

**ENVOY SAYS U.S. WON'T GIVE MORE FUNDS TO ISRAEL TO HALT LAVI; RABIN IN U.S. FOR TALKS ON PROJECT**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin was due to arrive in Washington Tuesday to seek further clarification of the American position on the Lavi jet fighter plane project in discussions with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Rabin said Monday he hoped to hear from them about continued support for the project or, possibly, financial compensation in the event Israel cancels it.

But U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said Tuesday that the U.S. would not grant Israel aid beyond the present \$1.8 billion allocation as incentive to terminate the Lavi project. Compensation to the various firms affected would have to come out of present grants, he said.

"We have told the government of Israel that we would be prepared to see the foreign military sales money -- up to \$1.8 billion -- made available to handle termination costs, particularly termination costs with respect to contracts we have approved, which I think covers most, if not all, of the Lavi contracts," the envoy said.

**Says Funds Needed**

Rabin told Israel Radio that the Israel Defense Force would require another \$200-\$220 million a year to cover the projected cost increases of the Lavi should the project continue. Israel cannot afford to continue it under present circumstances, he said.

He said regardless of what emerges from his discussions in the U.S., "It will take five or six years until we see the first operational squadron" of Lavis, Israel's second generation jet fighter.

The Defense Minister's decision to go to the U.S. for further talks on the Lavi was unexpected. The government, which has held five Cabinet sessions to date devoted to the Lavi, has yet to decide its future.

Rabin said, "I won't elaborate on what I intend to clarify in the U.S., but I do intend, in the light of several pertinent questions put by a number of ministers regarding the implications of continuing to develop the Lavi, vis-a-vis a possible alternative...to clarify the attitude of the U.S. and examine what will become of the IDF's various needs, as well as the employment significance in terms of the defense industries."

**HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY WOULD NOT REJECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan does not reject bilateral talks with Israel within the framework of an international peace conference, Haaretz reported Tuesday.

The paper quoted Hussein's remarks in an interview published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siassa. He said an international conference would not be able to impose solutions or object to any agreement reached between the negotiating parties.

The Jordanian ruler said some issues concern Israel and one or another Arab country and others, such as water rights, are more general and would be discussed in a broader forum. He believes that Syria, Lebanon and Egypt as well as Jordan would have to participate in a conference.

Egypt has "a moral responsibility for the Gaza Strip and is a basic part of the Arab family," Hussein was quoted as saying.

**MIDEAST CONFERENCE COULD CONVENE WITHIN SIX MONTHS, PICKERING SAYS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said Tuesday he thought an international conference for Middle East peace could open within six months if the various parties decide to hold one.

He also told reporters that the Reagan Administration's new overtures toward Syria do not signify a change of U.S. policy. What has changed was the closing of the Abu Nidal terrorist headquarters in Syria and President Reagan's consequent decision to discuss Syria's attitude toward terrorism, he said.

**SHAMIR'S POPULARITY RISES, BUT IT'S BELOW THAT OF PERES AND RABIN**

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- The popularity of Labor Party leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin has declined while that of Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir is rising, according to a poll taken by the Pori organization during the second week of June and published in Haaretz Tuesday.

Only 38.4 percent of the respondents were pleased with Peres' performance as Foreign Minister, down from 50 percent when he first took that office. When Peres was Prime Minister in 1985-86, his popularity rating exceeded 60 percent and at times was as high as 70 percent.

Defense Minister Rabin received 49.8 percent approval in the latest poll, down from 52.6 percent two months ago.

Shamir's positive rating rose to 30.3 percent compared with 26.1 percent in the last previous poll. Shamir's highest rating since he took office as Premier was 32.5 percent.

**DEMJANJUK TO TESTIFY IN OWN DEFENSE WHEN 'IVAN' TRIAL RESUMES JULY 27**

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- Suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk will take the stand in his own defense when his trial resumes on July 27 following a month's recess which began Tuesday.

The Ukrainian-born former American citizen accused of operating the gas chambers at the Treblinka death camp opted to testify after criminal court Judge Dov Levin advised him Monday that he had a choice but "an accused who remains silent thereby strengthens the case against himself."

The recess was requested by Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor. He said he needed at least 30 days to prepare the defense.

Levin, who presides over a three-judge panel hearing the case, rejected a defense motion that

no case had been made against the defendant and therefore no answer was required.

"We have to weigh the evidence contained in over 5,000 pages of protocol and 211 exhibits," Levin said. "You are asking us to wipe all this out...No court in the world would admit that it had been careless to such an extent."

The defense contends that Demjanjuk was held by the Germans as a prisoner of war during the time he is alleged to have been the Treblinka guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" for his brutality. But more than a score of witnesses, including Treblinka survivors, identified him in court as "Ivan." The identification was corroborated by another former Treblinka guard whose testimony was taken by the prosecution and defense teams in West Berlin earlier this month.

#### **CHINA WOULD RENEW ISRAELI TIES WITH OPENING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- A senior Chinese official recently told the Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Avraham Tamir, that "With the opening of an international conference, China will renew relations with Israel," the newspaper Hadashot reported Tuesday.

According to Hadashot, Tamir had a series of secret meetings with senior diplomats of the People's Republic of China in the Far East during the past two months. The Chinese said they intend to advance relations with Israel to the level of diplomatic representation, Hadashot reported.

Tamir also met publicly with the Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations. The envoy, for the first time, refrained from calling for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders as a precondition for diplomatic relations, Hadashot said.

In another development, Israel's Ambassador to France, Ovadia Soffer, met with the Chinese Ambassador in Paris. Foreign Ministry sources are said to believe that in light of these events there is a good chance to promote Israeli relations with China in the near future.

#### **FORMER MINISTER TAMIR DEAD AT 64**

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- Shmuel Tamir, a prominent lawyer who served as Justice Minister in the government of Premier Menachem Begin, died here Monday after a long illness. He was 64.

Born in Palestine into the well established Katznelson family, he adopted the surname Tamir as a member of the underground Irgun Zvai Leumi led by Begin. He was its acting commander in Jerusalem until deported to Kenya by the British authorities in 1946. He returned two years later when the State of Israel was founded.

Tamir was active in Herut politics and served in the Knesset during the 1960s. Subsequently he broke with Begin and formed his own political faction, the Free Center Party, which merged in 1976 with another new party, the Democratic Movement for Change founded by archaeologist Yigael Yadin. The latter joined the Begin coalition government. Tamir held the justice portfolio in the first Begin Cabinet from 1977-80 and was involved in negotiations with Egypt over autonomy for Palestinians in the administered

territories. He retired from politics in 1984 but helped negotiate the release of Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon.

#### **SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY MEANT TO SATISFY U.S., DISCOURAGE MOST JEWS, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAYS** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 30 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union's emigration policy is aimed at allowing enough Jews to leave to satisfy its foreign policy objectives toward the United States while discouraging most Soviet Jews from applying for emigration visas, according to a senior State Department official.

This policy would allow perhaps 10,000 Jews a year to emigrate, an increase from the previous low of about 1,000, while enabling the Soviet leaders "to say that they cannot be faulted because most applicants do in fact receive approvals of their applications," Richard Schifter, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, said Monday.

He gave this analysis in a speech to the Council of Orthodox Rabbis of Greater Detroit. The text was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here.

"The position of the government of the United States is, therefore, clear," Schifter said. "While we welcome the steps taken in recent months to increase Jewish emigration, we do not consider them even close to adequate."

In explaining the Soviet policy, Schifter rejected the view that the Soviet Union decreased emigration after the record high of more than 50,000 in 1979 because of the U.S. Senate's failure to ratify the SALT II treaty or the general deterioration of relations between the U.S. and the USSR.

#### **Soviets Had Enough, He Said**

Instead, he said the Soviets "came to the conclusion that Jewish emigration applications were coming in at much too high a figure and had to be cut back." He said the Soviets realized that the more Jews they allowed to emigrate, the more applied for visas.

Schifter said that since the beginning of the year, when a new more restrictive emigration law went into effect, the Soviets have been allowing the emigration mostly of persons on the list of the some 12,000 to 15,000 persons who had previously been refused emigration visas up to Dec. 31, 1986.

The Soviets have made clear that "these applicants are being processed under special rules, without reference to the new emigration decree," Schifter said. He said this practice appears "designed to allow the Soviet Union to complete the reexamination of the pre-1987 applications in a manner which discourages any new large wave of applications."

He urged all concerned to "recognize the policy of discouraging applications, and to call for a change in that policy." He stressed that Secretary of State George Shultz "has frequently pointed out that Soviet performance in the field of human rights, including emigration, affects all aspects of the relationship between the United States and the USSR."

**STUDENT CANDIDATES IN ZIONIST ELECTION CHARGE OWN PARTY WITH IMPROPRIETIES**

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- At least eight candidates on the Independent Students for Israel (ISI) slate in the 31st World Zionist Congress elections have protested the methods used by their own party to solicit new voters and party affiliates, the manner in which the candidates were chosen, and the use of American Zionist Youth Foundation (AZYF)/University Services Department (USD) funds for the solicitation.

The charges appeared in a letter to Ben Cohen, president of the American Zionist Federation (AZF), signed by the candidates who requested removal of their names from the slate. The AZF is administering the North American elections to the quadrennial World Zionist Congress.

During the past year, Jewish student activists created the Zionist Student Movement (ZSM) and sponsored the ISI slate in attempts to lobby the World Zionist Organization for increased funding for student programs.

The students got the required 4,500 signatures on a petition in order to appear on the ballot. At the same time, the students recruited new members of ZSM who would be eligible to vote by joining the organization and paying \$5 dues.

AZF election rules require eligible voters to have signed the Jerusalem Program (a commitment to the centrality of Israel), belong to a Zionist organization with dues paid up to date, and be over age 18.

The Charges

"The manner in which the party affiliates were solicited is in itself appalling," the candidates' letter said. "Incentives were given by AZYF to their campus representatives to have students sign the 'Jerusalem Program' and a portion of the form that would 'automatically give them membership to a Zionist organization.' The standard \$5 registration fee was not paid by any of these Students for Israel affiliates and yet they too have received ballots to vote in the World Zionist elections."

The AZYF promised campus representatives a "free trip to Israel," according to the letter, if they signed up 500 new registered voters.

"Those delegates for the Students For Israel slate were led to believe (even if they were last on the list) that they personally would be sent to Israel as a delegate to the World Zionist Congress in December of 1987," the letter continued.

In another complaint, several Zionist activists have claimed that the ZSM violated election rules when students who recruited members on campuses waived the \$5 dues.

An AZF representative said, however, that all slates have been checked for compliance with election rules and there was no evidence of violations by the student party.

Separate Complaint

Joel Sweet, Kibbutz Aliyah Desk director of academic affairs, has made a separate complaint in his paper entitled "Irregularities in the USD Campaign for WZO Elections." Sweet charges that "USD crossed beyond the boundaries of acceptable student activism by creating a political organiza-

tion in an effort to influence WZO politics. Likewise, they did so in an unethical and deceitful manner."

Specifically, Sweet objected to the use of USD resources to run the campaign including USD computer-generated mailing lists -- which are limited to use for program material -- and paid USD regional coordinators to garner support for the student party.

Most of the delegates on the student list are either USD staff, USD regional coordinators who are paid through the WZO's allocation to USD, or campus representatives who are not paid by the USD but do voluntary work recruiting students for university programs in Israel.

Karen Rubinstein, AZF executive director, said the use of USD/WZO funds and resources may not be a violation of election rules. But waiving of dues would clearly be a violation, Rubinstein said. Because the students who wrote the letter to Cohen have not protested through the appropriate AZF channels to date, Rubinstein said, no investigation into the charges is under way.

Lisa Kohan, director of the USD and the first delegate on the student list, said that all 69 candidates signed a form agreeing to appear on the slate and that the new recruits all signed a paper supporting the Jerusalem program. "Every member is in good standing, as far as we know, and has paid the \$5 membership fee," she said.

There is some overlap between the USD and ZSM, Kohan said. But the student movement is "an independent constituent of the AZF," she said.

While Kohan said the campaign money for advertisements, mailings and other election expenses came from "private sources," she would not elaborate.

Other Questions

Legal and ethical questions also have been raised about the student list. Because the USD is a service department of the WZO, some Zionist activists argued it was inappropriate for the people who run USD to vie for political power, too.

"USD should be concentrating on promoting Israel and Israel programs on campuses and not spending its time and money on promoting itself," the candidates' letter said.

Kohan noted that the work of USD has not suffered as a result of election politicking. "We are turning people away from AZYF because there is no room on the programs. The number of people going on university programs is up 25 percent," she said.

Nine slates are competing for the votes of some 900,000 eligible voters for the North American seats on the World Zionist Congress, which opens December 7.

Theodore Herzl convened the first Zionist Congress in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland. This year, 536 voting delegates will be chosen from 34 countries. North American representation comprises 29 percent of the delegates; Israel, 38 percent; and other diaspora countries, 33 percent.

The Congress will deliberate major Zionist issues including programs to encourage aliyah, religious pluralism, settlements, economics and social problems in Israel. The deadline to vote in the North American elections is June 30. About 225,000 voters have returned ballots to date.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
POPE CAPITULATED TOO MUCH  
IN MEETING WITH WALDHEIM**  
By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- If one were pressed to summarize the entire furor over the incredible meeting between Pope John Paul II and Dr. Kurt Waldheim into a single phrase, I suggest the following would be close to the mark:

Kurt Waldheim, the unrepentant Nazi officer, hijacked the Pope and the Vatican for his own whitewashing purposes.

When Waldheim left Rome last Friday after his audience with Pope John Paul II, he is quoted as saying to the press that his meeting with the Pontiff was "a much greater success than he had expected."

Waldheim had good reason for feeling jubilant. Despite the year-long controversy over the Austrian president's Nazi past -- and his lying about and denying that past for some 40 years--the Pope chose not to make a single public reference to those grim facts. Instead, the Pontiff spoke of Waldheim in idealized terms of being "a diplomat and foreign minister as well as your activity in the United Nations...always dedicated to the securing of peace among all countries."

Responding, Waldheim referred to Pope John Paul II as "the conscience of mankind" as if to suggest that the Papal embodiment of the world's conscience had completely exonerated him. Thus, the worst fears of the Jewish people about this audience were realized -- Waldheim appears to have obtained instant absolution of his sins, without ever acknowledging his activities in Greece and Yugoslavia as an officer in the ruthless Nazi Army Group E.

**Cries For Examination**

Many implications flow from this incompressible episode that call for the most serious and responsible examination by Catholics and Jews, especially by the Vatican authorities who orchestrated this morally bizarre event.

First is the moral damage that this audience may well cause to international law and order. In effect, the worldwide publicity given to this Papal reception to Waldheim exudes the message that every former Nazi, every murderer, criminal, and terrorist need never feel any guilt or remorse over their evil deeds. If they manage to lie about their anti-human actions successfully, and hang around long enough, they might even obtain instant absolution through an audience with the Pope or his surrogates. Waldheim did just that.

Second is the issue of the Vatican policy of indiscriminate invitations to every head of state, regardless of personal history or moral character. If a head of state who is a Catholic wishes to enter a Papal confessional booth and repent his or her sins and ask for forgiveness, that is an entirely private matter between the Pope as universal pastor and the Catholic believer. Jews and other non-Catholics have no standing to raise questions about such religious matters, no matter how good or bad the moral character of the penitent.

It might be instructive for Jews to articulate the Jewish doctrine of "teshuvah" ("repentance") which is completely relevant to the Waldheim situation. Judaism requires four actions of a would-be penitent (according to Maimonides): a

penitent must confess explicitly one's sins; he or she must have an overwhelming sense of shame for one's evil deeds; he or she must make a firm determination to turn away from such wrongdoing; and, the crucial test, the penitent must demonstrate changed behavior. Waldheim has met none of these penitential requirements.

**Raises Ethical Questions**

The Pope-Waldheim audience also raises the questions for moral accountability for what use the head of state makes of that audience. When PLO chieftain Yasir Arafat manipulated an audience with Pope John Paul II (not a private audience, as generally believed), his henchmen plastered the photograph of the Pope with this master terrorist all over the Arab, Muslim, and Third World press. The caption, invariably, was a version of "Pope Blesses PLO Policies."

The Vatican issued a muted clarifying statement subsequently, but it never caught up with the exploitation of that "photo opportunity" by Arafat and his terrorist band.

President Idi Amin of Uganda did exactly the same thing with a photo he took with the late Pope Paul VI. Amin, whose PLO guards and Muslim tribesmen massacred nearly 500,000 Black Christians (half of them Roman Catholic), exploited that audience by having his Papal picture splashed all over the African and Muslim press with a similar caption, suggesting that the Pope and the Vatican "blesses" his murderous policies and actions.

The moral question seems self-evident: If one opens the door of your apartment house to a confessed burglar or rapist, and he proceeds to rob every apartment in the building or rape its women inhabitants, is it morally responsible to say only, "All I did was to let him in the front door. Freedom of access, you know."

**Look At Austria's Politics**

But the real and ultimate question is: Why did the Vatican Secretariat of State agree to this audience which it certainly knew would be controversial and possibly damaging? And the answer to that crucial question, I believe, lies buried deep in the internal politics of Austria.

Waldheim has been a major embarrassment to Austria. The Social Democrats have become increasingly vocal in attacking the People's Party, which nominated Waldheim for the presidency, for bringing shame and political isolation to Austria. After the United States put Waldheim on "the watch list," barring his entry, the People's Party began a desperate effort to break out of the growing vise of Austrian isolation and rejection by the U.S. and Western Europe.

The Vatican became the pole vault out of that isolation and humiliation. Since Austria's population is about 87 percent Roman Catholic, and since there is a real danger of political turmoil in Austria if the Waldheim boil is not lanced, the Pope and the Vatican, responding to the People's Party entreaties, decided to help bail them out through this audience.

But the haunting question that won't go away is: Why did Pope John Paul II have to capitulate so completely on Waldheim's terms?

(Editor's note: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee, was the only rabbi present as guest observer at Vatican Council II.)