain segments of the population in countries where ORT operates, according to a report by American ORT Federation (AOF) president Alvin Gray, which he will present at the organization's national conference here on Saturday.

Gray, who will complete his four-year term in office at the conference, cited a series of courses recently developed in Israel available to the police force, ultra-Orthodox communities, youth groups, and prison inmates whom the staff of the ORT institute teach under a pilot program in conjunction with the Israel Prison Authorities and Hebrew University.

The courses, conducted by the ORT Institute for Adult training in the ORT Israel network, the largest ORT operation worldwide, tailors many programs to new immigrants from underdeveloped countries who may have been denied a formal education. Courses, designed to give them a second chance to learn or to change occupations, are conducted on a continuing basis in fields that include Jewish studies, computers, electricity,

electronics, mechanics and accounting. Discussing the program involving prison inmates, Gray said the project provides advanced education and skills training to 400 prisoners in six jails who have successfully completed basic courses in reading, writing and mathematics. ORT staff members go to the prisons five times a week to teach Hebrew, history, civics and a foreign language, usually English.

ORT has also introduced a basic course in technology which enables graduates to join technical training programs after their release from prison. Upon completion of the program, inmates receive a certificate of graduation from ORT which enables them to compete with other high school graduates when they seek employment.

According to Gray, ORT Israel also provides assistance to troubled high school dropouts in over 50 Israeli towns through an innovative program called HILA. Conducted by ORT in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Education and Culture and local municipalities, HILA provides basic education and skills to high school dropouts aged 15 to 18, one-third of whom have difficulty in reading and writing.

Study sessions take place at students' homes, community centers, or at ORT schools, and are planned for afternoons and evenings to avoid conflict with the students' work schedules. The study program, which varies in length from three months to a year, is planned individually for each participating youngster according to his or her potential, knowledge and field of interest. The curriculum is jointly planned, thus involving the students as active participants in the learning process.

#### New ORT School To Open In 1988

According to Gray, construction of the ORT Braude Institute of Technology in Karmiel, Israel, due to open in January 1988, is proceeding on schedule. Located in the Western Galilee, the Institute will provide high-level technological education in computers, electronics, robotics, energy studies, bio-technology, electro-optics and the pure sciences. The Braude Institute honors the memory of the late Max Braude, director general of the World ORT Union from 1957 to 1980.

Gray noted that recent additions to the ORT Israel network include: the ORT program at Habonim Comprehensive School in Bat Yam, offering both liberal arts and technical studies; the ORT school in Katzrin, formerly a junior high school, which has expanded to become a regional comprehensive high school; the new ORT Apprenticeship Center at Kiryat Malachi, which offers training in computers, auto mechanics, electro-mechanics and sewing; and a new ORT junior high school program in Karmiel, slated to expand to a comprehensive high school in the near future.

During the four-day Conference, which began Thursday, some 500 delegates from AOF chapters and divisions throughout the U.S. will participate in discussions geared to determining the future direction of support for the ORT global network of schools and training centers, which provide vocational, technical and Jewish education to over 158,000 student, 87,000 in Israel alone.

The guest speaker at the conference banquet will be Prof. Ephraim Katzir, newly elected president of the World ORT Union and former president of Israel. In his report, Gray described the work of ORT in countries around the world.

In Latin America there are 13,800 students in Argentina, 8,800 in Brazil, 1,500 in Chile, 3,300 in Mexico, 5,000 in Peru, and 7,900 in Uruguay. In France, ORT educates 8,500 students and in Italy ORT students number 4,500. Gray said that in France, at the request of the Ministry of Employment, ORT set up vocational training courses for long-term unemployed, geared toward the needs of local industry and commerce.

According to Gray, ORT's growing presence in the United States is increasingly in the area of adult and continuing education. At the Bramson ORT Technical Institute in New York City, which provides training in technology-intensive fields such as biomedical electronics, computer operations and advanced optics, more than 400 percent of the student population is over the age of 25.

The Los Angeles ORT Technical Institute, which began its second academic school year in October 1986, offers short-term courses in hi-tech skills as well as Jewish studies to adults looking for a new career or a fresh start in life. The Jewish High School of South Florida continues to pioneer programs for integrating computer education into all aspects of the curriculum.

### WIESEL REFLECTS ON THE STATE OF WORLD JEWRY

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Elic Wiesel delivered his State of World Jewry address to a packed house at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan Wednesday night and expressed his concern about the disunity within Jewish ranks.

"I am disturbed by the inner process of polarization," he reflected, "... by the rancor and hatred ... the turning of politics into religion or religion into politics." He observed that "Even Hillel and Shammal sat down at the same table together ... and let their children intermarry ... We need to know that we are brother and sister. Somehow, this isn't so. Have we forgotten our tradition of tolerance?"

In this vein, he struck a chilling chord by linking the issue of the failure of Allied leaders to save Jews during the Holocaust -- a word which he coined but which he said he doesn't like anymore -- and the problem of disunity among Jews. "So little was done to help Jews during the war," he said, "because there was so little unity among the Jews themselves."

His address, which also dealt with Israeli-diaspora relations, Soviet Jewry and international terrorism, was delivered with his usual fervor but was also punctuated with levity and wit.

During the question period, Wiesel was asked for his definition of "Who is a Jew." His response was: "To me, a Jew who links his destiny to the destiny of his people is a Jew. I don't need to go further." But he also observed that "I cannot imagine a Jewish people without a religious commitment."

### Israel And The Diaspora

The world-famed author and lecturer and winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize addressed himself at length to the relationship between Israel and diaspora Jewry and the resistance of Israelis to accept as fact Jews who don't wish to live in Israel. This rift, he said, puts diaspora Jewry "on the defensive." "The diaspora poses problems," Wiesel reflected. As a child growing up in the Carpathian mountains, "Had anyone told me

there would be a Jewish State, I would not have believed it. But had anyone told me there would be a Jewish State and I wouldn't live there, I'd believe it even less."

The dual pull in the Jewish psyche is troubling, he agreed. "We have to constantly confront this. And there is no answer. I admit it," he said. "The Israelis resent us... What does it really mean that someone should be measured by where he lives?"

"Sure," he said, "the diaspora is unnatural to Israel," but, he asked, "What do we do with the self-imposed obligation to help Israel?"

Matters in Israel, he said, are as important to Jews in the diaspora as events happening on the next street. But as residents of the diaspora, "Do we have the right or duty to take a position on Israel's policies?"

### Cautiously Optimistic About Soviet Jewry

Wiesel spoke also about Soviet Jews, who are united in the Soviet Union against a common oppression, "united with a solidarity that is inspiring."

He expressed cautious optimism about the situation of Soviet Jews, but did not refrain from criticizing the Soviet regime. "True," he said, "the Kremlin has harshened its position, but some refuseniks have been freed." Soviet Jews now know, he said, that "they are not abandoned ... They are not in danger of disappearing," he said. We know "how to touch them, to reach them."

He was optimistic about several aspects of the plight of Soviet Jewry, including the fact that there are now reportedly only a dozen Prisoners of Zion, and that the anti-Zionist propaganda machine has lost much of its clout. "If it's not heartwarming," he said, "at least it's not terrible."

He spoke less of the Holocaust than expected, noting, however, that "the subject that was once taboo for so many years" is now a focal point. He mentioned "the new wave" in Germany "not to deny the tragedy but to normalize it--the philosophy of (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl and the new historians."

### War And Terrorism

Wiesel warned against the evils of war for the world and especially for Jews, because "Whenever there is conflict between two nations, the Jews are their first victims."

In an era of terrorism, he said, Jews are singled out as hostages just because they are Jews. Citing the killings of Jews in Lebanon in the past year only because they happened to be Jewish, Wiesel read out the names of eight Jews murdered. "They should be remembered," he said.

### Presented With An Award

Wiesel's concern for issues of justice beyond the Jewish garnered him an award Thursday morning, when he was presented with the Freedom Award of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) by IRC international vice president actress Liv Ullmann, "for his lifelong commitment to refugee assistance."

The IRC provides emergency medical health, education and relocation assistance to refugees in Pakistan, the Sudan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Central America and Europe.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
AN OLD MAN CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN  
By Murray Zuckoff**

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- An old man who was the practicing Chief Rabbi of Lodz from the late 1940's to about 1979 wants to return for occasional visits to his home, but the Polish government won't let him.

Rabbi Zev Moreino, who now lives in Brooklyn and has a small congregation, says he doesn't know why the Polish government will not allow him and his wife to return. Friends and sympathetic legislators who have intervened on his behalf have not been able to get a straightforward answer from Polish officials, and, on the face of it, even Polish officials no longer seem to remember why he won't be allowed to return.

Moreino's and his wife's Polish passports have expired and the Polish government refuses to renew them. Both retain their Polish citizenship and a huge apartment in Lodz with hundreds of books that are moldering.

**'To Fulfill My Holy Obligations'**

The Polish-born rabbi, described by some as an outstanding intellectual, with an acerbic wit, a prolific writer who is prone to disputations and vitriolic prose when attacking enemies, and a champion of lost Polish Jewish causes, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he wants to return to Lodz occasionally "to fulfill my holy obligations" to the roughly 350-member congregation he left behind some 15 years ago when he came to the U.S. after strikes of the Gdansk port workers toppled the autocratic leader of the Polish Communist Party, Wladyslaw Gomulka.

The tall, gaunt, intense, white-bearded rabbi who is well into his 70's, said that until five years ago he was able to visit Lodz for a few weeks each year to meet with his congregation but that his passport has since expired. He said that as Chief Rabbi of Lodz he was also the president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland and claimed that as the only ordained Orthodox rabbi he was also, by extension, the Chief Rabbi of Poland.

Since he can no longer return, there is neither a Chief Rabbi nor a community religious leader. "I am being persecuted without having been tried," he said, "nor is there any seeming motivation for being deprived of the opportunity to return," he said in Yiddish, Hebrew and in faltering English.

**Dispute With Polish Authorities**

But there does seem to be a reason, albeit unofficial and unspoken, for the Polish government's refusal to renew his passport. A student of the Lodz Jewish community who met the Chief Rabbi in Lodz and in New York and spent considerable time talking with him, said that Moreino and Polish authorities had been in dispute over a number of issues.

According to the student, Moreino has been involved over the years in a campaign to have the Polish government pay compensation to the Jewish community for hundreds of buildings which were owned by Jews before World War II but which were declared "heirless" after the war. Moreino feels that compensation for these properties--former schools, hospitals, communal buildings Talmud Torahs -- should be paid to its rightful

owner to be used as needed to revitalize Jewish education and culture.

According to the student, Moreino has also criticized the Polish government for its insensitivity to Jewish needs, not only for its attitude toward the former Jewish properties but also for its neglect of Jewish cemeteries, many of which are in a state of disrepair. Moreino also crossed swords with government bureaucrats. The student cited one small incident:

An official of the state-owned telephone company came to Moreino's home one morning to tell the rabbi that he would not install a long-awaited phone. Moreino, dressed in the traditional garb of an Orthodox rabbi, stood his ground. He argued with the man in fluent Polish for a few minutes and convinced him to install a phone right there and then.

**Appeals On Behalf Of The Rabbi**

Earlier this month, New York City Councilman Noach Dear urged Mayor Edward Koch to look into the rabbi's situation while visiting Poland this week where his parents were born. Dear wrote to Koch pointing out that the refusal of the Polish government to renew Moreino's passport "is an intolerable discrimination not only in regard to the Chief Rabbi and his Rebbetzin, but also in respect to the entire Jewish population in Poland, deprived of the services of their one and only rabbi in that country."

New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind also appealed to Koch to intercede, noting that the rabbi's plight might be construed by some "as an effort to liquidate the only rabbinic office in Poland."

Moreino and his supporters in the U.S. have pointed out that the rabbi is asking no more for the Polish Jewish community than that accorded in other East European countries where Jewish communities have their own leaders and spokespersons. Moreino cited Rumania specifically where the Jewish community has a Chief Rabbi and spokesperson in the government, Moses Rosen. After all, Moreino reflected, it's not too much to ask for.

**2 SENIOR IDF OFFICERS  
DISCIPLINED IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE DEATH OF A UNIFIL SOLDIER**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Two senior officers of the Israel Defense Force have been disciplined as a result of the death of an Irish UNIFIL soldier by Israeli tank fire in the south Lebanon security zone on January 10, the IDF announced Wednesday. The officers were not identified.

In addition to the disciplinary measures, the nature of which was not stated, the IDF has reportedly issued new operational instructions to its units based on lessons learned from the incident and is examining new methods of identifying and safeguarding positions and personnel of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Irish soldier, Dermot McLaughlin, 33, was killed when an Israeli tank squad opened fire on suspected terrorist positions in Barashit village where a UNIFIL command post is located. Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy called the incident a "shameful mistake." Meanwhile, McLaughlin's widow angrily rejected an Israeli offer of 60,000 Pounds in compensation. She called it "arrogant, insensitive and ill-timed." McLaughlin was the father of five children.