

**KOHL SAYS THE HOLOCAUST  
SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED NOR  
BELITTLED BY THE GERMAN PEOPLE**  
By David Kantor

BONN, April 8 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in his strongest public statement on the Nazi era, called the crime of genocide against the Jews a crime "unprecedented in history," declaring "we should keep alive the memory of the full extent of that terrible past" and "will oppose any attempts to dismiss them from our thoughts or belittle them."

The Chancellor's remarks, at a luncheon Tuesday in honor of the visiting President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was seen as a warning against attempts by some West German scholars to equate the Nazi extermination of Jews with other crimes in modern history and by neo-Nazis to rewrite history by claiming the Holocaust never occurred.

"The period of genocide is the darkest chapter in German history," Kohl said. "We Germans have to live with the terrible truth that in the days of National Socialism the Jews were subjected to unspeakable suffering at the hands of the Germans . . . It is part of our self-image that we keep alive the memory . . ."

Kohl ended his speech with a toast "to Israel's future in peace and self-determination." But he made clear that West Germany and Israel differ on approaches to Middle East peace.

Bonn strongly supports an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Chancellor said. "We welcome the fact that the idea of an international negotiating forum is gaining increasing acceptance in Israel. The positions are still far apart, but there are encouraging signs," he said.

He also reiterated Bonn's long-standing support for the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

Herzog, responding, said Israel's realities were all too often poorly perceived. He cited the participation of Israeli Arabs in the political process, the daily contacts between Israelis and Egyptians and the heavy traffic between Jordan and Israel over the Jordan River bridges.

Alluding to possible West German softness on international terrorism, Herzog warned: "Terrorists are united. Their victims are not. Terrorists know no boundaries nor do they respect sovereignty. Israel will not compromise with terrorists and will hit at the sources of international terrorism, of which the Palestine Liberation Organization is a major element."

Herzog and Kohl met privately before the luncheon. Their meeting was described by both Israeli and German sources as "very constructive," though differences remain on the peace issue--and on possible West German arms sales to Arab countries still technically in a state of war with Israel.

**PERES HAS 90-MINUTE PRIVATE  
MEETING WITH TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS**

ROME, April 8 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had a 90-minute private

meeting with two senior Soviet officials here Tuesday night. An aide to Peres, Israel Gat, said the meeting was "very important" but declined to give details, saying it was premature to talk about results or progress.

The Soviet officials are Karel Bruten and Alexander Zutov, both close aides to Anatoly Dobrynin in the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's international affairs department. Bruten has been described as the Soviet Politburo's top expert on the Middle East.

According to Gat, Peres told the Russian officials that diplomatic relations must be restored between the Soviet Union and Israel to pave the way for an international conference on Middle East peace.

Bruten and Zutov were invited as observers to the conference of the Socialist International which opened here Wednesday. On Tuesday they, along with Peres, attended a close meeting of the International's Middle Eastern affairs committee which discussed prospects for an international peace conference.

That meeting was also attended by two Palestinian observers, Hanna Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr, and Abu Rahme, a lawyer from Gaza.

Peres met with the Soviet officials shortly after arriving here from Madrid following a two-day official visit to Spain.

**EBAN DEFENDS U.S. JEWS AGAINST  
CHARGES IN ISRAEL THAT THEY REACTED  
FEARFULLY TO THE POLLARD SPY CASE**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 8 (JTA) -- MK Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, sharply criticized Tuesday night charges made recently in Israel that American Jewish leaders reacted fearfully to the case of Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for Israel.

He said that American Jews are entitled to differ with Israel, charging that the critics of American Jewry hurled "condescending platitudes" without really knowing or understanding the American Jewish community.

Eban, who is also the chairman of the special intelligence subcommittee investigating Israel's role in the Pollard affair, spoke at the Pierre Hotel where he was awarded the 1987 International Shazar Prize of the Israel Historical Society.

In his speech, Eban did not mention the Pollard affair. But his remarks were clearly aimed at Shlomo Avineri, a distinguished Israeli scholar and academician, who triggered controversy last month when he charged that American Jewish leaders displayed a "galut" mentality in their reaction to the Pollard case. Furthermore, Avineri accused the American Jewish leaders of "cringing" for fear of charges of dual loyalty, thereby belying "the conventional wisdom of American Jewry feeling free, secure and unmolested in an open pluralistic society."

"Do not believe anything of it," Eban told the more than 300 guests attending the affair. "Everybody knows it is not true . . ." he ex-

claimed. To begin with, Eban said, the analogy between American Jewry and any other "galut" is wrong, because there is no same Jewry around the globe. "There is American Jewry, French Jewry, or Moroccan Jewry, and each is different," he observed.

Claiming that "American Jewry deserves the dignity of being studied" by its Israeli accusers, the veteran diplomat, who served as Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. and the UN, said that Israel and the American Jewish community "are the two superpowers of world Jewry."

American Jews "have the right to their opinions" and they do not have to be "docile" toward the Israelis, Eban said. "We ought not say to you, give us your money and don't worry us with your thoughts."

Turning briefly to other issues, Eban said that Israel, entering the fifth decade of its independent life, no longer faces the danger of physical destruction. But he said Israelis should be "inspired by history," not "bewitched" by it, as many were in the wake of the military victory in the Six-Day War in 1967. He called for a sense of "proportion and restraint" to reach a realistic view of Israel's position and alternatives in the Mideast.

Eban received the International Shazar Prize, named after the late Israeli President Zalman Shazar, for his acclaimed book and television series, "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews." The award was presented to him by Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel, and Prof. Salo Baron, the distinguished Jewish scholar and historian.

#### History Deals Justice To Jews

In his remarks before presenting Eban with the award, Wiesel noted that history has a way of dealing justice to the Jews. "Look," he said, "all the people who were involved in the Bitburg affair are no longer in the White House, except for one. But our President is never really involved in anything." Wiesel was referring to the controversial trip of President Reagan to a German military cemetery in Bitburg where Nazi SS troops are buried.

The event Tuesday night was sponsored and organized by the American Association for the Shazar Center.

#### **SLEPAKS, ON 13TH DAY OF HUNGER STRIKE IN MOSCOW, SAY THEY ARE ACHIEVING THEIR PURPOSE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 8 (JTA) -- Vladimir Slepak and his wife, Maria (Masha), were in the 13th day of their 17-day hunger strike in Moscow Wednesday--one day for every year they have been denied exit visas. Slepak told Israel Radio in a telephone interview that they are achieving their purpose to focus world attention on the plight of refuseniks.

They are not being harassed, he said, but they have been forced to move further and further away from the Supreme Soviet building where they have been holding a half-hour vigil each day.

Tractors driven on the sidewalk edged them away from the spot. "They told us to move further away, to the corner, two buildings away," Slepak said. "But there we had no obstacles. We stood with our slogans." He said on Tuesday "there were many correspondents and television

cameramen and there were also many of our refusenik friends. Today (Wednesday) there were fewer people, apart from the refuseniks supporting us." He said he and his wife would end their hunger strike on April 12, the eve of Passover, "because the next day will be the seder."

Slepak, who has been denied an exit permit on grounds that he was once privy to state secrets, said, "I may be going to the U.S. Embassy for the seder with (U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz. I was told I may be invited to the American Embassy (for the seder). I was told Shultz wants to come and sit at the seder table."

In Washington, where the Slepaks' son Alexander is also on a 17-day hunger strike on Capitol Hill, it was confirmed Tuesday that Slepak is one of the refuseniks invited to the seder at the Embassy and that Shultz, who will be in Moscow at the time, will attend.

#### **A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEDER**

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 8 (JTA) -- A huge communal Passover seder was held Tuesday night here for the hundreds of Soviet Jews who will not be permitted to openly observe the holiday.

More than 300 individuals, including a host of members of Congress, former refuseniks and White House officials, gathered for the meal. Many assisted in reading portions of the special Haggadah that interposed portions of the traditional text dealing with the exodus of the Jews with references to the plight of Soviet Jews.

The guests, symbolically invited in the Kiddush to "come and dine," included refuseniks Yakov Levin, Yuli and Tanya Edelshtein, Vladimir and Maria (Masha) Slepak and Ida Nudel. A chair was left empty at each table and everyone was given a card and bracelet with the name of a refusenik.

"Our task on this seder night is to recount the story of the exodus from Egypt," said Rabbi Yitzhak Greenberg of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership who led the seder. "Had God not redeemed us, we would still be enslaved. Others have not yet been redeemed. Our task is to do God's work."

The Four Questions asked during the seder were followed by former refuseniks Leon Charney, David Goldfarb and Leonid Slepak, Vladimir and Maria's son, asking why it is forbidden in the Soviet Union to study Hebrew, emigrate or celebrate Jewish holidays.

Four drops of wine spilled for the ten plagues of Egypt were followed by more drops spilled for the suffering of Jews in the Soviet Union brought on by the loss of freedom, education, speech, identity, religious expression and emigration to Israel.

Cantor Misha Raitzin, a former refusenik, said when he was a teenager in Siberia he conducted a seder in private by taking four pounds of potatoes and dividing them into portions to represent the different courses of the meal.

"No one could know about this, it was very forbidden," Raitzin said. "I'm sure there are many Jews who are conducting a Passover seder secretly. Hopefully their dream will come true and they can conduct the seder as we do in freedom."

The special seder, chaired by Richard Ravitch, concluded with the traditional plea for "next year in Jerusalem."

## ISRAEL LOOKS FORWARD SETTLE HERE, SETTLE HERE

By Murray Zuckoff

(Part Three Of A Five-Part Series)

JERUSALEM, April 8 (JTA) -- On a clear day one can see forever. And forever is the vast expanses of the Galilee in the north, with its sloping valleys and hills, kibbutzim and moshavim, border towns and development towns.

Forever is also the Negev in the south, with sand dunes and deserts areas, the salt-laden Dead Sea, Bedouins who continue to live in tents and shacks tending their flocks of goats and sheep as they graze on whatever edibles there are, and other Bedouins who have resettled in urban environments like Beersheba and Rahat where they strive for a new future while holding on to old traditions.

Many areas in the Galilee and Negev are forlorn and desolate, waiting for the human element to complete them. Highways, roads and byways run through both regions like veins, seeking to become part of an organic whole. Motorists drive through the areas but, unless they are local residents, they are usually on the way from nowhere to the excitement of the big cities. Both regions are in desperate need of more people.

### Where The Future Is

But for all that, a visitor to the Negev and Galilee is immediately told by the natives that the future of Israel is in both regions. "It's not just a place to visit, it's a place to settle," is the effusive affirmation. The same enthusiasts agree that both regions have been largely neglected by Israelis, new immigrants to the country, and the government which is more intent on having the West Bank populated than the Galilee and Negev.

Ben Carmel, Secretary of the Histadrut Labor Council in Beersheba, the capital of the Negev which has recorded an amazing growth in the last 20 years, told a group of visitors, "If Israel is to offer new opportunities, it's here in the Negev and the Galil. This is the future and it needs to be worked at." But, he added, "We are failing. We lack the vision and ardor to populate the Negev and the Galil. It's much more attractive and exciting to live in big cities. But Israel is not just Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa."

Menachem Perlmutter, head of the Jewish Agency's rural settlement department, engineering division in the Negev, pointed out some problems involved in settling the area.

"It is more than reclaiming land and building houses. It requires a great deal of work both in terms of the structure and superstructure: electricity, roads, pipeline for water, transportation facilities, educational and health facilities, diversified crops, and investment to build up related industries. There is not enough industry to provide jobs for settlers. We're getting some industry, but not enough."

Shlomo Drori, head of the information department of the Dead Sea Works, noted that "Unfortunately, sending people to the Negev was stopped during the last 10 years because of the government's Judea and Samaria policy. We want more people in the Negev, but to get more people we also need more employment opportunities, more industry, more high-tech industry, textile, clothing, electronics. We have natural resources, but we lack the human resources." Orly Gilat, head of planning and implementation of the Galilee for

the Jewish Agency's settlement department, stated that there are two settlement priorities: the central Galil and the Negev. "Unless we do something urgent in the Galil it won't exist for us anymore," she said. "It is more important to assure a beachhead in the Galil against the Arabs than settlements in the West Bank which only aggravate Arab-Israeli tensions."

### Anger Over Neglect And Indifference

People in the Negev and Galil are angry over what they perceive to be the attitudes of indifference and neglect regarding the two regions in favor of the West Bank. There is also anger over the neglect by the government of the development towns which were populated haphazardly by dumping mostly Sephardic Jews, and more recently Ethiopian Jews, in a process that became known as "reluctant pioneering."

Industry failed to be attracted to the areas because a requisite labor force was lacking. Investment capital remained in the larger cities, far from the Negev and Galilee. David Ben Gurion's dream to see the Negev settled has remained a dream. This year the call to settle the Negev is little more than a gimmicky slogan with which to commemorate the centennial of Ben Gurion's birth.

Despite the problems, Negev and Galil officials and residents emphasized the same message: we need more settlers, more industry, more capital. We are not the end of the world. The Negev and the Galil are the foundries in which the future links of Israel will be forged. And people in both regions pointed out that in spite of everything, there are exciting developments in both regions.

### Far-Reaching Region 2000 Plan.

One of the more ambitious and far-reaching undertakings designed to attract settlers to the Galilee is Region 2000 (Hevel Alpa'im). It began several years ago when Prof. Ephraim Katzir, the fourth President of Israel and a renowned scientist, was appointed the head of a government commission to bring 100,000 Jews to the region and to develop one of the world's most sophisticated science-based industrial parks.

Katzir called the program "something of a dream." But he added that it was "a vision of such extraordinary appeal, that it compels us to give it our most serious attention. It envisages life in tomorrow's society in which man will be able to draw upon the limitless possibilities generated by a post-industrial technology in order to shape a better world.

"For those of us who love this land, there is an added dimension...We see the unspoiled beauty of the Galilee and the chance to enhance its potential by attracting to it the cream of Jewish youth from Israel and the diaspora."

Region 2000 is planned for the Western Galilee and covers an area of about 12,500 acres. The region, according to Gilat, will be a thoroughly integrated system of commerce, industry and social organization. In addition, a comprehensive communication system will be established to ensure efficient highway links to work and community facilities such as hospitals, schools and shopping districts.

"The geographic pattern of the existing settlement system is heterogeneous and haphazard," Gilat said. "The area includes some 45 Jewish settlements with a population of 28,000 people, and 24 Arab settlements with a population

of 150,000. These settlements are dispersed throughout the entire region, and vary considerably in their physical layout, their demographic characteristics, their economic base and their organizational structure."

One of the planning objectives, she said, "is to establish a framework within which the various elements of the region will function as an integrated unit." The responsibility for the project's planning was assumed by the Jewish Agency's settlement department.

#### Importance To Israel's Security

Gilat and others stressed the importance of the Galilee to Israel's security. Demographic changes in the region are one of the most serious problems facing Israel.

While the ratio of Jews and Arabs in Israel is 5 to 1, in central Galilee it is 1 to 6 in reverse. In some regions, such as the mountains around Sfad, Arabs outnumber Jews 2 to 1.

There is, therefore, concern that a national minority gaining a clear numerical majority in one region could form the basis for a separatist movement.

A great deal of Arab expansion in the Galilee is illegal, according to Thalma Duchan, chief of the Jewish Agency's planning team for the Galilee. Jews and Arabs alike must have building permits and build according to a master plan under Israeli law. "Nevertheless, there are today about 10,000 illegal Arab dwelling units in the Galilee. Demolition of illegal structures is not being carried out, as it would be in other areas and municipalities, because in the Galilee it becomes a national problem with strong political implications."

Region 2000 is a plan whose time has come. Vision now has to be converted into reality.

#### Harnessing The Resources Of The Negev

Meanwhile, the natural resources of the Negev are being harnessed. Scientists, researchers and agronomists have responded to the challenge of developing the region which comprises two-thirds of the State of Israel. They have developed techniques and agricultural practices that have been adopted in the world's most advanced countries as well as in developing nations. These techniques and practices have helped California farmers to optimize their high vegetable crops through drip irrigation and have aided Kenyans to adapt newly modified methods of run-off farming.

The Negev, with its natural assets of abundant solar radiation, warm temperatures, large tracts of land suitable for grazing, and the availability of brackish and saline water, potash, chloride, bromine and phosphates, has become a miniature laboratory in the conquest of the desert.

Major enterprises and scientists at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, the Desert Meteorology Unit of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, and the Sde Boker Midrasa (college) are directing research efforts to finding ways by which the arid and semi-arid Negev, and all arid zones throughout the world, may be populated.

There is experimentation in agricultural chemicals, in commercial uses of potash, bromine and bromine compounds -- raw materials required for the production of chemical fertilizers needed by advanced agriculture -- and in solar paneling to generate electrical energy. The Dead Sea, for

example, has an estimated billion tons of recoverable chloride and bromine, enough for 3,000 years at the world's current rate of consumption.

Scientists are also experimenting with salt-tolerant crops that help desert farmers to irrigate with saline water sources below the surface of the Negev. Other research is exploring the development of a water carrier that would channel the Negev's underground water supply, thus utilizing about 300 million cubic meters of water annually. Off-season vegetables are a big industry in the Negev and there are experiments with tomatoes that will have a longer shelf life and with square tomatoes that can be boxed easier.

A joint project between the Department of Atmospheric Sciences of the Hebrew University and the Blaustein Institute has begun to experiment in cloud seeding. Another area of investigation is that of the microclimate of the desert, necessary for determining conditions for desert agriculture, human comfort and the siting of desert buildings. In order to promote the settlement of the Negev, the Jewish Agency's rural settlement department has prepared a five year plan to help develop agro-industry and the economic climate of the region.

The developments in science and technology, in politics and social relations in the country tend to pale, however, in comparison to an undertaking that has already radically altered cities and people.

(Tomorrow: Part Four)

#### **HASIDIC LEADERS MEET WITH REAGAN**

NEW YORK, April 8 (JTA) -- Leaders of a Hasidic community in Brooklyn who met with President Reagan at the White House, said the President pledged that the United States will continue to welcome Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and extend refugee status to them.

According to Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum who participated in the meeting last week, Reagan was responding to Rabbi Hertz Frankel who, in a message on behalf of the Grand Rabbi of Satmar, said the Jewish community was grateful to the President for "reaffirming the basic human rights of Jewish immigrants to be given a free choice to settle in the country of their desire when leaving the Soviet Union."

#### Expressions Of Appreciation

Frankel said, "We hope that the American government will continue to extend refugee status to all Jewish immigrants leaving the Soviet Union." Kestenbaum, who is executive director of the Opportunity Development Association (ODA) in Brooklyn, also thanked the President for supporting the recognition of Hasidim as a disadvantaged minority. He said this helps them to participate actively in the American economic mainstream.

Kestenbaum expressed appreciation for the establishment by the President of a Commission to Preserve America's Heritage Abroad of which he is an appointed member. He said the group is helping to protect and preserve the remnants of pre-war Jewish life in Eastern European countries.

Rabbi Zalman Leib Teitelbaum, son of the Grand Rabbi of Satmar, delivered the invocation which opened the meeting and recited special prayers for the President and the welfare of the nation.