

### SHIRMAN RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL; DOCTORS GUARDED ON RECOVERY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Soviet immigrant Michael Shirman, whose battle against leukemia captured headlines worldwide, has been released from the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center after receiving a bone marrow transplant.

Doctors at the Medical Center were guarded in assessing Shirman's chances for total recovery after he received bone marrow donated by his sister, Inessa Fleurova, in a complex transplant operation January 3, although they described his initial response to the procedure as "amazing" and said that his white blood cell count is normal.

But Dr. Shimon Slavin, head of the Medical Center's Bone Marrow Transplant Department, cautioned that in difficult cases such as Shirman's the disease is likely to return. It will be at least six months, Slavin said, before doctors can accurately predict his chances for a full recovery.

Shirman, a cancer researcher, attracted world attention when Soviet authorities denied his sister permission to immigrate to Israel to attempt to save her brother's life. Doctors feared her arrival in November was too late to help Shirman, whose condition had deteriorated over the intervening months.

Medical Center specialists will keep Shirman under close watch over the coming months, they said. The Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center is Israel's official bone marrow transplant center, and its physicians and researchers have won international recognition for their advances in matching donors and recipients and in preventing rejection and post-operative infections.

### JTS Breaks Another Tradition: CANTORIAL DIPLOMAS WILL BE GRANTED TO WOMEN IN ITS 1987 COMMENCEMENT

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish Theological Seminary of America will begin granting the diploma of Hazzan (cantor) to women in its 1987 commencement, a certificate JTS reserved only for men until now.

The announcement by JTS Chancellor Ismar Schorsch at a press conference here Thursday is viewed as an historical break with the tradition, but one which Schorsch contended followed suit with JTS' 1983 controversial decision to ordain women as rabbis.

Critics of the new decision said it is even a more serious breach of halacha than the earlier one because they will be obligated to serve a function halacha forbids women from doing.

Schorsch called the decision a logical extension of the ordination of women. "Implicit within the decision (to ordain women) was obviously a step towards awarding women the diploma of Hazzan," Schorsch said.

Two women now studying in the Cantorial Institute/Seminary College of Jewish Music are expected to be the first recipients of the diploma of Hazzan in the 1987 JTS commencement. Erica Lippitz and Marla Rosenfeld-Barugel, both expecting to receive their diplomas in 1987, agreed the

decision was a victory and a profound joy for themselves and other women who want to receive the diploma. They called the decision "a new chapter in Jewish history."

### Justification For The Decision

Schorsch defended his decision as in accordance with Jewish law, saying he had based it on the same justification on which he based the decision to ordain women.

He reasoned that women can change their status under Jewish law by accepting the time-bound obligations traditionally reserved for men. If a woman chooses to honor those obligations, which include praying three times daily, putting on tefillin and other time-oriented rituals, they may serve as rabbis or cantors.

But Schorsch acknowledged that although he feels his decision abides by halacha, others would interpret the law differently and oppose him.

### 'A Slap In The Face'

The decision opened up old wounds within the Conservative movement, where the more traditional elements viewed it as a "slap in the face."

Rabbi Ronald Price, executive director of the Union for Traditional Conservative Judaism, said the new policy is far more radical than the ordination of women rabbis.

Price said the decision is tantamount to obliging women to violate Jewish law. He contended that cantors traditionally lead the prayer services and fulfill the obligations of their congregants to recite some mandatory prayers. But, Price said, "women cannot fulfill the man's prayer obligation, which is the major function of a cantor."

Price said JTS has taken the egalitarian principle too far. "The bottom line of those at JTS who are making the decision is that they are taking a secular approach towards religion. They take secular attitudes towards life, like men and women should have equal roles, and they project this onto religious rituals," he said.

Price claimed JTS is overly concerned with feminist issues because they are popular and attract attention when it should be more concerned with education, assimilation and religious observance within the lay membership of the movement.

"It is an extremely divisive action which sends a message to traditionalists within the movement -- it doesn't take their views into account," Price said. It also adds credence to the Orthodox Jewish view which sees Conservative Judaism as a "movement of shortcuts," he said.

Schorsch said egalitarianism is "the popular will of the movement." He also said the women cantors will help remedy the shortage of cantors throughout the United States.

### WIFE OF POC BEGUN URGES AMERICANS TO HELP HER HUSBAND WHO IS NOW ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN CHISTOPOL PRISON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Inna Begun urged Americans Thursday to help her husband,

Iosif, who is now on a hunger strike in the Soviet Union's Chistopol prison.

"I am very afraid for my husband's life," she said over the telephone from Moscow to some 100 Jewish leaders gathered on Capitol Hill for a Capitol Hill Action Day for Soviet Jewry, sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). They were in a room in a Senate office building dominated by photographs of Begun and other Jewish Prisoners of Conscience.

Begun, 54, was sentenced in 1983 to seven years in a labor camp and five years internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for teaching Hebrew. He had served two previous terms of internal exile. He and his wife have been seeking to emigrate to Israel since 1971.

Inna Begun said she had last seen her husband in August 1985 and his last letter to her was in December 1986. She said he has been on a hunger strike for three months.

Noting that some political prisoners have been freed, Inna Begun said she did not believe her husband would be released, as he will never agree to the demand that he admit that he is guilty of the charges.

She said she and her son, Boris, accompanied by other long-time refuseniks, would begin picketing Monday for two hours a day to demand that her husband be set free and that they be allowed to immigrate to Israel.

#### U.S. To Raise Begun's Plight

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D. Md.), co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe which monitors compliance with the Helsinki Accords, told Inna Begun that "The Congress of the United States is very very aware of the plight of your husband. We are raising that plight in every possible forum that we can."

Hoyer said he would raise the issue of Begun and other Soviet Jewish refuseniks with Soviet officials again when he returns to Vienna next week for the third review conference on the Helsinki Accords, known as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Morris Abram, the NCSJ's chairman, told Inna Begun that the people participating in the action day would "fan out" over Capitol Hill to describe Begun's plight to members of the House and Senate. He expressed "outrage" that the Soviet Union arrests people for teaching Hebrew.

Hoyer later told the Jewish leaders that never before have so many Western nations taken on the Soviet Union over human rights. He said the Soviets are trying to isolate the human rights movement by playing on the "hunger for change" in East-West relations by many in the West.

#### Jackson-Vanik Measure Won't Be Rescinded

Earlier, R. Spenser Oliver, counsel for the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that at Vienna the Soviet Union is trying to split the talks on arms control and trade from human rights. But he stressed that the Helsinki review conferences have been the one forum where the Soviets have had to pay attention to human rights.

Oliver and Dr. John Hardt, associate director for research coordination at the Congressional Research Service, urged the participants to watch the new foreign trade bill being worked on by Congress. While both said that there is no chance that the Jackson-Vanik Amendment would be rescinded, efforts will be made by some to decrease restrictions on trade with the USSR.

There should be no change in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment "until we see real numbers go up" in emigration, Oliver stressed.

#### **PLAY DEPICTING ZIONISTS AS NAZI COLLABORATORS ANGERS IRELAND'S JEWRY**

LONDON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- An attempt to stage a play in Dublin depicting Zionists as Nazi collaborators during World War II has aroused the wrath of Ireland's 2,000-member Jewish community.

The play, "Perdition," by Jim Allen, was to have opened at London's Royal Court Theatre but was cancelled last week after protests by British Jews and by leading scholars and historians who, on reading the script, branded it a travesty.

Allen has since been negotiating with the Olympia Theater in Dublin to present his work, which purports to be based on events in Hungary in 1944 where local Jewish leaders tried desperately to barter trucks and money to the Nazis for Jewish lives.

Joe Briscoe, head of the Jewish Representative Council in Dublin, said the play consisted of "downright lies" and was harmful to Jews. He noted that Allen has been peddling his play around Europe. "It is no great compliment to Dublin that it is the last city in which they are trying to stage it," he said.

#### **CANADIAN P.M. 'SITTING' ON A REPORT ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN CANADA**

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is continuing to "sit" on the Deschenes Commission's report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, more than a month after it was submitted to him.

The Prime Minister reportedly said he was studying the report and would present it to Parliament at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, he has cautioned all parties concerned not to discuss the contents of the report.

The Commission, headed by Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes, handed the report to Mulroney on December 30. It represents 20 months of investigatory work and an expenditure of some \$3 million (Canadian).

Some observers believe the Prime Minister is holding back the report because of repercussions from Canada's large Ukrainian population. Many alleged war criminals are believed to be of Ukrainian origin or Nazi collaborators from the Baltic states.

Sources close to the Prime Minister's Office said, however, that only 12 names of suspected war criminals are contained in the report, none of them Ukrainian.

#### **PUBLIC OPINION POLLS INDICATE PERVERSIVE DISSATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN ISRAEL AND A DECLINE IN ESTEEM FOR THE NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Opinion polls conducted in December and January on a wide variety of subjects indicate a pervasive dissatisfaction with life in Israel among the 1,200 respondents and a decline in esteem for the unity coalition government, according to an analysis of the results published in Davar Thursday by the pollsters, Hanoch and Rafi Smith.

The father-and-son team of researchers, whose polls command wide respect in Israel, found that large majorities perceived the government to be doing a better job handling foreign policy than dealing with social problems at home. There was sharp division over Israel's involvement in the U.S. arms shipments to Iran.

Large majorities disapproved of Arabs living under Israel's governance. Ultra-Orthodox Jews were also widely disapproved. But Orthodox Jews as such enjoyed a high approval rating while there seemed to be unfamiliarity and/or indifference toward the Conservative and Reform trends in Judaism.

Asked whether the unity government was better or worse since the rotation of power between Labor and Likud last October, 18 percent of the respondents thought it was better, 29 percent said "not as good" and 37 percent saw no change.

The respondents were divided almost evenly when asked if they would favor a similar unity coalition after the next elections. The answers were 46 percent "yes," 45 percent "no."

#### Attitude Toward Iran Arms Sales Affair

There was a similar split with respect to the Iran arms sales affair. Thirty nine percent believed that "Israel got unnecessarily entangled" in the U.S. arms shipments to Iran and 40 percent thought it did not. With respect to Israel's sale of arms to Iran, 37 percent were in favor, 41 percent opposed and 22 percent had no opinion.

On arms sales to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras, 33 percent approved and 33 percent were opposed while 34 percent had no opinion. The Smiths saw the responses as indicating public confusion on the issue of arms sales.

The government's handling of foreign policy received a 59 percent approval rating, down six percent from September, 1986. But only 31 percent approved the government's handling of social issues while two-thirds of the respondents disapproved. About 63 percent agreed with the statement that "the attitude toward the elderly in Israel has deteriorated in recent years."

The pollsters found most significant the responses to their question "Has your satisfaction with life in Israel recently grown or declined." Only 13 percent said it had "grown" while 24 percent indicated "decline" and 60 percent registered "no change." According to the Smiths, the responses indicate that "public morale is on the whole slightly on the decline."

A majority of 49-46 percent indicated they would not criticize young Israelis who emigrate to find better economic and social conditions abroad. Fifty-one percent agreed that the lack of appropriate social conditions to absorb new immigrants in Israel was responsible for the decline of immigration in recent years.

#### Attitudes Toward Various Population Groups

With respect to attitudes toward various population groups, Israeli Arabs were approved by 19 percent of the respondents against a disapproval rating of 45 percent. Arabs in the West Bank were approved by only eight percent and disapproved by 61 percent. But Israeli Arabs had a higher rating than ultra-Orthodox Jews, who were approved by 14 percent and disapproved by 66 percent of the respondents.

Orthodox Jews who are not "ultras" were approved by 54-17 percent. Conservative and Reform Jews received a 28-21 percent approval

rating with 51 percent expressing no opinion. Neither the Gush Emunim nor the Peace Now movement was accorded high approval ratings, though the former was somewhat more popular. The Gush Emunim were disapproved by a 48-26 percent margin while disapproval of Peace Now was 58-17 percent.

According to the pollsters, "The main finding (is) a feeling of dissatisfaction as pertains to both the economic sphere and other aspects of life in Israel." But they found that "To date, this atmosphere has had little affect on Israel's political map. Support for the (Labor) Alignment bloc has increased slightly, though not to the extent of consolidating a Knesset majority."

#### **RABBI DENIES BANNING WOMEN FROM ATTENDING FUNERALS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Ashkenazie Chief Rabbi of Migdal Haemek, Yitzhak David Grossman, denied that he banned women from attending funerals on grounds that their presence together with men could "cause disaster." Israeli women protested furiously.

He complained, in full page advertisements in several newspapers Wednesday, that he had been a victim of media misrepresentation.

Grossman and his Sephardic counterpart, Rabbi Avraham Menahem, were reported to have issued the ban because of an abnormally high number of deaths in the town recently. At the funeral of a local woman last week, her daughters, granddaughters and sisters were not permitted to approach the grave until the men had left.

Grossman said he never issued an halachic injunction but was merely conforming with the wishes of the deceased. He was quoted in the media as saying "The public demanded that we do something about all these disasters (the recent high death rate) and since it is written in the Zohar that women's attendance at funerals can cause disasters, we decided this was the best course of action."

Grossman said he has no intention of banning women from funerals. There was no comment from Rabbi Menahem.

#### **RABIN REJECTS SENATE REPORT**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday night that the report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence investigating the Iran arms sales scandal was "highly inaccurate" and "reached the wrong conclusions regarding Israel's role" in the arms sales to Iran and the transfer of its proceeds to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras. He said he had personally categorically rejected an appeal by a ranking White House aide for Israel to become involved with the Contras in any way.

"A report was issued by the Senate Intelligence Subcommittee. I think this is a highly inaccurate report, faulty, and hence it arrives at erroneous conclusions, both with respect to Israel's part in the actual idea of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in supplying arms to Iran in order to attain the goals we wanted, and with respect to the attribution, even minimally, of some sort of Israeli monetary profit from all the deals that were made, and certainly concerning the initiatives, which I supposedly launched, to give arms to the Contras, when the actual situation was the very opposite."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR STRATEGY

By David Twersky

(Editor's note: David Twersky has written widely on Israeli affairs.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The strategic issues raised in the Jerusalem trial of Mordechai Vanunu, charged with leaking Israel's atomic secrets to a foreign newspaper, have been largely lost in the shuffle.

According to Vanunu's information as published in London's Sunday Times, Israel now ranks as the world's sixth largest nuclear power -- just after (in descending order) Great Britain, France, and The People's Republic of China.

According to the report, Israel has stockpiled at least 100 nuclear weapons, and has the "components and ability to build atomic, neutron or hydrogen bombs" of both the "suburb-busting" nuclear and "city-busting" thermo-nuclear types.

At the outset, observers expressed doubt that Vanunu's nuclear story was on the level, reading it as an intentional leak in order to warn off the Syrians, whose chemical weapons build-up was recently discussed in the media.

In fact, quite the opposite may be true: to the "sudden" appearance of information on the Syrians' chemical warfare capabilities was probably introduced to provide part of the strategic context for the discussion of Israel's nuclear force which the Vanunu revelations have thrust upon us.

### Division Among Israeli Strategic Planners

Israel's nuclear strategy is at the heart of one of the critical debates dividing Israeli strategic planners and leading politicians. The key question is to what extent Israel should employ, and rely on, a nuclear umbrella to balance out what is ultimately an insurmountable Arab conventional edge.

This division cuts across other issues, like the dove/hawk territorial one. Both the annexationists and the doves are divided among pro-nuclear and pro-conventional lines.

Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, an internationally recognized expert on nuclear physics who heads the far-right Tehiya Party, is pro-nuclear. Ariel Sharon, no less a committed annexationist, sees Israel's future wars in conventional, non-nuclear terms.

The nuclear/conventional strategic debate also divides Israeli moderates. There are doves who see a nuclear umbrella as a substitute for strategic depth. Others doubt that Israel could live safely within the old 1967 borders.

This debate was the secret text animating supporters of Shimon Peres (Israel's foremost champion of nuclear thinking) and Yitzhak Rabin in the years when the two struggled for leadership of the Labor Party. It also explains why Rabin briefly took Sharon on as an adviser, while Peres appointed Ne'eman, during the last Labor government in the mid-1970's.

### Important Questions Left Unanswered

Now this internal Israeli discussion, suppressed by a tradition of self-imposed silence on national security matters, has come out into the open. But the new disclosures still leave the most important questions unanswered.

What are the geographical and situational -- not to mention the ethical -- limitations on the

use of Israel's nuclear weapons? What governs the "when" and the "where" of their use?

Presumably, nuclear weapons could only be employed in a "Samson"-type scenario, with Arab armies breaking through and threatening the heartland. How could Israel justify their use in a limited conflict, like a conventional Syrian offensive aimed at re-capturing parts of the Golan Heights, or an anti-PLO foray into Lebanon? Doesn't that leave Israel without recourse to its nuclear arsenal in the overwhelming majority of possible military confrontations?

Moreover, just where could Israel use a thermo-nuclear "city-buster"? Or even the small "suburb-busting" variety? On bellicose Damascus?

### A Major Problem

There is a major problem with this scenario even if one discounts the unpredictable Soviet response to an Israeli first-use of nuclear weapons against Syria, Moscow's regional ally. With a sudden gust of wind, the radioactive material released over Damascus could boomerang back and cover Israel within a few hours.

According to the new information, however, Israel can produce neutron weapons which can kill the people and leave the buildings standing -- and which would not pose a boomerang threat to Israel proper.

These severe restrictions on the use of nuclear weapons bolster the arguments of the anti-nuclear strategists whose thinking remains dominated by traditional conventional categories, like territorial depth.

But there is no escaping a confrontation with the necessity for a nuclear counter-weight to growing Arab power.

The Gulf War won't go on forever. Israeli planners must imagine the possibility of conflict not only with Syria, armed to the teeth by the Soviets, but with an "eastern front" including Iraq, Jordan and Iran. Even given today's political reality, they cannot rule out the possibility that Egypt will return to the war front against Israel.

### Dispelling Arab Illusions

This scenario overwhelms with sheer numbers and weight the traditional military doctrine which balanced the Arab advantage in men and weapons systems with Israeli quality and sophistication, and since 1967 with some territorial depth.

No wonder someone began to make nuclear contingency plans. And if nuclear weapons cannot do everything, they do act to dispel any lingering Arab illusions about wiping Israel off the map. They also serve notice on the Syrians that chemical weapons or no, Israel retains the strategic upper hand.

Of course, the possible Arab conventional advantage and the introduction into Arab arsenals of longer-range missiles capable of hitting Israeli air bases and mobilization centers raises another possibility. And that is that the most hard boiled conception of Israel's strategic interest is to work for the reduction of tensions and for peace.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Two terrorists were killed by an Israel Defense Force unit in an encounter near Tibnin village in the south Lebanon security zone, a military spokesman reported Thursday. There were no IDF casualties. According to the report, the IDF fired on the terrorists as they fled from the zone.