

SHAMIR HOPES PERES FAILS DURING HIS VISIT TO SPAIN TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA) -- Labor-Likud relations took a sour turn Sunday as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres left on an official visit to Spain to seek support for an international peace conference with the publicly proclaimed ill wishes of Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

Shamir stated flatly before and during the Israel Bond Organization Leadership Conference in Jerusalem Saturday night that he hoped Peres "would not succeed." Peres' aides called his remark that of a political hack. It was "party, not state politics and we will not react," a spokesman for the Foreign Minister said.

The sharply divergent views of Shamir and Peres over an international conference for Middle East peace have long been in the open. Peres has vigorously pursued that goal while Shamir has vowed repeatedly that such a forum is unacceptable.

Cannot Recall A Precedent

But observers here could recall no precedent when a Prime Minister, speaking into radio microphones and to the press, stated his hope that a Foreign Minister's endeavors during a trip of great diplomatic sensitivity would fail. Peres is the first senior Israeli Minister to visit Spain since the two countries established diplomatic relations little more than a year ago.

Before leaving for Madrid, he told reporters he would ask the Spanish Premier, Felipe Gonzalez, to use his influence in the Arab world to promote an international conference. "Politically, we will certainly discuss the process of peace, how to continue it, how to develop it, how to enlarge it, and what role Spain can play in it," Peres said.

Only a few hours earlier, Shamir was telling the Israel Bond leaders that "Anyone aiming for true peace and for real progress toward this goal should make it abundantly clear that such a (international) peace conference will take us further away from peace and hurt the chances of achieving it."

Repercussions At The Cabinet Meeting

The incident had repercussions at Sunday's Cabinet meeting where Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman, standing in for Peres while he is abroad, demanded a debate there and then on the subject. Shamir refused.

Weizman observed that this was the first time in Israel's history that a Prime Minister hoped for the failure of a Foreign Minister on a mission abroad. He accused Shamir of undermining the government's image at home and overseas.

Shamir responded that he did not oppose Peres' visit to Europe but only his endeavors for an international conference. He said he wished Peres well on everything else.

Peres said before his departure that in addition to the Middle East peace process, Israel and Spain "still have to settle some differences concerning the Common Market" of which Spain

as a member competes with Israel's exports to the European Economic Community (EEC), mainly citrus and citrus products.

"Culturally, I think the cultural ties (between Israel and Spain) have developed quite impressively," Peres said. He said he planned to visit Toledo "which used to be a center of Jewish life, so there will be an historic flavor to this visit."

After visiting Spain, Peres will go to Rome for a meeting of the Socialist International where the Middle East peace process will also be discussed. As head of Israel's Labor Party, Peres is a member of the Socialist International.

Mubarak Enters The Fray

Peres' latest feud with Shamir drew the attention of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He told a Kuwaiti newspaper interviewer in Cairo Saturday that what Peres had to say carries more weight than Shamir's remarks.

"Listen to what he (Peres) says and don't attach any importance to Shamir's declarations," Mubarak said. He also observed that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization would have to negotiate directly to settle their differences.

The newspaper Al-Rai Al-Am quoted Mubarak as saying, "Direct negotiations, whether one likes it or not, are inevitable at some stage. Carrier pigeons -- intermediaries -- will not suffice."

PERES RECEIVES WARM WELCOME IN SPAIN

By Edwin Eytan

MADRID, April 5 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres received a warm welcome when he arrived here Sunday for a two-day official visit, the first by a senior Israeli Minister to Spain since the two countries established diplomatic relations more than a year ago.

Peres was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez who said relations with Israel are progressing smoothly and the Spanish government hopes to strengthen them further in the months ahead. Peres observed that his visit is of diplomatic and political importance "but also of great historic and cultural value in view of the two nations past links."

During his stay here he will meet with King Juan Carlos and with Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez. Prior to his arrival, the Spanish press, including the national newspapers Diaro 16, ABC and La Vanguardia, published interviews with Peres and devoted considerable space to his comments on Spanish-Israeli relations. Two months ago, Spain was visited by Israel's Minister of Education and Culture, Yitzhak Navon.

In reply to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Prime Minister Gonzalez said Spain favors an international conference for Middle East peace, as advocated by Peres. But the modalities are still to be worked out.

The Spanish government believes the Soviet Union should be one of the participants, Gonzalez said, in order to ensure its chances for success. He declined to go into details. "This is something with which the European Community has to work out and reach a common policy," he said.

Peres' assertion, before he left Israel earlier Sunday, that an international conference would be on the agenda of his talks in Spain, aroused the wrath of Premier Yitzhak Shamir who said he hoped Peres "would not succeed."

ABRAM AND BRONFMAN ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON THEIR SOVIET VISIT

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) -- Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, issued a joint statement Friday in response to criticism of their visit to the Soviet Union last month.

The statement said:

"All of the Jewish organizations in the United States dealing with the issue of Soviet Jewry are members of either the National Conference on Soviet Jewry or the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. It was the elected leader of the NCSJ and the Presidents Conference who, with the President of the World Jewish Congress, representing 70 Jewish communities around the world, undertook a visit to the USSR, ensuring a delegation representing the most wide-ranging cross-section of U.S. and world Jewry.

"On April 1, a debriefing was attended by nearly 150 Jewish leaders representing more than 60 member agencies of the NCSJ and the Presidents Conference, together with leadership of the World Jewish Congress. We are therefore surprised that some of the critics of this procedure did not voice all of their objections in the presence of their peers at the debriefing, but chose to discuss issues of internal concern with the media.

"The internecine squabbles waged in the media are at a minimum, unseemly. More importantly, they can be harmful to the security of those Soviet Jews whose lives are at stake. Such battles are confusing to political decision-makers in Washington and Moscow, who may erroneously believe that the Jewish community is so racked by dissension that it will not be able to deliver on commitments made in good faith. They offer those in the USSR who oppose a positive resolution of the fate of the 11,000-12,000 refuseniks, and the hundreds of thousands of others who seek to emigrate, a weapon with which to inhibit a true and comprehensive solution to the plight of Soviet Jewry."

ISRAEL BOND LEADERS SAY POLLARD CASE HAS NOT AFFECTED SALES

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA) -- Israel Bond Organization national officers, meeting here at the concluding session of their week-long 1987 leadership conference in Israel, reported that the Jonathan Pollard spy case has not affected bond sales in either the Jewish or non-Jewish communities in the United States. There had been some media reports that the Bond Organization has taken a low profile in the U.S. since the exposure of the Pollard case.

On the contrary, said Yehuda Halevy, president of the Bond Organization, "Our bond sales are going full speed ahead at an even better rate than last year's record of \$603 million. We have targeted \$700 million for this year and we hope to achieve it."

David Hermelin, international chairman, said the Bond Organization has two ways of checking grass-roots reaction. There is either an immediate response from individuals who won't honor pledges or there is a drop in cash flow. Neither has happened, he said.

As proof of the cash flow maintenance, Julian Venezky, chairman of the Board, pointed out that \$148.8 million had been invested in the first quarter of this year, a 40 percent increase over the same period last year.

ISRAEL URGED TO CEASE ALL ARMS EXCHANGES WITH SOUTH AFRICA

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) -- Two American Jewish groups are calling on Israel to take its newly adopted sanctions against South Africa one step further by ceasing all military exchanges with the racist government.

American Jewish Congress president Theodore Mann and New York Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) president Lester Pollack have issued separate statements which praise the new Israeli sanctions while noting that they are only a first step towards total disengagement from military trade with South Africa.

The Israeli government decided on March 18 to prohibit any new military contracts with South Africa and to allow existing military contracts to expire. The new sanctions allow Israeli companies to uphold existing military contracts.

"We now urge Israel to go the extra distance -- by halting all arms sales under pre-existing agreements as quickly and expeditiously as possible," the AJCongress statement said.

The statement also expressed disappointment with the findings released by the State Department last Thursday that Israel, France, Italy, Great Britain, West Germany, The Netherlands, and Switzerland all violated the 1977 United Nations arms embargo on South Africa.

The JCRC, like the AJCongress, said it finds "no moral justification for the sale of arms, the transfer of technology or the provision of fuel by any country, so long as Pretoria's racist policies remain in effect."

The pressure of sanctions is aimed at convincing the South African government to change its apartheid policies, the JCRC said.

"We share with Israel a concern for the Jewish community of South Africa and welcome Israel's recent constructive first step in a process that will hopefully lead to full disengagement from any military cooperation with South Africa," the JCRC statement said.

VERDICTS ON TWO WAR CRIMINAL CASES

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) -- A federal district court ruled here last week that Karl Linnas may be deported to his native Estonia for war crimes committed there during World War II. But a Cincinnati immigration court judge delivered an opposite verdict in the case of alleged war criminal Leonid Petkiewytsh whom the Justice Department wants to deport to Poland.

Linnas, a 67-year-old Long Island resident, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 and ordered deported in 1983 after lengthy hearings determined that he had been commandant of the Tartu concentration camp in Estonia and was responsible for the deaths of at least 12,000 inmates, including thousands of Jews.

Pietkiewytch, 63, a resident of Finneytown, Ohio, was charged by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) with the persecution of inmates of the Kiel-Hasse labor camp in Germany during the war in collaboration with the Nazi authorities and with concealing the fact that he was arrested by the British for war crimes, when he entered the U.S. in 1955.

Immigration Judge O. John Brahos ruled, however, that the government showed insufficient evidence that Pietkiewytch acted voluntarily rather than under duress and that his detention by the British was not material to the issuance of a U.S. visa. The OSI is expected to appeal.

But Linnas' fight against deportation is apparently over. The U.S. Supreme Court twice declined to hear his appeals. The ruling by the federal district court Wednesday was the second time since last March that a federal court found that deportation of Linnas was justified.

He was sentenced in absentia in the Soviet Union in 1962 for war crimes committed in Estonia which is now Soviet territory. His appeals argued that evidence obtained from the Soviet Union was false and that deportation would mean certain death.

But U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani argued that the evidence supplied by the Soviet authorities only corroborated other evidence presented at the hearings. Although Attorney General Edwin Meese delayed signing the deportation order while the case was under "review," the Justice Department is now expected to act quickly to send Linnas back to Estonia.

The case has stirred emotions among Jews, including Holocaust survivors who urged deportation and East European anti-Communist groups which supported Linnas' appeals.

In Ohio, meanwhile, survivors of the Kiel-Hasse labor camp expressed bitter disappointment over Judge Brahos' decision and hoped that appeals against it will be successful.

SURPRISE EXPRESSED OVER NEW DEVELOPMENT IN POLLARD SPY CASE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA) -- Israeli circles expressed surprise over the weekend that the U.S. suddenly has made an issue of questioning Harold Katz, a 65-year-old American-born lawyer who immigrated to Israel in 1972, on alleged connections with convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

Katz, who holds dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, denied that he ever knew Pollard or the Israeli officials most closely linked to his spying activities. Israeli officials said Katz was questioned by U.S. officials over six months ago. The media quoted Israel Embassy sources in Washington as saying "They've sat on the Katz business for six months. Why now all of a sudden?"

The answer, according to those sources, is "yet more coordinated pressure on Israel." The Israel government has refused to allow Katz to go to Washington for questioning by a federal grand jury about the alleged use of an apartment he keeps there for pay-offs to Pollard and to receive intelligence data from him.

But the government, and Katz, say he is prepared to answer questions by an American investigator, possibly at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. Katz, who worked in the Defense Ministry's legal department here from 1972-82, admitted that he gave a key to his Washington apartment to Irit Erb, at the time a secretary at the office of the

Scientific Attache at the Israel Embassy in Washington, who has been implicated in the Pollard case.

Erb was one of three employees at the Embassy and the Israel Consulate General in New York who left the U.S. when Pollard was arrested in 1985 for spying for Israel. Katz said he knew Erb as a friend who offered to help furnish the apartment so that he could sub-lease it to Israelis looking for living quarters in Washington.

Katz said last Friday night that he had told the U.S. prosecutor who questioned him here a year ago, "under the pains and penalties of perjury," that the first time he heard of Erb's alleged use of his apartment for contacts with Pollard was when the prosecutor questioned him about it.

He insisted he never knew Pollard or Israel Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, Pollard's alleged "handler," nor had he ever passed any money or documents in the case.

Israeli and American officials reportedly have been discussing ground rules for questioning Katz for the past six months. The Israelis say they can think of no reason why publicity about Katz should have emerged now unless it was part of an attempt by some American circles to implicate Israel yet further in the Pollard affair.

RABBI SAYS U.S. JEWS CAN'T LIVE AS JEWS 'THROUGH ISRAEL AS OUR PROXY'
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 5 (JTA) -- American Jews must find their religious identity in the United States instead of vicariously through Israel. Rabbi Joshua Haberman, president of the Foundation for Jewish Studies, said last Thursday.

"We can't live as Jews through Israel as our proxy," Haberman told an audience of some 130 persons at the Washington Hilton after accepting the fourth annual Leadership Award from the Washington Jewish Week.

"We must never cease in our support and identification with Israel, but we must live as Jews here even as they must live as Israelis and Jews there," he said.

Haberman, who is rabbi emeritus of the Reform Washington Hebrew Congregation, said he believes the nation is faced with a "spiritual malaise."

"We Jews have an incredible advantage. In the Western world we have learned important lessons and gained deep insights in world-saving truths from our historical experience of nearly 4,000 years. But a time such as this, when we could be a light unto the nation, most of our people, so brilliantly educated in all the secular branches of learning, are Jewishly illiterate," he said. "We are messengers who have forgotten the message."

The Foundation for Jewish Studies, a private organization founded in 1983 with a \$1 million donation by an anonymous donor, awards and creates different projects on Jewish issues. The Foundation also arranges for classes taught by visiting professors that are open to all Jewish denominations. Prof. Abraham Kaplan of the University of California, Los Angeles, is the Foundation's current scholar in residence.

Haberman said he believes there is a renewed "quest for Jewish knowledge," that will bridge gaps between different Jewish religious denominations. "We may not be able to pray together, but we can study together," he said.

**ARIZONA LAWMAKERS JOIN PROTEST
OF ABA ACCORD WITH SOVIET LAWYERS**

PHOENIX, Ariz., April 5 (JTA) -- Two Arizona lawmakers have joined the ongoing battle against a 1985 agreement between the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL).

Pauline Yearwood of the Greater Phoenix Jewish News reported that Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D.) and Rep. Jon Kyl (R.) said they opposed the agreement because it symbolized acceptance of Soviet human rights violations.

"I am deeply concerned about the many facts reflecting a lack of respect of human rights, and strong proof of an anti-Semitic philosophy among the ASL leadership," DeConcini said.

ASL has been involved most notably in the publication of anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist writings together with the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public.

Kyl said that as a 20-year member of the ABA he was "ashamed that the ABA would be involved in a thing like this." He said he was developing a strategy aimed at convincing the ABA to abrogate the agreement during its annual summer meeting.

He also is planning to bring up the matter before the House of Representatives and said he is trying to convince members of Congress to sign a letter asking for an end to the agreement.

A Barrage Of Criticism

These statements followed a barrage of criticism aimed at statements made by ABA president Eugene Thomas of Boise, Idaho, during the ABA's mid-year meeting in New Orleans in February. He was reported to have said that members of the Task Force on ABA-Soviet Relations who were protesting the lawyers' agreement "are scarred by the Holocaust" and focused on "family concerns" while ABA is involved in "larger issues."

Patience Huntwork, who led the demonstrators along with fellow Phoenix attorney Orest Jeina, denounced Thomas' reported statement as "neither factually accurate nor pertinent to the issue of the ABA's ties to the Soviets."

"Furthermore, it was inappropriate and insensitive ... It is a sad state of affairs when the president of the American Bar Association does not appear to understand the full implications of the Holocaust."

Says Remarks Were Taken Out Of Context

Thomas indicated to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his remarks were taken out of context. A transcript his office provided showed the remarks were contained in his reply to a question at a press conference, "Why is there this apparent difference in the agenda of the picketers and the agenda of the ABA?"

Thomas reportedly said: "Well, it's different in the sense that these are people who were deeply scarred by the Holocaust, as I think all of us are in varying degrees. The Holocaust was not limited to Jewish people and the horror is not limited to any particular religion or race."

"But, yes, I think their focus is on their families, their hurt, their fears. We're also focused on the need to deal with terrorism, world trade, environmental laws ... So our agenda is broader than theirs ... We differ on means and strategy, not goals; now the ABA must follow its best judgment and that includes talking to people with whom we disagree."

He reiterated those statements to JTA and added that the ABA alliance had strong support from the Jewish community. "In my view the majority of Jewish people and Jewish organizations strongly support and greatly appreciate the lawyers involved in this important effort," he said.

However, the Jewish News noted, because of alleged ASL ties to Soviet anti-Semitism, a number of Jewish groups -- including the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the community relations committees of Jewish federations in Greater Baton Rouge, Greater Miami, Greater Phoenix, Greater Seattle and Northern New Jersey -- have called on the ABA to abrogate the agreement.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center also was critical of Thomas' remarks, but did not call for an end to the agreement.

And among the demonstrators at the ABA convention, according to the Jewish News, were William Wolf, a member of Arizona Action for Soviet Jewry; Yigal Bander, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Baton Rouge, La., and other Louisiana Jews.

**HABIMAH HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY
INVITED TO PERFORM IN BUDAPEST**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA) -- Habimah, the Israel National Theater, has been officially invited to perform in Budapest, and the Hungarian National Theater will come to Israel later for performances at the Habimah Theater building.

The invitation to Habimah was extended by the director of the Hungarian Ministry of Education's Cultural Affairs Department to Habimah artistic director Omri Nitzan and actor Avraham Ronai during their visit to Hungary as the guests of the Hungarian National Theater last week.

The Israeli group will probably visit Hungary in September or October, during a Habimah tour of Europe during which they will perform at theatrical festivals in Copenhagen, West Berlin and Belgrade.

Omri said that while in Budapest, they had met with Mikhael Glöz, artistic director of the Soviet Jewish Theater in Moscow, who had expressed the hope that his actors' group would visit Israel shortly.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONTINUE STRIKE

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA) -- About 1,500 university students staged a rowdy demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office while the Cabinet was in session Sunday to protest the government's failure to discuss their grievances over plans to raise tuition fees for higher education. The students, demanding the resignation of Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, sat in the roadway to prevent Ministers' cars from leaving the main entrance. Twelve members of the Students Council were dragged bodily into police vans and taken to the police station.

More than 80,000 university students went on strike last Thursday to protest the tuition hikes. The strike will continue this week, but on a rotation basis. Each of the country's universities will be struck on a different day. The Education Ministry warned that if the strike has not ended by the time school recesses for the Passover holidays, the rest of the spring semester might be cancelled.