

**SOME 2,500 WORKERS TO BE FIRED FROM PLANTS OPERATED BY DEFENSE MINISTRY**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- At least 2,500 defense establishment employees will be dismissed during the 1987 working year at plants operated by the Defense Ministry, according to senior authoritative defense sources, quoted by Haaretz Monday.

Military industries will lay off about 1,500 workers, the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) about 800, and "Raphael" -- the armament development authority -- about 250.

In addition, employees of private industries which handle defense establishment production will also be dismissed. Haaretz says that in an effort to prevent extensive unemployment in development towns, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ordered that plants located in these areas be given preference in defense establishment orders.

**Selling Israeli Weapons Abroad**

The paper also reports that, by the end of February, the Defense Ministry had granted 560 individuals permission to conduct negotiations for the sale of Israeli weapons abroad, while 14 such requests were denied.

According to defense sources, the number of individuals given such permission will reach 800. But this does not enable those same individuals to sign agreements. Before signing any deal, the individual conducting negotiations must receive additional approval from the Defense Ministry.

Another report in Haaretz says that the Israel Defense Force will be forced to purchase 100 Israeli-made trucks even though it does not need them. This follows instructions by Rabin to the IDF, issued to assist the Nazareth vehicle factory and to stabilize its economic situation.

The instructions are said to have caused distress in the IDF, especially against the background of slashes in the defense establishment's budget. Deputy Chief of Staff Amir Drori is reported to have sent a letter to Rabin opposing the purchase.

**LABOR MKS INCLUDING PERES, EBAN TALK PEACE WITH PALESTINIANS**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) -- Labor members of the Knesset, including Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, are attempting to put together a peace front with representative Palestinians from the West Bank.

Peres met last Thursday with Hanna Seniors, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr, and Fayez Abu-Rahme. Both have been mentioned as possible members of a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in peace talks with Israel.

Seniors, who makes no secret of his sympathy for the Palestine Liberation Organization, was one of four Palestinians who attended a meeting with Labor MKs Abba Eban and Ora Namir last Wednesday at the King David Hotel. The others were Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem and two Nablus businessmen, Said Kanan and

Bassel Kanan. The six signed a joint statement calling for peace talks within the framework of an international conference which would include "legitimate representatives of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian people." The statement said, "a peace settlement must contain elements meeting the legitimate security rights of Israel and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

**Some Stayed Away From The Meeting**

The meeting was smaller than anticipated. Several key figures from the administered territories did not attend because they refused to sign a statement which made no mention of the PLO. Seniors indicated he was taking a personal risk by signing.

"I know there are dangers involved, but I am willing to go ahead because I value peace much more than war," he told reporters.

Labor MK Haim Ramon, an outspoken dove, said he stayed away because a meeting without PLO representation was flawed to begin with. According to Ramon, the basic weakness of all recent meetings between Israeli policymakers and leaders of the Palestinian community lies in their divergent attitudes toward the PLO.

"Whereas the Palestinians by and large stick to the PLO as the 'sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,' Israeli leaders want no contacts whatever with the PLO lobby in the territories," Ramon said.

But Eban was optimistic. "We have decided to step up the pace of dialogue," he said. He warned, however, that it was an illusion to believe the continuing impasse does no harm.

**SELLA SAYS HE RESIGNED FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- Col. Aviem Sella, who relinquished command of the Tel Nof airbase -- the "dream post" of any Israel Air Force commander -- said in his letter of resignation Sunday that he had been "flooded" by appeals from colleagues, superiors and the public not to resign, but for the good of the country could not "comply with these requests."

The political echelons in Israel reacted with equanimity to his decision. Premier Yitzhak Shamir said that "in light of the circumstances that have arisen, Sella has done what he had to do." He said the resignation was not unexpected.

Haaretz reported Monday that Sella, under indictment by a federal grand jury in the U.S. for his role in the Jonathan Pollard spy case, had in fact been approached by Air Force colleagues and senior officers of other branches of the Israel Defense Force to quit.

MK Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset subcommittee currently probing the government's involvement in the Pollard affair, said that Sella had taken "the honorable course," by resigning.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon expressed hope that the resignation would ease tensions between Israel and the U.S. "It was a mistake in the first place to nominate him" to head Tel Nof, "but now he has made a noble gesture, I'm sure from patriotic motives," Navon, a former President

of Israel, said. Sella's appointment to command Israel's second largest air base, announced only a few days before Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for Israel, infuriated the U.S. The Defense Department announced it would have nothing to do with Sella and would boycott the airbase as long as he was its commander. According to Pollard's confession, he was recruited by Sella and received his espionage assignments from him.

#### Won't Say If More Resignations Are Expected

Shamir would not say Monday whether he expected more resignations arising from the Pollard case. In addition to Sella, Pollard implicated former Mossad operative Rafael Eitan who was subsequently named chairman of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation.

Sella's resignation was reported immediately to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering in Tel Aviv and to Israel's Ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosenne. It was submitted to Air Force Commander Gen. Amos Lapidot, and endorsed by IDF Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy before being sent to Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin who accepted it with regret.

Sella stated in his letter that his decision stemmed from "the deterioration in Israel-U.S. relations and my concern for the future of ties between the two countries and for relations with American Jewry . . ."

But according to Haaretz, Sella stood fast until Sunday against all urgings that he quit. He insisted that he acted in the U.S. at the request of senior political echelons to carry out a mission entrusted to him and therefore saw no reason to pay the price for exposure of the Pollard affair. In various private conversations, Sella intimated that senior political echelons were well aware of his activities, Haaretz said.

#### **SHAMIR, SHARON AND ARENS WIN THE DAY AT HERUT PARTY CONVENTION** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) — The Herut convention wound up here early Monday morning after handing an undisputable victory to Premier Yitzhak Shamir and sharply boosting the political fortunes of two of his most outspoken rightwing ministers, Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens.

Shamir was unopposed in his re-election as party leader Sunday. Sharon and Arens easily beat back challenges from Herut Knesset members for the offices of Central Committee chairman and the chairman of the party Secretariat respectively.

Each won with a 64 percent majority of the 2,100 ballots cast. For Sharon, who is Minister of Commerce and Industry, it was his first election to high office in Herut. He defeated MK Eli Ovadia, the Mayor of Afula. Arens, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, scored over former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy was re-elected deputy chairman of Herut but by a margin of 56 percent over MK Meir Cohen-Avidov, in contrast to the better showing by his two Cabinet colleagues. He was promptly labeled a "loser" by political analysts who saw his chances of replacing Shamir at the head of the Likud ticket in the next elections to be fading away.

On the other hand, Sharon and Arens were seen firmly in the running for the office of Prime Minister should Likud defeat the Labor Party in the next elections, whenever they are held.

The Herut convention was actually the wind-up of the convention that opened here in March 1986 but broke up in chaos after two days, before any ballots were cast, because of a determined effort by Levy to unseat Shamir.

At that time, Levy had the backing of Sharon. At the end of the convention Monday he bitterly accused the Shamir, Sharon and Arens camps of "ganging up" on him and his supporters. He insisted that his 56 percent was a vote of confidence, a claim derided by his future opponents for party leadership.

Shamir appealed for party unity and an end to petty squabbles. In fact, he mentioned "unity" 26 times in his brief closing speech to the delegates, and the words "unity" and "democracy" were echoed endlessly by other speakers. Herut, indeed, was in a self-congratulatory mood, having completed its once-aborted convention with decorum and parliamentary good order.

#### **ISRAEL BONDS TAKES LOW PROFILE IN U.S. IN AFTERMATH OF POLLARD CASE**

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) — The Israel Bonds Organization has taken a low profile in the U.S. since exposure of the Jonathan Pollard spy case, its world president Yehuda Helevy disclosed Monday.

Helevy told Israel Radio that the Pollard affair would cause a temporary suspension of Bonds activity among non-Jewish organizations, including commercial firms, banks and pension funds. Those bodies are said to account for 30-35 percent of annual Bonds sales in the U.S.

Helevy said at the opening of the Bonds conference in Haifa Sunday that a record \$603 million worth of Israel Bonds were sold last year.

#### **WEST GERMAN PROSECUTOR VOUCHES FOR AUTHENTICITY OF A KEY DOCUMENT IN THE DEMJANJUK TRIAL** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) — A West German prosecutor vouched Monday for the authenticity of a key document in the trial of alleged war criminal John Demjanjuk, obtained from Soviet sources.

Helge Grabitz, head of the Nazi war crimes section of the Hamburg District Attorney's Office, said that "not even once" had she received a forged document from the USSR or any other Communist bloc country.

Grabitz testified about 15 documents pertaining to the Trawniki SS training camp where prisoners of war were trained for guard duty at Treblinka and other death camps. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk claims that an identity card issued at Trawniki, bearing his name, photograph and physical description is a Soviet forgery.

The card bears the signature of the Trawniki commandant, Karl Streibl. Grabitz, who was chief prosecutor at Streibl's trial in West Germany, said she could easily identify the signature, having seen hundreds of documents bearing it in the course of doing research for that trial. She said Streibl himself authenticated his signature.

The Jerusalem district court hearing the Demjanjuk case granted a defense motion for recess to study translations of the documents identified by Grabitz. The afternoon session was cancelled for that purpose. The defense is expected to cross-examine Grabitz Tuesday.

**USSR AGREES TO NEW TRANSIT PROCEDURE FOR JEWISH EMIGRANTS THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE DROPOUT PHENOMENON**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA) — The Soviet Union has agreed to establish a new transit procedure for future Jewish emigres that would eliminate the phenomenon of noshrim (dropouts)—Jews who leave the Soviet Union with an Israeli visa, but when they arrive in Vienna choose to settle in Europe or the United States.

According to Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, who said he negotiated the new procedure last month in Moscow and Bucharest, Jews leaving the Soviet Union in the future will go to Israel through Rumania where they will not be able to obtain visas to the United States or other countries.

Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interreligious group working for human rights and religious freedom, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Monday that he negotiated the procedure in meetings with Communist Party Secretaries Aleksander Yakovlev and Anatoly Dobrynin in February, while attending the International Forum for a Nuclear-Free World for the Survival of Humanity in Moscow. He also discussed the issue, he said, with Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu who assured him of his support of the new arrangements.

"If anything, the new transit procedure will clearly establish the genuine quality of invitations extended by Soviet Jews already in Israel to their relatives in the Soviet Union," Schneier said. "I feel therefore, that it could increase the number of exit visas given to Soviet Jews because it represents a genuine process of family reunification."

Schneier noted, however, that regardless of the new transit procedure, he believes that more Jews will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union in the future.

**From Rumania To Israel**

Noting that the details of the new emigration procedure are not yet finalized, Schneier said that Jews who are given exit visas will be flown to Rumania and from there directly to Israel, without an opportunity to apply for a visa to the United States. He said he could not disclose the name of the Rumanian city that would be used for the direct flights to Tel Aviv, "out of security reasons."

Rumania, the rabbi noted, is the only East European country that has diplomatic ties with Israel and that "there are regular flights between the two countries." Although officials in Jerusalem and Washington said Monday they were not aware of a change in Soviet emigration procedure, Israel in fact has been actively seeking such a change in order to stem the growing number of dropouts.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, during his visit to the United States last month, asked the Reagan Administration to deny refugee status to Soviet Jews who leave the Soviet Union with an Israeli visa. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of Soviet Jews who received exit visas in recent years claimed refugee status upon their arrival in Vienna and settled in the United States instead of continuing to Israel.

Schneier told the JTA that the new transit procedure will be enacted "shortly" after "technical arrangements" are completed. He could not provide an exact date.

**THREE TERRORIST KILLED BY IDF**

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) — At least three terrorists were killed in two clashes with Israel Defense Force patrols in the south Lebanon security zone Sunday night and several terrorists were believed wounded, a military spokesman announced Monday. There were no IDF casualties.

The first clash occurred at about 8:30 p.m. local time near Majdal Selim where an IDF patrol encountered suspicious-acting persons and opened fire. The body of one was found and signs indicated that the body of another, either dead or wounded, was dragged along the ground. Land mines, Katyusha rockets, Kalashnikov rifles and parcels of high explosives were found in the vicinity.

An IDF patrol ran across another group of terrorists at about 10:30 p.m. near the ruins of the Beaufort Castle. An exchange of fire ensued. A search of the area disclosed two bodies and quantities of arms and explosives.

**LAND DAY OBSERVED PEACEFULLY BY ISRAELI ARABS; SPORADIC VIOLENCE MARKS DAY IN WEST BANK AND GAZA**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) — Land Day was observed peacefully by Israel's 700,000 Arabs Monday. But sporadic violence, school and shop closures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip demonstrated the contrasting moods and propensities of Palestinian Arabs who are citizens of Israel and those in the administered territories.

A curfew was imposed on the Balata refugee camp near Nablus Monday morning after youths hurled rocks at an Israel Defense Force patrol. Eight youngsters were arrested in Ramallah, near Jerusalem, for alleged incitement. Rubber bullets were fired at youths in nearby El Bireh who were throwing rocks. One Israeli soldier was slightly injured when a rock hit a private car he was driving.

A commercial strike was fully effective in Ramallah and schools remained closed for the day. But merchants in Nablus opened their doors, claiming they did so under pressure from the authorities. A commercial strike called in Gaza petered out shortly after it began.

Arab centers in Israel were calm. Life was normal, though thousands of Arabs assembled at three regional ceremonies to recall the events of 11 years ago.

Land Day originated in 1976 as a mass protest against the confiscation of Arab lands in Galilee to build Jewish settlements. What began as a general strike degenerated into violent demonstrations. Arab youths confronted soldiers and border police who gunned down six of them. The day has been one of mourning and protest by Palestinian Arabs ever since.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Monday that President Hafez Assad of Syria does not appear to have any information about Israelis held prisoner in Lebanon. He said there were no Israeli POWs in Syria. Carter, who spoke to reporters during a visit to Acra, was referring to his meeting with Assad in Damascus last week before coming to Israel.

## CONSERVATIVE BRANCH OF JUDAISM TO FILE BRIEFS IN ISRAEL SUPREME COURT TO OBTAIN FULL RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

ATLANTA, March 30 (JTA) — The Conservative branch of Judaism will file two briefs in Israel's Supreme Court to obtain full rights for its rabbis to perform marriages and for their converts to be accepted under Israel's Law of Return.

Rabbi Kassel Abelson, president of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly, told delegates at the Assembly's 87th annual meeting that he has just returned from Israel where he learned from leaders of the Masorati Movement (Conservative Judaism in Israel) that two court cases are being prepared — one which involves a test case for the recognition of a Conservative convert from Chile and another seeking the right of Conservative rabbis to register any marriages performed in Israel.

Abelson asserted that Israel must be pressed to "fully enforce the present Law of Return, which accepts the conversion of any rabbi recognized by his community or affiliated with a major rabbinical organization." He stressed that "we must fight vigorously for the rights of all rabbis — Conservative and Reform — and their synagogues to be fully accepted without discrimination."

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Assembly, said, "We should continue to press for the separation of politics and religion in Israel because history has taught us it corrupts both. At the present time the Orthodox rabbinate in Israel holds a monopoly on matters of marriage, divorce and child custody. What we need in Israel is a separation of church and state."

### Tough Position Toward Members Of Knesset

A resolution before the convention takes a tough position towards any member of Israel's Knesset voting to change the current Law of Return. Two years ago, at their annual meeting in Miami Beach, the Rabbinical Assembly voted to boycott 51 members of the Israel Parliament who at that time voted in favor of changing the legal status of Jewish converts.

The Rabbinical Assembly's resolution now before the delegates calls for a freeze on this boycott and say:

"Any members of the Knesset who in the future will vote in such a way as to call into question the legitimacy of Conservative Judaism (Masorati), its rabbis, synagogues or converts will be regarded as having knowingly attacked the Conservative movement and will thereby render themselves unacceptable as honored guests in a Conservative synagogue or as fitting representatives of Israel at communal functions in the American Jewish community in which the participation of Conservative rabbis or laymen is expected."

### Supports Full Pollard Spy Probe

Turning to the Jonathan Pollard spy case, Abelson supported a full investigation in Israel and agreed with others that the incident will not "seriously" affect Israel-American relations. "It will take time to heal the breach of trust but the breach will be healed," he observed. At the same time, Abelson called for a study of the effect the Pollard case has had on American Jews.

"The real concern is the impact that the incident has on the image and self-image of American Jews," he said, asking "Will American

Jews begin to see Israel's leaders indifferent to the position of American Jews? Will this begin to affect the quality of the relationship between Israel and American Jewry?"

The delegates are holding a symbolic sunset-to-sundown fast Monday as a plea to Soviet authorities to give Maria and Vladimir Slepak permission for immediate emigration.

The day of fasting by members of the Rabbinical Assembly was called in support of the Slepaks' son, Alexander, who is holding a 17-day hunger strike, which began Friday, until the day before Passover, April 12, in Washington, D.C.

## MEASURE TO INVESTIGATE HOW WAR CRIMINALS WERE ALLOWED INTO THE U.S. INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA) — Legislation to investigate how Nazi criminals were allowed into the United States has been introduced in Congress.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank (D. Mass.), would establish a seven-member Commission selected by Congress and the President which would enjoy special subpoena powers giving it access to evidence and testimony from the various intelligence agencies. The commission would issue a report on its findings of smuggling of Nazis by U.S. intelligence agents and recommendations.

"For far too long we have been trying to get answers to well documented allegations that the U.S. government in some cases assisted Nazis and their collaborators to enter the United States," Frank said.

Frank, who first introduced the bill in November 1985, told the JTA that some Congressmen opposed the bill because of concern about embarrassing findings. He hopes this year the bill enjoys the strong support of Rep. Peter Rodino (D. NJ), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. The bill is also co-sponsored by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY).

Rodino said a "committee with full subpoena powers is essential if we are to get to the bottom of the government's policy of quietly admitting and protecting Nazis and their collaborators. We still do not have a full picture of the extent of that involvement. Americans need to know the full truth of this episode in our particular history."

Frank proposed legislation after the completion of a second General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the subject which concluded that there was "no evidence of a broad program to recruit former Nazis for intelligence." Frank, Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman and Jewish leaders attacked the report, the second produced within seven years, for being misleading and inconclusive.

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GENEVA (JTA) — Israel is participating in the first United Nations conference on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Israeli delegation to the conference which ends April 10 is headed by Hannan Baron, former deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry. Ambassador Mohammed Ibrahim Shaker, the Egyptian representative to the United Nations here, was elected president of the conference.