

## GREEK OPPOSITION LEADER TO VISIT ISRAEL; CALLS FOR FULLER TIES

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, March 9 (JTA) -- The leader of Greece's opposition Conservative Party, Constantine Mitsotakis, announced Friday that he will visit Israel later this year in an official capacity. And he urged at a press conference here that the government extend full diplomatic recognition to Israel immediately.

The two countries have relations at the consular level, although Israel's diplomatic representative in Athens, Moshe Gilboa, holds the rank of Ambassador. Mitsotakis said he was invited to Israel by Gilboa.

He said that while Greek-Arab friendship is a cornerstone of Greek foreign policy, that does not preclude equally good relations with Israel. Asked why Greece did not establish full ties with Israel in 1981 when the Conservative Party was in power and he was Foreign Minister, Mitsotakis said it was under consideration and he was looking for the "right moment."

"I think I can reveal it now: During 1981 I had contacts with the Spanish government discussing the possibility of recognizing Israel together," Mitsotakis said. "The matter failed when the Conservatives lost the elections in October 1981." Spain established full diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986.

## KNESSET UNIT TO PUSH AHEAD FOR THOROUGH PROBE INTO THE POLLARD AFFAIR, UNIT CHAIRMAN EBAN ANNOUNCES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, announced Monday that its subcommittee on intelligence will open a determined investigation Thursday into the Jonathan Pollard affair.

Eban said he rejects Premier Yitzhak Shamir's assertion earlier Monday that the matter is "closed" and his refusal to appear before the Knesset body. The special subcommittee "reserves the right to summon anyone we see fit, both ministers and civil servants," Eban declared. He said Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin would be the first called to testify.

The subcommittee meets in camera and is not prone to the leaks which frequently emanate from the full committee.

Eban, a Labor MK and former Foreign Minister, appears to have the backing of virtually all committee members, from left to right, to conduct a thoroughgoing probe of the government's involvement with Pollard who was sentenced to life imprisonment in Washington last week for spying for Israel.

### Closed Session Scheduled For Wednesday

Shamir came under heavy pressure from several Ministers at Sunday's Cabinet meeting to order a full-scale judicial inquiry. He promised that the Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud Ministers) would convene in closed session Wednesday to consider the issue in depth.

But Shamir warned the Knesset Monday that "hysteria fanned in Israel" could "infect the United States to Israel's great detriment." He claimed that criticism of the government's handling of the affair by members of the Knesset committee and others seemed sharper than criticism voiced in the U.S.

Eban dismissed that argument and informed the Premier of his committee's intention to launch a probe. The stiff sentence imposed on Pollard, a former civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, indicated to many Israelis Washington's severe displeasure with Israel in the affair.

### Forms Of American Anger

American anger is focussed on the appointment of Air Force Col. Aviem Sella to the command of one of Israel's largest air bases only a few days before Pollard was sentenced. According to Pollard's testimony, he was recruited by Sella and received his espionage assignments from him. Sella was indicted in absentia for espionage by a federal grand jury in Washington last week.

Another key figure in the affair, former Mossad operative Rafael Eitan, was recently rewarded with the chairmanship of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation here. Eitan headed Pollard's espionage unit, "Lekem," now disbanded.

Eban told reporters Monday the subcommittee investigation would mark the first time a body of the Knesset acted similarly to a U.S. Senate committee probing matters of urgent public concern. He said the Premier's assertion that the matter was "closed" made it all the more important for the Knesset to conduct its own inquiry.

The Pollard affair is of deep concern to Israelis and Jews overseas and can hardly be dismissed as hysteria, Eban said.

Meanwhile, three motions of no-confidence in the government will be introduced in the Knesset Tuesday by the opposition Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and the Progressive List for Peace. But no serious defections are expected from coalition MKs, despite a strong sense of dissatisfaction among them.

## VLADIMIR LIFSHITZ REPORTED TO BE RELEASED FROM LABOR CAMP THIS WEEK

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- The wife of a Prisoner of Conscience has been told that her husband will be released this week. According to Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Anya Lifshitz spoke this weekend with an official of the Procurator General's Office in Moscow and was told that her husband, Vladimir, was to be sent home from Kamchatka labor camp this week.

Vladimir Lifshitz, a 44-year-old electrical engineer and mathematician, was arrested in January 1986 in his home town of Leningrad, and sentenced March 19 to three years in labor camp for "anti-Soviet slander." The charges were based on letters he wrote to the West describing his situation as a refusenik.

Anya Lifshitz told Singer by phone from Leningrad that Yuri Ovcharov, who works in the Procurator's KGB department number 13 handling so-called KGB crime, said that her husband's case has been reconsidered and a decision reached to free him. Anya is one of the refusenik wives who is currently on a hunger strike coordinated with International Women's Day.

Lifshitz was division chief of economic forecasting at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for the jewelry industry in Leningrad until 1981, when he had to resign because of his application to immigrate to Israel. After a period of unemployment, he worked installing industrial elevators until he hurt his back.

Lifshitz went on a hunger strike in 1983 to protest his treatment. Because of the publicity from the fast, he was able to work as a computer engineer. But his situation deteriorated when his son, Boris, applied to the Leningrad Institute of Fine Mechanics and Objects.

#### Status Of Lifshitz's Son

Although Boris' scientific accomplishments earned him initial favorable treatment in his application, he was ultimately rejected because of his father's refusenik status. Vladimir appealed to Israel and the West for help for his son, and went on another hunger strike in 1985 to protest interception of his letters.

Last March, Boston University offered Boris admission. A group of Boston students and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston raised \$5,500 towards the younger Lifshitz's education, and Boston University agreed to make up the difference necessary for a year's tuition. However, Boris was inducted into the army immediately following his father's sentencing.

Boris suffers from bleeding ulcers and had been hospitalized for the condition. Army doctors were told to ignore his condition and allow his induction, according to Singer. He is now in the army hospital because of a recurrence of the problem. His family has been concerned with his health, and treatment, and with the possibility that he would be placed in a unit later to be construed as having access to "state secrets."

#### **Aftermath Of A Pro-Syrian Rally By Golan Druze: ISRAEL MAY ALTER ITS PERCEPTION OF SYRIA AS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- A violent anti-Israel pro-Syrian demonstration by Druze on the Golan Heights Sunday may alter Israel's recent perception of Syria as a country too weakened by economic problems and ostracism by the West to pose an immediate threat to Israel.

The demonstration was occasioned by the 24th anniversary of the Syrian Baath Party, now headed by President Hafez Assad. It was the worst confrontation in a year between Golan Druze and the Israeli authorities.

About 100 high school students marched chanting pro-Syrian, pro-Assad slogans and waving Syrian flags. Police rushed to the scene were struck by rocks and other heavy objects. Ten policemen were injured and a Druze woman was wounded when police opened fire. She was reported in serious condition at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The demonstrators were finally dispersed with tear gas. Several hours later, Assad appeared on Damascus television to hail the bravery of "the Syrian citizens in the Golan against the Zionist

enemy." He pledged that the "day of liberation" would come when the Golan will once again be part of Syria.

Assad's bombast is nothing new and in fact most of his speech was relatively moderate, without the usual threats against Israel, the U.S., Western Europe and Egypt.

#### Change In Israel's Strategic Assessment

But the outburst on the Golan focussed attention here on the sudden change in Israel's strategic assessment of Syria that emerged in statements by top policy-makers last month. Their political purpose was unclear.

Whereas Syria was long depicted as Israel's most dangerous foe in the region with greatly improved ground and air forces capable of striking without warning, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and others began to play down the menace.

According to them, Syria is in economic shambles, and Assad, constrained by domestic problems from adventures abroad, is forced to keep a low profile because of the exposure of Syria's links with international terrorism.

Then the wheel began to turn. Assad, attending the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait in January appeared to join hands with his rival, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. A month later, Syrian tanks and infantry occupied most of Moslem West Beirut in what appears to be a successful effort to restore law and order in that violent city.

Israel, which itself entered West Beirut nearly five years ago, reacted calmly. Assad said he sent his army into the Lebanese capital because he could no longer stand seeing the city "drown in a bloodbath."

#### Self-Serving Motives

Israelis of course know his motives were more self-serving than humanitarian. Syria feared the collapse of the mainstream Shiite militia, Amal, in its bloody confrontation with Palestinian terrorists and extremist Moslem factions. Damascus also shares Israel's concern that the Palestine Liberation Organization may regain its power in Lebanon. Instability in Lebanon threatens the stability of Syria. Assad's move into Beirut was also calculated to rehabilitate his image in Western public opinion and in the Arab world. For the time being at least, the daily shooting and bombings have ceased. Kidnappers are not snatching victims off the streets. Businesses have reopened and the Lebanese Pound has revived.

Syrian forces have inflicted bloody losses on the extremist, pro-Iran Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut and that alone may go far to restore Assad's image in the West and put Syria on the map as a key element in Middle East strategy.

Assad made two connected remarks in his Sunday television speech. He said he expected reconciliation and an accord in Lebanon and he praised the "national Lebanese resistance" against the "Israeli occupier in the south."

If a national accord is reached in Lebanon, Assad will doubtlessly try to unite the various factions against Israel. That will not be easy considering that the Lebanese civil war has been going on since 1976. But it is necessary to prevent Syria from sinking into the Lebanese quagmire.

Israelis agree that a stable Lebanon is in their best interests. As long as the Syrian army is kept busy maintaining order there, Assad is not likely to launch any strikes on the Israeli border.

Israeli policymakers assume he will avoid crossing the "red lines" which would trigger an instant reaction by Israel. Those lines have never been drawn. But Assad is aware of them and knows where they are.

#### SHIRMAN DIES AFTER LEUKEMIA BATTLE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- Michael Shirman, the Soviet emigre with leukemia whose sister's departure from the Soviet Union to donate her bone marrow to him was delayed for a year, died last Thursday in Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot.

Born near Minsk in 1954, he came to Israel with his mother in 1980. He was found to be suffering from leukemia 18 months ago, and it was established that his sister, Inessa Flerova of Moscow, was the only possible compatible donor of bone marrow. The marrow transplant perhaps could have saved him if performed early enough.

But Soviet authorities rejected her and her husband's application for an exit permit for more than a year. She sometimes was told she could leave alone. Shirman declared he would not allow it.

Finally the Flerovs were allowed to leave together, and the transplant took place, successfully, two-and-a-half months ago. But doctors expressed concern even then that it might have been too late to cure him or cause a meaningful remission of the cancer of the blood.

#### CANADA HAS NO PLANS TO INVITE WALDHEIM FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- Canada has no plans to invite Austrian President Kurt Waldheim for an official visit, the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis, has informed the World Jewish Congress here.

"Our Minister of External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, has stated that there are no plans to invite Waldheim to Canada, nor has he expressed a desire to visit the country," Lewis stated in a letter to Israel Singer, Secretary General of the WJC. His letter was in response to a request by the WJC that Canada issue no invitation to Waldheim in light of his Nazi past. Waldheim was Austria's first Ambassador to Canada after World War II.

The Canadian position is analogous to that of the United States. The White House stated last August that President Reagan would not invite Waldheim.

The Austrian President was exposed by the WJC and others during his election campaign last summer to have been involved in atrocities against civilians and resistance fighters while serving as a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in the Balkans during the war.

He has been effectively boycotted by the international community since his election last July 8. His diplomatic isolation was broken last week, however, when King Hussein of Jordan, in Austria on a skiing holiday, invited Waldheim to visit his country this year.

#### IRVING CROWN DEAD AT 92

CHICAGO, March 9 (JTA) -- Businessman and philanthropist Irving Crown died last week in Columbus Hospital here at age 92. An executive and director of various businesses, he and his

wife established the Irving and Rose Crown School of Graduate Studies in American Civilization at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. He also received the David Ben-Gurion Award from State of Israel Bonds in 1971.

He was honorary chairman of the Jewish United Fund here, which he served for more than 40 years, and was active in Anshe Emet Synagogue for 50 years. Funeral services were private.

#### A GEM OF A ROBOT

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- An Israeli company has invested over \$2 million to design and produce a robot capable of cutting and polishing colored gem stones. According to Ilan Weissman, managing director of the Sarin Research and Development Co. which has produced two prototypes, the new "Robo-Gem" fully automated system works better than the skilled human hands which have been cutting and polishing precious stones from time immemorial.

"Robo-Gem" is especially good with emeralds and may be adapted later for processing diamonds, one of Israel's chief exports.

Weissman says the robot cutter saves up to 90 percent of costly rough stones. Between 60 and 85 percent is currently lost in the cutting. The company has not yet decided whether to make it available outside Israel.

#### HADASSAH LEADERS PRESS USSR TO FREE IDA NUDEL

JERUSALEM, March 9 -- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, pressed the Soviet Union Monday to permit Jewish activist and refusenik Ida Nudel to emigrate to Israel.

Three thousand Hadassah leaders, here to celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary, endorsed a statement adopted by the Hadassah National Board urging that the Soviets allow Nudel "to achieve her dream and exercise her human right to emigrate to Israel and freedom as soon as possible."

The statement was included in a telegram sent to Yuri Dubinin, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, and signed by Hadassah National President Ruth Popkin on behalf of Jewish women leaders participating in Hadassah's Diamond Jubilee Mission to Israel.

In the statement, Hadassah affirmed its "continuing solidarity with Ida Nudel a Soviet victim of oppression. We resolve not to give up the fight for her freedom until she is reunited in Israel with her beloved sister, Elena Fridman."

Nudel, who has become a symbol of the plight of Jewish Prisoners of Conscience in the Soviet Union, spent four years in exile in Siberia and currently lives alone in Bendery in the Soviet Republic of Moldavia after being denied permission to return to her home in Moscow.

Over the past 16 years, authorities have repeatedly denied her an exit visa to join her only living relative in Israel.

The telegram to the Soviet Ambassador urged that he transmit Hadassah's plea for Nudel's freedom "to your government in Moscow without delay," and concluded: "We look forward to prompt action by your government on this humanitarian appeal." Hadassah's Diamond Jubilee Mission arrived in Israel Monday to celebrate the organization's role in the development of the Jewish nation. It was founded in 1912 by scholar, educator and Zionist pioneer Henrietta Szold.

## FIRST KOSHER FOODS EXPO ATTRACTS THOUSANDS TO TASTE AND BROWSE

By Andrew Muchlin

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- They came, they saw, they collected coupons and they nosed.

Thousands of traditional Jews pushed their way through five long and crowded aisles of booths to sample a smorgasbord of certified-kosher fare Saturday night at the opening of the first Kosher Foods & Jewish Life Expo, held at the Javits Convention Center here through March 10.

The purpose of the first-of-its-kind show was to provide a public forum for the growing selection of kosher products and to be a "celebration of Jewish life with food as its central focus," according to Expo impresario Irving Silverman of Roslyn, N.Y.

Silverman said 16,000 kosher products are now available, up from 1,000 only 10 years ago. The dozens of kosher products handy to taste at the Expo ranged from natural whole grains to sweets and frozen Italian dishes to rather synthetic pizza-flavored crunchies.

The 194 booths also featured kosher-living products -- such as custom-designed kitchens and a new line of plastic containers labelled meat, milk or parve -- as well as information about well known and obscure Jewish organizations and items for sale such as religious articles from Israel, some kitsch and new videos and books.

### A Bold New Concept

About 6 million Americans buy kosher products. Of them up to 1.5 million are Jewish, with the remainder being vegetarian, Moslem or Seventh Day Adventist, Silverman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Yet he said he has noticed an absence of kosher foods in the grocery stores, even in this city of 1.7 million Jews.

To remedy this situation, he introduced and hoped to distribute one million of what he called "a bold new concept in food marketing" -- forms on which consumers could request kosher products at their local grocery stores.

Silverman is a small, intense and talkative man who is a former president of the local region of United Synagogue of America, the Conservative congregational organization, and a national trade show manager.

He said the Expo was developed through four years of his own work with the cooperation of 37 Jewish organizations and kashrut supervision agencies. It is a private venture.

The expo also highlighted other aspects of traditional Jewish life, such as styling wigs and cooking the kosher food.

The Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra performed following the ceremonies Saturday night, at first for a few of Silverman's invited guests who at one time numbered one couple and Statman's manager. Later, hundreds heard the show.

### To Ensure A Glatt Kosher Kitchen

One of them was Michael Goldman, chef and owner of Goldman's Restaurant in Melbourne, Australia. He told JTA that he came halfway around the world in search of parve cheese substitutes to enhance the meat menu at his continental-style, three-year-old restaurant -- the only kosher restaurant in Australia, he added.

His credo, he said, was to ensure a glatt kosher kitchen, and then to let his chefs, who aren't Jewish, "do as much as they can." He

admitted they sometimes found it difficult to prepare fine cuisine without dairy products. Speaking as a chef, he, too, missed adding real cream to sauces.

Exhibitor Louis Petralia of Ronzoni Foods Corp. here came to sell pasta. He said the kosher market was an important opportunity that his company finally recognized two years ago. He has recommended that the company consider making their frozen Italian dinners kosher, he added.

The food exhibitors were scurrying just to have enough samples ready. Visitors said they enjoyed the food, although little of it was new to those who kept kosher. One man said he missed the Sephardic food he grew up with. Many people wished for some elbow room as they attempted to stroll in the aisles.

## MARTI FOREST DEDICATED IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- A forest in memory of the Cuban liberation movement leader Jose Marti was dedicated Wednesday in the presence of three Mayors from Florida and representatives of the Cuban exile community in the U.S.

"Jose Marti is a symbol of the universal liberation movement," declared Xavier Suarez, Mayor of Miami, Fla., at the ceremony, also reiterating the support of the American people for Israel.

Some 900,000 Cubans left their island after the revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power 28 years ago. According to the guests at the ceremony, they yearn to return to their country in the same way as the Jews returned to their land.

The forest, to be planted by the Jewish National Fund, will comprise 430,000 trees, 10,000 trees for each of Marti's 43 years.

## SCHOOL BOARD CLEARS CANADIAN TEACHER WHO WRITES OF JEWISH CONSPIRACY

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, March 9 (JTA) -- A controversial junior high school teacher in Moncton, New Brunswick, has been cleared by the school board of allegations that he spread racist, anti-Semitic views in the classroom.

But the teacher, Malcolm Ross, is still under investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as to whether three books he has written are in breach of Canada's anti-hate laws. In them, he claims the Holocaust didn't happen and that an international Jewish conspiracy is afoot.

The school board began its investigation of Ross in mid-January after two of his former students said in interviews that he had passed on his racial and political opinions to them.

The school board found "he has not been teaching his private views or talking about them" in class, board chairman Carl Ross (no relation) told the Toronto Star.

## SPINOZA'S HOUSE NEAR COLLAPSE

AMSTERDAM, March 9 (JTA) -- "Het Spinoza," the society to preserve the house in Rijnsburg, near Leyden, where the Jewish philosopher Spinoza lived from 1670-1673 and where he is believed to have written his "Ethica," is urgently soliciting funds to repair the structure, which is reported in a state of collapse. The group is seeking private donations.