

JEWISH LEADERS FROM 26 COUNTRIES ARE HOLDING A CONFERENCE IN HUNGARY **First Such Gathering In A Soviet Bloc Country** By Edwin Eytan

BUDAPEST, May 5 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders from 26 countries, from both East and West, gathered here Tuesday for the opening Wednesday of the first major Jewish conference to be held in a Communist bloc country since the end of World War II.

The two-day meeting of the enlarged executive of the World Jewish Congress will symbolically examine the issue of Soviet Jewry and East-West relations.

The delegates will also gather at the foot of the statue erected for Raoul Wallenberg to lay a wreath in honor of the man who risked his life to save tens of thousands of Jews during the last days of the Nazi occupation of the city.

An Optimistic Atmosphere

The conference is opening in an optimistic atmosphere with delegates and WJC officials stressing that the meeting could probably not have taken place in a socialist country without at least the tacit approval of the Soviet Union.

Several delegates told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the conference's location "must be seen as a proof of the change in atmosphere." WJC officials also stressed that the Hungarian authorities went out of their way to facilitate the holding of the meeting and granting delegates all possible facilities.

WJC president Edgar Bronfman said Tuesday upon arriving in Budapest, "I am optimistic that under the new leadership (in Moscow) there are signs in the Soviet Union, straws in the wind, that bode well for Soviet Jews."

Says Life Becoming Better For Soviet Jews

Bronfman said that "life is becoming increasingly better for Soviet Jews" and added that he believes that Soviet Jewry might participate in WJC activities in the near future.

The WJC president said that Soviet Jews "will obviously first have to organize and this cannot be done without the Soviet government's approval." He said, "If all goes well they could participate in our activities, like Jews from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Hungary do, in three to five years from now."

Bronfman, who was greeted at the Budapest airport by the Hungarian Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs, Barnada Sarkadi Nagy, said that during his recent trip to the Soviet Union (together with Morris Abram) "I was given promises besides the promise that they (the Soviet leaders) will examine all the issues we would put to them."

Reaction to U.S. Decision On Waldheim

Asked about America's decision to put Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on a "Watch List," Bronfman stressed that "this was the decision of the U.S. government, based on the documentation it has—not ours."

When pressed by the large Austrian and West German press contingent present for the meeting, Bronfman added: "I have seen enough of Wald-

heim's initials and signatures on various documents to know that he was part and parcel of the Nazi killing machine."

A Large Israeli Delegation Present

A large Israeli delegation arrived in Budapest to attend the conference without encountering the slightest difficulty although most of its members, as well as the Israeli journalists accompanying it, arrived without Hungarian visas. Local observers said this was a clear indication of the government's willingness to ease matters and provide the meeting with all possible courtesies.

The Budapest State Opera is opening its doors for a gala reception for the delegates, the city's mayor is giving a party in their honor, and the Minister for Religious Affairs Imre Miklos will address a plenary meeting Wednesday afternoon. All these receptions and addresses are held publicly and openly with the press invited. "The Hungarian authorities have chosen to give the entire affair a high profile," a WJC official told the JTA.

Thursday morning, the 92 delegates will attend the ceremony at Wallenberg's statue. It is not yet known whether the Hungarian government will be represented. Officials here say that Wallenberg's name clearly appears inscribed at the foot of the statue with the following Latin quotation translated into Hungarian: "While good fortune stands by your side, friends are plenty, but when grey clouds gather you are left alone to withstand the storm."

In addition, Moscow Chief Rabbi Adolph Shayeveich is due to arrive here Wednesday. He probably will attend the World Jewish Congress in an observer capacity, marking the first time that a Soviet Jew will attend a major Jewish meeting. The rabbi was invited to attend the graduation ceremony of the Jewish Theological Seminary here, of which he is himself a graduate, and the ceremony will coincide with the opening of the congress.

ISRAEL INTERESTS SECTION IN WARSAW HAS OFFICIALLY OPENED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- The Israel interests section in Warsaw, the first Israeli diplomatic presence in Poland since that country broke relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, opened officially Tuesday morning.

The head of the section, Mordechai Paltzur, told Israel Radio in a telephone interview that the opening was a "private, internal" ceremony attended by a few invited guests, including members of an American United Jewish Appeal women's delegation visiting Warsaw en route to Israel.

The only diplomat present was The Netherlands Ambassador to Poland whose country represented Israel's interests there since 1967. Paltzur said he held a large Independence Day reception at his home Monday attended by a number of Polish officials.

According to Paltzur, his small staff was "earning its salary" even before the official opening. He said the office has had many Polish visitors seeking information about Israel and some

applying for visitors' visas. Poland is opening its own interests section in Tel Aviv.

The opening in Warsaw coincided with the fifth World Congress of Polish Jewry which convened in Tel Aviv Tuesday evening. A delegation from Poland, comprising five Jews and one non-Jew, is attending. The head of the Polish interests section in Tel Aviv will make his first public appearance at the Congress.

The delegation from Poland is headed by Shimon Szurmiez, a member of Parliament and director of the state-subsidized Yiddish Theater in Warsaw. He told Maariv in an interview that there are about 15,000 Jews in Poland and Jewish cultural clubs are active in 15 cities.

CHIRAC ASKS FRENCH SCHOOL SYSTEM TO CONDUCT SPECIAL CLASSES ON THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN FRANCE IN WWII

PARIS, May 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has asked the French school system to conduct special classes on the persecution of Jews under the collaborationist Vichy regime during World War II, to coincide with the trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie which opens in Lyon next week.

Referring to the "black pages of history," Chirac told a press conference Monday that the lessons would focus on the mass deportations and other measures taken against Jews by the pro-Nazi Vichy government headed by Marshall Philippe Petain and Pierre Laval.

"I hope that young people will be informed of a certain number of facts that occurred and which were so profoundly opposed to human rights and respect for human beings," Chirac said.

Barbie, who has been in French custody since January 1985 when he was expelled from Bolivia, was known as the "butcher of Lyon," the city in east central France where he was gestapo chief. He has been charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity for the murder and torture of civilians and resistance fighters and the mass deportation of Jews, including children.

S. AFRICAN JEWISH LEADERS MULL CHOICES IN PERIOD OF TURMOIL

JOHANNESBURG, May 5 (JTA) -- The South African Jewish community stands at a moral crossroads, according to Prof. Michael Katz, newly elected president of the South Africa Jewish Board of Deputies, the central organization of the South African Jewish community.

Katz has no doubt was referring to the ever-increasing turmoil in his nation over the racist policy of apartheid. The Board of Deputies has gone on record in opposition to apartheid as well as to the imposition of economic sanctions on South Africa to force policy change.

The battle over apartheid seemed to be the unmentioned theme at the Board's biennial 34th National Congress held here April 4, according to a report by Peta Krost in The Zionist Record and SA Jewish Chronicle.

"Today more than ever we must recognize the tides of great change," said Mockie Friedman, chairman advocate of the South Africa Zionist Federation. "The Jewish community must be prepared and ready to ride them . . . In South Africa today, where perceptions of peace and survival are conditional by the polarization between white and non-whites, the Jewish community because of its special unique character has an

added degree of vulnerability." He noted that the Jewish concepts of justice and equality could form a basis for an acceptable solution of its problems. "The voice of organized Jewry must be heard," Mock said. "We must forge real and profound links with all population groups, must understand their aims and aspirations, in turn they will understand us and Israel, lest it be said, as is being said, that the voice of Jewry remains silent at this critical stage."

RIGHTWING POLITICIANS HOLD ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY IN WEST BANK

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- Rightwing politicians denounced the idea of an international conference for Middle East peace at an Independence Day rally in the West Bank settlement of Ariel Monday. Gush Emunim activists marched around Jericho and vowed to "swallow up" the Arab town with a Jewish settlement on the ancient site.

But apart from those events, politics were temporarily shelved on Israel's 39th Independence Day while most Israelis enjoyed the sun at beaches and picnic grounds.

Ariel was selected for the Likud rally apparently because Laborite Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin remarked a week ago that it and another West Bank settlement, Alfe-Menashe, were of no security value to Israel. Speakers included the Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon and Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy.

Both inveighed against an international conference on grounds that it represented a mortal danger to Israel. They were joined by Yigael Hurwitz, a former Likud Finance Minister whose one-man Ometz party is now affiliated with Labor.

The Gush Emunim chose Jericho for their demonstration because it is located close to the Jordan border and has been mentioned over the years as a possible bargaining chip in negotiations with Jordan.

"In the future we will swallow up Arab Jericho as Tel Aviv has swallowed up the Arab town of Jaffa," a Gush Emunim spokesman told Israel Radio.

The Gush Emunim had scheduled a demonstration at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus but were prevented by soldiers from reaching the site to avoid friction with the local Arab populace.

POLL SHOWS AMERICANS' POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL WAS NOT SERIOUSLY ERODED BY IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL OR THE POLLARD SPY CASE

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA) -- Americans' positive attitudes toward Israel have not been seriously eroded by the Iran-Contra arms sales scandal or the Jonathan Pollard spy case, according to the latest opinion poll on the subject conducted by the Roper Organization for the American Jewish Committee, the AJC reported this week.

Similarly, the majority of Americans do not think any less of American Jews because Pollard, an American Jew, was caught spying for Israel and another American Jew, Ivan Boesky, was involved in Wall Street's inside trading scandal, the poll found. It was conducted in February and the results are consistent with the later New York Times/CBS News poll, reported in the Times

on April 12. Roper found that a near majority, 48 percent of the respondents, continues to sympathize with Israel in the Middle East conflict. In a poll conducted in 1986, 53 percent sided with Israel. Sympathy with the Arab cause was eight percent, unchanged from 1986.

A virtual majority, 49 percent of respondents, continue to view Israel as a reliable ally of the United States, compared to 41 percent for Egypt and 44 percent for Jordan. A majority of 61 percent does not see Syria as a friend of the U.S.

Only five percent thought Israel was "most to blame" in the Iran-Contra affair, compared to 47 percent who blame President Reagan's advisors, 43 percent who blame Reagan himself and 21 percent who blame former National Security Council employee Col. Oliver North.

The Roper poll found that 49 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement that "Most American Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the United States. Only 24 percent agreed. The comparable figures in 1986 were 46 percent and 24 percent.

No more than one percent of the respondents attributed Boesky's malfeasance to his "Jewish background." The most frequently cited factors were "personal greed and avarice," "lack of ethics in business" "insufficient governmental regulation and enforcement" and "the moral decline of society."

Other noteworthy findings by Roper were: Better educated people and people reporting higher household incomes were more likely than others to be favorable toward Israel and American Jews; whites were more likely to be favorable toward Israel and American Jews than Blacks; Republicans somewhat more than Democrats or independents were favorable toward Israel and American Jews; Protestants and Catholics differed little in their attitudes in the subject.

EXPERT SAYS DEMJANJUK PHOTOS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY 'OF THE SAME MAN'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Details of a recent photograph of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk superimposed over a disputed photo on an SS identification card allegedly issued to him in 1942, leave no doubt that the pictures are "of the same man," an expert witness testified for the prosecution in Jerusalem district court Tuesday.

The faces are "identical," according to Patricia Smith, a professor of physical anthropology at the Hebrew University. She utilized a sophisticated comparison technique, similar to one described in court last week by Reinhard Altmann, head of the fingerprints and photographic criminal identification bureau of the West German police.

Altmann concluded after his own examination of the photographs that there was a "very high probability" that the picture on the ID card is that of the defendant. The card was issued at the Trawniki camp where the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, a German prisoner of war, allegedly was trained for guard duty at Treblinka. Demjanjuk claims the card, obtained from the Soviet Union, is a KGB forgery.

Smith demonstrated her findings in a video presentation in the courtroom after the three-judge panel overruled objections by the defense.

The recent photo of Demjanjuk, made in his prison cell, and the ID card photo were divided vertically and the halves of one were superimposed over the corresponding halves of the other in a feature-by-feature comparison. The features corresponded even though Demjanjuk, 66, was 24 when the ID photo was made, Smith said.

Meanwhile, representatives of the prosecution and defense are preparing to go to West Germany shortly to question three witnesses, some or all of them former SS men who claim to remember the defendant from Treblinka but are unwilling or unable to come to Israel to testify. The court rejected an appeal by Demjanjuk to be allowed to accompany them.

SHAMIR AND PERES AGREE TO POSTPONE CABINET DEBATE ON PERES' PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST PEACE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, bitterly divided over the peace process, agreed at a 50-minute private meeting Tuesday to postpone a Cabinet debate over Peres' proposal for an international conference for Middle East peace to serve as the framework for direct negotiations.

Peres intended to present his plans Wednesday to the Inner Cabinet, the government's top policymaking body comprising five Labor and five Likud Ministers. He will make his presentation next Monday, instead.

Israel Television reported Tuesday that the U.S. has sent a 19-point position paper to Israel which Labor Party sources said is highly supportive of Peres' position on negotiations through an international conference. Sources at Premier Shamir's office confirmed receipt of the document over the weekend but would not comment on its contents.

The television report said the American paper pledged U.S. support for Peres' conditions for Soviet participation in an international forum. These are a re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel and a change of policy toward Soviet Jews and Jewish emigration.

The Americans also reportedly said they would see to it that a conference leads to direct negotiations between the parties and would not be permitted to impose solutions.

Sources here said Tuesday that the delay of Cabinet debate on Peres' plan might provide an opportunity for Labor and Likud to work out a compromise to preserve their coalition which has governed Israel since 1984. However, it appeared that Peres would postpone his brief to allow for the return from abroad of two members of the Inner Cabinet who he expects to support his position.

Apparently he can count on Ezer Weizman, a Laborite Minister-Without-Portfolio, and possibly on Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, a Likud Liberal. Sources close to Peres believe that Nissim and Housing Minister David Levy would go along with Shamir if, in order to save the unity government from collapse, he agrees to enable Peres to pursue his policies.

That would leave Likud hardliners Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens in the minority in an Inner Cabinet vote.

TELEVISION INSTITUTE FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN FORMED

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA) -- A television institute for the Jewish community has been formed to "provide support for the production and dissemination of high quality Jewish educational, cultural and religious programming in the United States and Canada," it was announced by Aaron Etra, a New York attorney and philanthropist.

Laurel Vlock, a prominent television personality and cofounder/director of the Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University, said the programming of the Jewish Television Institute (JTI) will be disseminated by various means, including satellite service currently delivered by the National Jewish Television Network (NJTN) to 350 cable systems in 200 communities in North America. She said programming production is scheduled to begin this fall.

"As a people increasingly dispersed geographically, and faced with the triple threats of assimilation, intermarriage and disaffiliation, television uniquely, can provide the mechanism to reach out, educate and unify," Vlock said. "Our aim is to create a Jewish 'global village'."

Some Of The Proposed Programs

Among the programs the JTI proposes to support are a weekly live news and public affairs presentation. The series will include a live link-up with Israel as well as Europe and other major centers of the diaspora, Vlock said. Weekly features will include reports on the trial of John Demjanjuk, plans for the David Ben Gurion centennial, progress and news of Project Renewal, religious/secular conflicts, newsmakers of the week and issues of the week.

A second major project proposed for JTI support will be aimed at youngsters in Hebrew and day schools. The programming will be delivered via satellites to especially equipped classrooms throughout North America. "Once again a link with Israel will be stressed, creating a bond between North American Jewish young people and their counterparts in Israel," Block said.

Another program series for young parents will demonstrate the "how-to" of celebrating Jewish holidays, family preparation for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and other Jewish religious and secular activities.

Joel Levitch, who pioneered the use of satellite technology for Jewish broadcasting and who is to be JTI Board chairman, explained that the programs assisted by JTI "would complement efforts of Jewish Federations and other established Jewish organizations in various communities and that funds for this new effort were coming from independent efforts." Levitch said the JTI has already received major support from a number of business firms in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In addition Vlock said that a number of Israeli and America Jewish personalities have endorsed the JTI undertaking, including Israel's Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, Knesset member Abba Eban, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith General Counsel Arnold Forster, and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman.

Vlock said the days and the time of the JTI programming will be coordinated with the NJTN in the various communities.

CANADIAN TO BE HONORED BY ISRAELI AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 5 (JTA) -- Paul Ivanier, a Canadian steel tycoon who founded the Center for Robotics Research and Management at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, will be honored by the Canadian and Israeli governments here on May 12.

An honorary degree will be conferred on Ivanier by Ben Gurion University president Chaim Elata, under the sponsorship of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Premier Yitzhak Shamir of Israel, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec.

The ceremony will be part of Ben Gurion University's Centennial Academic Convocation, the first ever to be held outside Israel. It marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion.

Ivanier, son of Jewish immigrants to Canada, is president and chief executive officer of IVACO, an industrial giant of nearly 60 steel mills and metallurgical plants in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. It ranks sixth among steel-makers in the Western world.

Ivanier is a firm believer in the importance of the Negev for Israel's future development. More than half of the subscribers to the project he launched at Ben Gurion University are non-Jewish. He maintains that with a small population and a dearth of natural resources, Israel must master the science and technology of robotics if it is to become economically self-sufficient and competitive on the world market.

"Ultimately, Israel will have to live by the 'sweat of the brow' of its trained manpower, constantly on the new frontiers of the galloping high-tech revolution," Ivanier said.

He stressed that Negev industries in arid, sparsely populated surroundings must become the most modern, dynamic and competitive industries if they are to contribute to Israel's national goals.

The Paul Ivanier Robotics Research and Management Center will include departments of electrical, computer, mechanical and industrial engineering and management. It is expected to attract top experts from all over the world. Through international conferences, symposia and the publication of learned papers in many languages, its influence will extend beyond Israel's borders, Ivanier predicted.

NOVEL IDEA FOR CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 5 (JTA) -- Chalom Schimman, Israel's Consul General in Montreal, has a novel idea. He suggests that all Jewish couples who were married in 1948 celebrate their 40th wedding anniversaries in Israel a year from now when Israel marks the 40th year of its independence.

Schimman presented greetings on behalf of the Israel government to more than 2,000 people at an Israel Independence Day celebration in the Montreal amphitheater Monday night marking the 39th anniversary of the Jewish State.

David Azrieli, national president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, said aliya is the first priority of the Zionist movement in Canada in the years ahead.