

**Aftermath Of Reports On Soviet Jewry:
HOPE AND CAUTION IS PREVAILING
MOOD IN ISRAEL; SOVIET CONSULAR
DELEGATION EXPECTED SOON IN ISRAEL**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- Hope tempered by caution was the continuing prevailing mood in Israel Wednesday following reports that the Soviet Union may soon permit substantial numbers of Jews leave for Israel.

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that relations between the two countries will warm very soon. This was reinforced by the scheduled visit of a Consular delegation from Moscow. But it was not known whether the Soviets have agreed to Israel's condition that an Israeli delegation of a similar nature would return the visit. The visit by the Soviet delegation was arranged during the brief meeting between Israeli and Soviet representatives in Helsinki last August.

(According to an Israel Radio report from Washington, Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne said that the Soviet group could arrive in Israel in two weeks. "There is certainly a Soviet interest in renewing relations with Israel, but Israel also has an interest that the Israeli flag be planted soon in Moscow. When this will happen, we cannot say," Rosenne was quoted as telling Israel Radio. There was no immediate comment from Soviet officials in Moscow.)

Thousands Of Jews Expected

The Foreign Ministry estimated Wednesday that thousands of Soviet Jews will be getting exit visas in the next few months. That prediction was bolstered by reports that 470 Jews left the USSR last month, the largest number to leave in a single month in more than five years. Only 126 of them came to Israel, however.

But reports of recent talks in Moscow between Western Jewish leaders and ranking Soviet officials spoke of a new procedure whereby Jewish emigrants would be flown directly to Israel via Rumania.

Israel Is Able To Absorb Newcomers

Peres said Tuesday he was sure Israel could absorb thousand of immigrants from Russia. The Absorption Ministry said it plans to accommodate them initially at hotels rather than at absorption centers and will provide them with permanent housing in short order.

There are an estimated 60,000 vacant flats in Israel, though only half of them are in the three large cities. These are considered sufficient for the next three years on the basis of a projected influx of 10,000 immigrants per year. According to the Absorption Ministry, the cost of absorbing them will amount to \$220 million a year.

Although housing seems to pose no problem, the Ministry is concerned about employment opportunities. A high proportion of the immigrants expected from the Soviet Union are university graduates and they may not be able to find jobs corresponding to those they had in the USSR.

Yitzhak Welber, secretary of the teachers' union, sent a telegram to Education Minister

Yitzhak Navon Wednesday asking him to establish a team of experts to plan the absorption of hundreds of teachers and students from the Soviet Union. He said the educational challenge is to create strong motivation among the immigrants so they will be less likely to leave Israel.

**TWO U.S. JEWISH LEADERS WHO MET WITH
SOVIET LEADERS IN MOSCOW DISCLOSE
THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET ASSURANCES**

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- Two Jewish leaders who met with Soviet officials in Moscow last week said here Wednesday that they were assured that all refuseniks and their families will be allowed to emigrate to Israel within a one year period and that all Soviet Jews with exit visas for Israel will travel there via Rumania on flights to be established.

Those were two of the nine points listed by Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who concluded their talks in Moscow last Friday.

They said, at a meeting convened by the NCSJ here, attended by 150 Jewish communal leaders, that while there appeared to be a changing atmosphere in the Soviet Union, genuine progress would be measured in terms of Soviet performance on the range of issues discussed in Moscow.

With respect to refuseniks, the only limitation they said would be for legitimate national security cases. A procedure will be established, however, to review previous visa denials on national security grounds and this procedure may involve officials on a level as high as the Supreme Soviet, Abram and Bronfman said in a statement released at the meeting.

Seven More Points

The remaining seven points on which they said they were reassured are:

- * First-degree relatives may emigrate for family reunification within an established time frame. There may be flexibility within the framework of the current narrow interpretation of "first-degree relative."

- * Cases of those refuseniks recently placed in a "never allowed to emigrate" category will be reviewed.

- * All Jewish religious books may be imported into the USSR, and a recommended list of books will be submitted.

- * Synagogues will be opened at all sites where there is a demonstrated need.

- * Soviet Jews will be allowed greater access to rabbinical training. Some may even be allowed to study in the United States.

- * The teaching of Hebrew in school or synagogue settings will be considered together with similar restrictions applied to other religious groups.

- * A kosher restaurant will be opened in Moscow, and liberal provisions will be made for ritual slaughter. Abram and Bronfman said they would consult further with the Jewish community

and with members of Congress and government leaders and would be prepared to suggest incremental responses based on measured progress on these points. Under consideration would be support for a change in the Stevenson Amendment as well as annual waivers of the trade restrictions in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, based on very substantial and sustained emigration. They stressed that only annual waivers will be considered until the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration has been completely resolved.

RABIN CONCERNED OVER ISRAELI SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin is unhappy with the sanctions Israel has announced against South Africa which he fears may serve as a precedent for similar embargoes by many countries against Israel. He is also concerned over the impact Israel's action may have on the South African Jewish community of 115-120,000.

Rabin expressed his views to a visiting Israel Bond Organization delegation here Tuesday night. Referring to the government's recent announcement that it would enter into no new arms sales contracts with the Pretoria government -- though it would honor existing ones -- Rabin said he disliked embargoes and sanctions. He recalled that Israel was the victim of boycotts by the U.S. and Europe in 1948 and 1967.

South Africa, Rabin said, was the only country to send Israel badly needed spare parts for its French-built Mirage jets after the 1967 Six-Day War when France and other Western European countries imposed an arms embargo against Israel.

Israel has always expressed abhorrence for apartheid, despite its friendly relations with South Africa. But it never let the domestic policies of any regime influence its diplomatic relations with that country, Rabin said.

He noted that Israel maintained diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1953 when Stalin was engineering the "doctors plot" which fueled anti-Semitism. It was Moscow which broke relations with Israel, not the other way around, he said.

CARTER: INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE A DEVIATION FROM CAMP DAVID ACCORDS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter, who ended a five-day visit to Israel Tuesday, said some Israelis have misconceptions about a proposed international conference for Middle East peace. He said such a conference would be no deviation from the Camp David accords, but rather a step forward within their framework and spirit.

Carter spoke to reporters Monday after receiving an honorary Ph.D. degree from Haifa University, presented by its president, Ephraim Evron, a former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. He said the fears expressed by "some Israelis" over the portents of an international conference were the result of "inadequate analysis of the opportunities."

The issue has not been sufficiently debated in Israel, Carter said. Therefore many believe an international conference would force Israel to

return to its 1967 borders. According to Carter, each participating state would be guaranteed the right to make its own decisions and not have them imposed.

The conference should lead to bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab states. If those talks break down, the issues could be referred back to the full forum, Carter said.

The former President was accompanied to Ben Gurion Airport Tuesday by Ezer Weizman, who, as Israel's Defense Minister in 1978, participated in the Camp David negotiations.

U.S. LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT BY HUSSEIN LATER THIS YEAR By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- The United States is "looking forward to a visit later this year" by Jordan's King Hussein, who is sending two of his top advisors to Washington next week, the State Department announced Monday.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Masri will meet with Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. They will be in Washington April 6-7.

"The Prime Minister is not a substitute for the King. It's simply another opportunity to exchange views with our close friends," said State Department spokesperson Phyllis Oakley.

Hussein turned down an invitation to visit the U.S. early this year reportedly because of anger over the Reagan Administration's sale of arms to Iran. Jordan is a supporter of Iraq in the Gulf war.

The Iranian arms disclosure came at a time when the Reagan Administration has dropped plans to push for the sale of mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan because of continued congressional opposition. Supporters of Israel in Congress argue that the missiles would greatly weaken Israel's air superiority.

Anticipated Jordanian Position

But the Reagan Administration is proposing a 29 percent increase in military aid for Jordan next year, which was cut sharply this year because of budgetary constraints. The Jordanian officials are likely to push for American support for an international peace conference. The conference has been rejected by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir because it would include participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Soviet Union.

"We are willing to explore all possibilities, including an international conference, that may lead to the immediate objectives of direct negotiations," said Oakley. She reiterated the U.S. position is that its "goal is a just and lasting peace through direct face-to-face negotiations." The State Department said it expects a visit by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak soon, who had also turned down an invitation to visit Washington because of anger over the Iranian arms sales. Mubarak is also a supporter of an international peace conference.

DEMJIANKUK'S TRIAL CONTINUES By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- The trial of alleged war criminal John Demjanjuk continued in Jerusalem district Court Wednesday with the cross-examination of Helge Grabitz, a member of

the district attorney's office in Hamburg who specializes in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor, is seeking to demonstrate that his client was a prisoner of war of the Germans and not the sadistic Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

All of his questions are aimed at disproving the prosecution's contention that Demjanjuk was trained at the Trawniki SS camp for his duties at Treblinka. He has dismissed as a forgery Demjanjuk's identification card, signed by the Trawniki commandant, which Israel obtained from Soviet sources. Grabitz, who authenticated the signature on the card, said Tuesday that she had never come across the name Demjanjuk in the Trawniki documents she studied, but noted that she examined only a small portion of the documents, the rest being missing.

On Wednesday, O'Connor wanted to know whether non-German but Aryan-looking POWs were conscripted for guard duty at the death camp. He apparently sought to cast doubt that the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk was one of them.

Demjanjuk was not in court Wednesday. He complained he was ill and watched the proceedings on closed circuit television from a cot in a makeshift cell adjacent to the courtroom.

HERZOG ON STATE VISIT TO SWITZERLAND First Such Visit By An Israeli President By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 1 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog's state visit to Switzerland coincides with the 90th anniversary of the first World Zionist Congress, convened in Basel in 1897 by Theodor Herzl, who predicted with amazing accuracy that within 50 years there would be a Jewish State.

Herzog, accompanied by his wife Aura and aides, landed at Zurich Airport Wednesday morning, where he was greeted by his host, President Pierre Auber, who is also the country's Foreign Minister.

Immediately after airport ceremonies, Herzog went to Basel, where he received a warm welcome from the Canton authorities at the City Hall. He will remain in Switzerland over the weekend and then go to visit Germany (related story P. 4).

Herzog is the first President of Israel to visit Switzerland officially and his arrival has stirred the country's 18,000 Jews. He returned to Zurich Wednesday evening for a reception given by the Federation, of Jewish Communities in Switzerland. George Brunshweitz, president of the Federation held a dinner in his honor at the Baur Au Lac hotel.

Excellent Israeli-Swiss Relations

Israel and Switzerland have excellent relations. The Swiss Defense Ministry is a customer of Israel's arms industry. A majority of the Swiss are pro-Israel, though certain banks and manufacturers have been wary of business ties because of the Arab boycott.

The Herzogs will be guests of president Auber and his wife Anne-Lise at their home in Neuchatel Friday and the two heads of state are expected to discuss trade and cultural relations. Another subject will be Israel's relations with the International Red Cross, which is headquartered in Switzerland. Those relations have deteriorated of

late. The Red Cross maintains that Israel does not adhere to the 4th Geneva Convention with respect to the Arab population of the administered territories.

The Red Cross moreover has refused to recognize its Israeli equivalent, the Magen David Adom, though earlier this year it incorporated the Moslem Red Crescent organization.

U.S. AND ISRAEL TO EXPAND EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA AND PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- The United States and Israel are exploring ways to expand existing agreements between their governments on the exchange of information and personnel in the fields of science, medical care and social welfare programs, according to Undersecretary of Health and Human Services Don Newman.

Newman, who recently returned from Israel where he represented Human Services Secretary Otis Bowen, held talks with Israeli officials on the expansion of two memoranda of agreement which provide for cooperation between Israel and the U.S. on issues of health care and human welfare services.

The agreement on medical care, now four years old, "identifies several areas of mutual interest" between the U.S. and Israel, Newman said, including health manpower and services, health services research, information systems, public health, biomedical research and related areas such as food and drugs.

Broad Spectrum Of Cooperative Activities

The Undersecretary said the second memorandum of agreement, approved in 1985, "covers areas of cooperative activities and interest" in a broad spectrum of social welfare programs ranging from community in-home services for the physically impaired and research on social indicators to housing for the aged and juvenile delinquency.

"These agreements reflect a close relationship of 20 years' standing," Newman said, "and we are eager to maintain and to strengthen that relationship."

Newman said a recent tour of the Medical Center and meetings with Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Samuel Penchas and other key members of the medical staff "gave impetus to our desire to see these agreements expanded."

Newman indicated the U.S. has a special interest in the youth project -- called "Youth 2000" -- which encompasses government programs dealing with teenage pregnancies, drug abuse, fetal alcohol syndrome, underweight newborn babies and AIDS.

He also cited an innovative program in Israel in which developmentally disabled children and adults are trained to work on kibbutzim. He said he was impressed with the results achieved by encouraging the developmentally disabled to work in, and develop a relationship with, the soil.

Newman, who met with Israel Minister of Health Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino during his recent visit, said the U.S. is interested in enlarging the scope of health care statistics and methodology currently exchanged by the two countries and in expanding cooperative activities in areas such as medical technology, a drug reaction registry, laboratory practices and biomedical research.

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS OPPOSE REQUEST FOR U.S. TO CHANGE REFUGEE STATUS OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES

ATLANTA, April 1 (JTA) -- Conservative rabbis here went on record opposing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's request that the United States change the refugee status of Soviet Jewish emigres since unlike other emigres they have Israel to go to as a homeland.

Members of the Rabbinical Assembly, holding their 87th annual convention here, adopted a strong resolution calling for no further cultural exchanges, continued enforcement of the Jackson-Vanik trade restriction amendment and no expansion of trade with the USSR "unless there is a substantial improvement in the Soviet human rights position, especially the levels of Jewish emigration."

The rabbis hoped that changes announced this week by some Jewish leaders that 11,000 Soviet Jews would soon be granted visas and that others would be allowed to teach Hebrew and Jewish cultural subjects as promised by Soviet authorities would "become a reality."

"This would constitute an important breakthrough in U.S.-Soviet relations," commented Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Rabbinical Assembly executive vice president.

"If these reports are carried out we should recognize and acknowledge that an important change had occurred in Soviet policy," said Kelman. "I hope that this will lead to full normalization of relations between the great powers, Israel and the Soviet Union and, most important, a Soviet Jewish community relating to the world Jewish community."

Kelman stated that "I would like to see Soviet Jews and American Jews who want to go to Israel and help build and strengthen Israel do so by their own choice and not by coercion."

KAHANE ASSAILS ISRAEL FOR NOT STANDING BEHIND POLLARD

By Judith Colp

SILVER SPRING, Md., April 1 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane excoriated Israel Tuesday night for not standing behind convicted American spy Jonathan Pollard and for "forcing" the resignation of his Israeli contact, Col. Aviem Sella, from his new position as commander of Tel Nof air base.

"Israel owes Pollard loyalty," Kahane told an enthusiastic audience of some 100 persons at the Silver Spring Jewish Center. "We have not only left behind Pollard, we have thrown him and Sella to the dogs."

"The Israeli government has an obligation to have the American government expel the Pollards and let them live in Israel. Israel has an obligation to say we did it (we spied), and he's not going to pay for it," he added.

Kahane said his concern about the Pollard affair prompted the quick visit to the U.S. during the final week of the winter session of the Knesset where he represents the Kach Party.

Kahane said Pollard's sentence of life imprisonment by a federal district court here was particularly harsh and evidence of "vicious anti-Semitism in United States." Pollard, he added, never meant to hurt America and should have been expelled to Israel. Kahane said he also believed reports that the United States spied on Israel, first suggested by Sen. David Durenberger (R. Minn.). "Everybody spies against everyone

else. The United States Embassy in Tel Aviv bristles with antennas. Twenty percent of all workers in embassies are spies," he said adding that there is "nothing immoral or illegal about spying."

Kahane, speaking the day before the State Department was scheduled to release a report on countries illegally selling arms with South Africa, criticized Israel for bowing to American pressure in this area.

"No decent Jew will ever defend apartheid, but what will take its place? Oliver Tambo (leader of the African National Congress) defends the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Jewish people have interests and their major interest is to survive and the Third World doesn't want Jews to survive," he said.

LAWSUIT BY HOLOCAUST DENIER DISMISSED

LOS ANGELES, April 1 (JTA) -- The U.S. District Court here has dismissed a lawsuit brought by David McCalden, a distributor of printed matter alleging the Holocaust never occurred, who claimed his civil rights were violated.

McCalden headed the Institute for Historical Review, which publishes and circulates material denying the Holocaust and currently runs an organization known as "Truth Missions," which makes the same allegations.

His suit charged the Simon Weisenthal Center, the American Jewish Committee, the California Library Association and the Bonaventure Hotel with breach of contract and violation of civil rights after the Library Association cancelled McCalden's scheduled appearance at its 1984 annual conference at the Bonaventure Hotel.

Judge Consuelo Marshall of the U.S. District Court dismissed the case against all of the defendants, except the City of Los Angeles. McCalden was given 10 days to show cause in writing why the remaining action against the municipality should not be dismissed.

Marshall ruled that the complainant was unable to demonstrate he was the victim of discrimination within the meaning of the Federal and State Civil Rights Acts.

HERZOG ON HIS WAY TO WEST GERMANY

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog said Tuesday night that he was not embarking on a "journey of forgiving and forgetting" but on a trip "symbolic of the victory of the victims of the Holocaust over its perpetrators."

Herzog, addressing Cabinet Ministers and senior officials in Jerusalem hours before his departure early Wednesday morning on an official 10-day visit to Switzerland and West Germany, was referring to the controversial portion of his trip -- the five days he will spend in Germany, beginning next Monday. He will be the first President of Israel to set foot on German soil in official capacity.

His first stop will be the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, which the Irish-born Herzog, as an officer in the British army, helped liberate in the final stages of World War II. That is expected to blunt some of the criticism directed at the President by rightwing and nationalist elements in Israel who object to his going to Germany.