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**ISRAEL AND HUNGARY TO EXCHANGE  
RESIDENT TRADE REPRESENTATIVES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Israel and Hungary will soon exchange resident trade representatives, Israel Radio reported Sunday citing authoritative sources here.

The report followed a statement over the weekend by Jozsef Gyorko, head of the Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Department in Budapest, that Hungary is interested in ties with Israel, though it was "not timely" to speak of full diplomatic relations.

Israel Radio also disclosed a meeting two months ago between Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon and Hungary's Minister for Foreign Trade, Peter Verecz. Trade between Hungary and Israel is estimated at about \$20 million a year.

Hungary broke diplomatic relations with Israel, as did all Communist bloc states except Rumania, after the 1967 Six-Day War. Recently there have been signs of a thaw. Israel and Poland established interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv, respectively, late last year. But full diplomatic ties seem elusive at present.

Israeli observers have noted a marked easing of travel access to Hungary by holders of Israeli passports in recent years. Many Israelis of Hungarian origin have visited their former homeland as individuals or in organized groups.

There are an estimated 80,000-90,000 Jews in Hungary today, the largest Soviet bloc Jewish community outside the USSR. Although they enjoy relative religious freedom and have a lively cultural life, the Hungarian Jewish community is eroding due to a high level of intermarriage and assimilation.

**HISTADRUT TO PARTICIPATE IN  
EFFORT TO AID FAMILIES OF PEOPLE  
WHO DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The Israeli branch of an international body set up to aid the families of the 30,000 people who disappeared during the rule of the military junta in Argentina during the 1970's will be headed by Histadrut, Israel's labor federation.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar, who made the announcement over the weekend, urged other Israeli organizations to join. Addressing leaders of the Organization of Argentine Mothers of Missing People, Kessar said Jews must be as sensitive as other people all over the world to the fate of the missing in Argentina.

An estimated 3,000 of the missing were Jewish, many of them teenagers.

**O'CONNOR SAYS HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL  
PAVED WAY FOR CHANGES IN RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND ISRAEL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- John Cardinal O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, said over the weekend that his recent visit to Israel would bring about changes in relations

between Israel and the Vatican. But he cautioned that they would be slow in coming.

In a Voice of Israel Radio interview from New York, O'Connor said the Vatican was moving in the right direction with respect to Israel but noted that changes in Vatican policy were historically very slow.

O'Connor's five-day visit here earlier this month was fraught with controversy and embarrassment because the Vatican, which has no diplomatic relations with Israel, does not recognize the status of Jerusalem as its capital. As a result, O'Connor was forced to cancel meetings he had scheduled with Israeli leaders at their Jerusalem offices.

He did, however, meet with President Chaim Herzog and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at their respective residences.

**LAWYER OF AN ISRAELI SENTENCED TO  
DEATH IN EGYPT APPEALS TO MUBARAK**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- An Israeli lawyer is appealing to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to grant clemency to an Israeli, Yosef Tahan, who was sentenced to death in Cairo last year for allegedly smuggling drugs into Egypt.

Tahan's attorney, Zvi Lidsky, said he would hand the appeal over to the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv Sunday and go to Cairo himself if necessary to try to see Mubarak. He said his appeal is based on humanitarian grounds. Tahan, a resident of Ashdod, is the father of four children. A letter from them will accompany the appeal.

According to reports from Cairo, Mubarak is not expected to approve Tahan's execution nor will he grant a pardon. This could leave the man in prison for years with the death penalty hanging over him. Tahan was arrested at the Cairo airport in August 1985 with 1.35 kilos of heroin. He was on his way home to Israel from India.

At his trial, he said he intended to market the drugs in Israel.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW  
BLACK-JEWISH COALITION SEEN  
RENEWED IN THE AFTERMATH OF A  
CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH IN GEORGIA**

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Blacks and whites, Christians and Jews, 15,000-strong, joined the largest civil rights march Saturday in Cumming, Georgia, since Martin Luther King, Jr. led the 1965 march in Selma, Alabama.

The march marked a reaffirmation of the Black-Jewish coalition for civil rights which blossomed in the 1960's, according to Rabbi A. James Rudin, American Jewish Committee director of interreligious affairs, who was a featured speaker at the march.

Rudin called the march an awesome display by Americans asserting their right to march and demonstrate peacefully anywhere in this country.

Saturday's march came exactly one week after the little town of Cumming, population 2,000, was the scene of a smaller but more violent march, brought to an abrupt and premature

halt when Ku Klux Klansmen hurled bottles and rocks at an interracial brotherhood march.

Within a week, civil rights leaders, Jewish community leaders and Christian clergy organized a massive response to the violence. But the outpouring of support overwhelmed the organizers who did not expect the huge turnout, Rudin told the JTA Sunday after returning to New York.

A convoy of some 200 buses carried the marchers from their meeting point in Atlanta to the outskirts of Cumming in Forsyth County, north of Atlanta. But they were not the only ones demonstrating Saturday. Several hundred counter-demonstrators, a handful of them Klansmen donning white sheets, awaited the demonstrators in Cumming behind a human wall of security forces.

### Rabbi Describes The Scene

Rudin described the scene as the buses neared Cumming.

"It was one of the only times in my life I feared for my physical survival. We saw the security forces on the roof with automatic weapons," Rudin said. "Then I saw about 15 men in white sheets, some of them extending their right arms in a Nazi salute. The bus got very quiet, very tense. I had seen pictures of them. But it was the first time in my life I had ever seen the KKK in their white sheets, in broad daylight with the Confederate flags and the Nazi salutes."

Rudin rode in a leadership bus, the second in the convoy, which also carried slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.'s widow, Coretta Scott King. "We had been warned about snipers who might want to hit the leaders, especially Ms. King," Rudin said.

After reaching the starting point of the march, Rudin and other leaders addressed the march in front of the county courthouse.

"Once again, our nation has seen the ugly face of racism and bigotry, this time in Forsyth County, Ga., but fear and intimidation will never stop Americans of good will from asserting their right to assemble peaceably," Rudin told the marchers.

"I am proud to represent the American Jewish Committee in this historic march. Bigots and racists everywhere must learn that Americans who stand for justice and equality will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to eradicate racist hatred from our midst."

### Shocked By Racist Shouts And Slogans

As the marchers moved through the streets of Cumming, the counter-demonstrators on the other side of the human security wall called out "Nigger lovers. . . go home Niggers. . . Commie faggots." Rudin said he was shocked to see one of them holding up a sign saying "James Earl Ray, American Hero." James Earl Ray assassinated King. Another banner proclaimed, "Trade with South Africa -- Our blacks for their whites." Some of the counter-demonstrators tried to spit on the marchers.

Some of the marchers flashed the V sign for love and peace. Some sang "We Shall Overcome."

Rabbi Alvin Sugarman of The Temple in Atlanta also addressed the march, and about 40 members of a Black-Jewish coalition from Atlanta participated.

### 1964 And 1987 Contrasted

Rudin contrasted the Cumming march with Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1964, where he marched for voting rights. The civil rights movement

has come a long way since then but is still fighting the battle. "We will do it again and again and again," Rudin said.

The most dramatic difference between 1964 and 1987, according to Rudin, was the support and solidarity of the security forces. He noted that the combined forces of the FBI, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, National Guardsmen, and local police were clearly supportive of the peaceful demonstration.

"In Hattiesburg, I looked on the local police and the sheriff as ambivalent. Whose side were they on? Saturday there was no question that the whole state apparatus was on our side."

### PERES SAYS ISRAEL WOULD SUPPORT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres asserted here Saturday that Israel would back an international conference for peace in the Middle East but warned that speed is essential in advancing the peace process because the Iran-Iraq war, continued unrest in Lebanon and Arab economic difficulties threaten to destabilize the entire region.

But while Peres, at separate meetings with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac, was elucidating in some detail the conditions Israel would attach to such a conference and how it might be organized, Premier Yitzhak Shamir flatly rejected the idea. An international conference "will not bring peace or blessings to Israel," he said. (See separate story.)

Peres, who arrived here from London Saturday, met with Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace for lunch and later conferred with Chirac. He met Sunday morning with Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. At those meetings he stressed Israel's desire to see the peace process resumed at the earliest possible time and maintained that the recent visit to the Middle East by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy succeeded in paving the way for an international peace forum.

### Three Points Must Be Settled

However, Peres told his hosts, three points must be settled: Israel considers the participation of the Soviet Union in a peace conference possible only after Moscow renews diplomatic ties with Israel and restores normal relations with the Jewish State.

Secondly, the duration of the conference should be settled in advance. The conference itself should be a strictly formal affair which would launch negotiations between the parties. Actual negotiations should be conducted by various subcommittees, for example, a Lebanese-Israeli subcommittee, another composed of Syria and Israel and a third of Israel, Jordan and a Palestinian delegation, Peres said.

Thirdly, he made clear that Palestinian representation must be by independent Palestinians prepared to accept Israel's existence and to seek a peaceful solution to their conflict -- not Palestine Liberation Organization delegates.

Peres reportedly told the French leaders, who themselves recently met with King Hussein of Jordan, that "Hussein is the key to peace" in the region and that Western Europe should use its influence to bring him to the negotiating table. Mitterrand and Chirac reportedly told Peres that

Hussein was prepared to attend an international conference but also felt some preliminary points had to be settled.

#### No Change In West Bank Policy

Peres said that Israel's policy in the administered territories has not changed since the rotation of power last October when Likud leader Shamir took over as Prime Minister. Israel still wants to improve the quality of life in the territories and ensure their economic development, with Jordan's participation, Peres said.

He said Israel would welcome European investments in the West Bank. Its only condition is that the investments be funneled through Israeli or Jordanian government-controlled bodies and not go to independent organizations which might serve as a cover for the PLO.

Peres met with French Jewish leaders Saturday. He said he was optimistic about Israel's future relations with the Peoples Republic of China but thought that much would depend on Moscow's attitude toward Israel. He said China would probably formalize its ties to Israel if the Soviets moved in that direction.

#### **SHAMIR REJECTS INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDEAST** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir strongly rejected an international peace conference on the Middle East over the weekend because, he maintained, at least three of the major participants -- France, the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union -- would demand that Israel withdraw to its 1967 borders. He thought that even the U.S. would insist on such a retreat, though it would probably agree to minor border changes.

Such a conference would "leave us isolated, confronting the whole world," Shamir said, addressing a seminar of Russian immigrants in Ramat Gan. It "will not bring peace or blessings to Israel. The only way to achieve peace is by direct negotiations without prior conditions," Shamir declared. His remarks underlined a fundamental division between Likud and the Labor Party, its partner in the unity coalition government.

#### **NCSJ INITIATES 'PRIORITY POC'**

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) has initiated PRIORITY POC, an intensive effort to free Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, it was announced by NCSJ chairman Morris Abram.

The project will be chaired by Constance Smukler, of Philadelphia, a long-time activist on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and a vice chairperson of the NCSJ.

The NCSJ will work nationwide, through local Soviet Jewry committees, to create a network of PRIORITY POC chairpeople. They, in turn, will create individualized community structures in order to:

- \* maintain regular communication by telephone, telegram and mail, with POC families in the Soviet Union and Israel, to gather information on the condition of the POC's, and the most effective ways to serve their interests.

- \* disseminate this information to political figures, business people, artists and prominent public persons planning trips to the Soviet Union.

- \* create a Calendar of Responsibility, containing names of POC's and special dates (wedding anniversary, birthday, first application to OVIR, arrest, trial, halfway point in sentence) to be used for publicity when making appeals on the behalf of individual POC's.

In addition, the NCSJ plans to meet with POC families during its Israel Seminar in March, and will work closely with the PRIORITY POC network, Abram said.

Smukler said she hopes that the actions of PRIORITY POC will serve as a deterrent to the incarceration of additional Jews in the Soviet Union, and a message of solidarity with POC families in the Soviet Union and Israel. "They must feel our presence in the camps," she stated.

Referring to a comment by former POC Natan Shchharansky concerning the fate of POC's, Smukler noted that Shchharansky and Anatoly Marchenko were both imprisoned at Chistopol. She stated that Shchharansky lived, and was freed, because he had "a world of Jewish support," and that Marchenko was not freed, and died in prison, because he had "a world of silence."

In creating PRIORITY POC, Abram stated, "The NCSJ wants the Prisoners of Conscience and their families to know that their welfare and ultimate freedom are of utmost concern to us. We want the Kremlin to know that we will not cease our efforts until all POC's are freed and allowed to emigrate, and those who have been released after serving their terms are also permitted to join their friends and relatives in Israel."

#### **MORE PROBLEMS FOR FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN OF BANK LEUMI**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The troubles of Ernst Japhet, former Board chairman of Bank Leumi, were compounded last week when a Tel Aviv district court seized all his assets in Israel.

The court acted on the petition of his former wife, Ella Japhet, to whom he was married for 35 years and who is the mother of his five children. But the assets, put at some \$2 million, are much less than the former wife expected. She is trying to find out if Japhet has additional assets overseas.

She also asked the income tax authorities to investigate whether he concealed assets from her at the time of their divorce settlement. As the complainant, she originally petitioned the court to award her half of the \$4.5 million severance payment awarded Japhet by the Bank Leumi directors when he stepped down last spring. She also asked for half of his \$30,000-a-month pension.

Two weeks ago the bank's Board resigned after expressing "horror" over the excessive compensation to Japhet who was forced to resign as a consequence of the 1983 bank shares scandal.

#### **INTER-CONTINENTAL ELECTRIC POWER**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- How does a high-tech plant on the outskirts of Jerusalem help the California Edison Co. supply electric power at maximum efficiency to some 50,000 homes in the Golden State 9,000 miles away?

The answer is remote control. Luz Industries, manufacturers of electronic equipment in Jerusalem, recently built huge reflectors in California's Mojave Desert to capture solar energy for conversion to electric power. They also installed computers to monitor sunshine and other climatic conditions, minute-by-minute.

## RABBIS URGED TO UNDERTAKE 'A MAJOR INITIATIVE' TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS DIVORCE

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, has urged his colleagues in all three trends of Judaism to "undertake a major initiative" aimed at solving one of the most vexing and divisive problems in Jewish community and family life -- the get, or religious divorce.

Lookstein, who is rabbi of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan, defined the central problems and offered solutions at the Board of Rabbis annual meeting here last Wednesday at which he was re-elected to another one-year term as president.

### The Central Problems

"The first problem concerns encouraging Jews to obtain a get prior to remarriage," he said. The second "results from a recalcitrant partner to a previous marriage who refuses to give or accept a get after a civil divorce has been granted."

The get is not a universal requirement. Many Reform rabbis will perform a second marriage where one or both of the previously married partners has not obtained a religious divorce. Orthodox and Conservative rabbis generally will not.

Lookstein pointed out that a second marriage where there has been no get is considered adulterous under Jewish religious law and the offspring of such marriages are "mamzerim"--illegitimate. "I appeal to all of my colleagues to compromise on this and to require a get before remarriage," said Lookstein, whose stated goal is to "avoid all future mamzerut in America."

He pointed out that illegitimate persons may never marry religiously into the Jewish community and have no recourse, such as conversion, to alter their status.

### Proposed Strongest Possible Sanctions

Lookstein called on the Board of Rabbis to resolve that none of its members should officiate at a second marriage unless and until every possible effort has been made to obtain a get for the partner who needs it.

With respect to the second problem, the Board of Rabbis president noted that "there are at present thousands of men and women -- mostly women -- who have received a civil divorce but who are prevented from entering a second marriage because of a vindictive or avaricious former-spouse who refuses to cooperate in the get process."

He proposed the strongest possible sanctions against such a spouse, including denial of all honors or privileges of membership in a synagogue or temple. "This kind of social pressure will have a great impact on recalcitrant spouses and may go a long way toward eliminating the problem," Lookstein said, adding that "the publicity alone which will attend the acceptance of such a proposal may greatly enhance the get process."

In urging that the get requirement be made universal in all trends of Judaism, Lookstein acknowledged "problems with the non-egalitarian

structure of a get." Under Jewish law only the male partner to the marriage can give a get. But "the problem of mamzerut is sufficiently grave to warrant a compromise on the issue of egalitarianism," Lookstein maintained.

Ironically, the issue of non-egalitarianism has arisen in connection with New York State legislation enacted several years ago, known as the Get Law, which is intended to protect women seeking a get from a spouse who refuses to give one.

The law requires that in order to obtain a civil divorce decree in New York State, the complainant must remove all barriers to future remarriage of the other party.

Julie Frank, of New York City Council President Andrew Stein's office who is knowledgeable on the Get Law, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it works only when the male partner is the complainant. A woman complainant may agree to remove all barriers to future remarriage of her spouse but it is meaningless because a woman cannot give a get, Frank said.

Lookstein offered as another solution to the problem of a recalcitrant spouse that members of the Board of Rabbis urge all prospective brides and grooms to sign a prenuptial, civil agreement pledging to cooperate in giving and receiving a get should their marriage end in divorce.

He said he has been using such an agreement at his congregation for the past five years which provides a model and which conforms with New York State law and is halachically acceptable.

### Two Responses Offered

Lookstein's presentation was generally supported by members of the Board of Rabbis. There were two responses at the meeting, however.

Rabbi Marc Gelman of Temple Beth Torah in Dix Hills, Long Island, asserted that the entire subject of egalitarianism and sexism in the get process requires much more study. He said many Reform rabbis find the process in conflict with the principle that men and women should have equal control over their lives, which includes marriage and divorce.

He also expressed qualms about the idea of sanctions against a recalcitrant husband. Since Reform rabbis do not at present require the get as a prerequisite for remarriage, it is unfair to apply sanctions to a husband in a temple where the rabbi does not consider the get necessary, he said.

Rabbi Gilbert Rosenthal of Temple Beth El in Cedarhurst, N.Y., said he agreed with Lookstein's proposals but was concerned by the fact that there are many "agunot" (abandoned wives) who cannot obtain a get.

He said a prenuptial agreement would solve the problem for the future but leaves unresolved the problem of abandoned spouses now. Similarly, it may reduce or eliminate mamzerut in the future "but it will not solve the tragic dilemma for tens of thousands of mamzerim who already exist," Rosenthal said.

The Board of Rabbis voted unanimously to appoint a committee of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis to study the proposals further and to report back to a plenary meeting with specific suggestions for action.