

**SOVIET CONSULAR DELEGATION ARRIVES
IN ISRAEL FOR TALKS ON PROPERTY;
NO POLITICAL CONSULTATION SCHEDULED**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- A three-man Soviet consular delegation arrived in Israel without fanfare Sunday night and is scheduled to meet with Israeli consular and legal officials at the Foreign Ministry here Tuesday.

They are the first official Soviet mission to visit Israel since Moscow broke diplomatic relations in 1967. Israeli officials stressed they were here for a specific purpose related to Soviet property and nationals in Israel, and there are no plans at present for political talks.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urged Monday that the visit "not be blown out of proportion." He said the delegation was relatively low-level. He would consider meeting with them if they requested it, but so far there has been no request, Peres said.

The Soviet officials are Yevgeny Antipov, head of the Consular Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; Alexei Chestnikov, an expert on Middle East affairs; and Genryk Flachin. They were accompanied by staff. Flachin attended a meeting with Israeli officials in Helsinki last August, which the Soviets broke off when the Israelis raised the issue of Soviet Jews.

But the idea of a Soviet consular mission emerged from that brief meeting. The Soviet officials spent Monday visiting with the heads of the Russian Orthodox Church in west Jerusalem.

The task of the delegation is to renew the passports of Soviet citizens here, most of them attached to the Church, and to review the status of Soviet property, most of it Church property.

Antipov, who spoke briefly to Israeli reporters, was non-committal about a possible Soviet role in an international conference for Middle East peace. He said that as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, "certainly our role should be taken into consideration." Asked if the conference should be able to "impose" solutions, Antipov replied, "I believe it is too early to talk about it."

The Soviet group is staying at a hotel in Tel Aviv.

**DEMJANJUK'S CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL,
O'CONNOR, CONTESTS HIS FIRING**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk's American lawyer, Mark O'Connor, said Sunday he would continue to serve as chief defense counsel for the suspected war criminal despite his dismissal by the Demjanjuk family last month.

"I am personally responsible for the life of this man," O'Connor said at a press conference here. He said he felt it was his "moral and personal responsibility" to defend Demjanjuk unless relieved of his duties by the court. He said the Ukrainian-born former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" was not fully aware of the consequences when he signed a

letter June 30 firing O'Connor on grounds of "incompetence." "He was a man who was totally crestfallen, a man who was confused," O'Connor said, indicating that the family is responsible for changing the defense team a month before the case for the defense is to be presented in Jerusalem district court. The trial is presently in recess.

The Demjanjuk family retained O'Connor's two associates, Israeli lawyer Yoram Sheftel and John Gill, an American. It added another attorney, John Bradley of Washington, D.C., to the defense team.

Criticizes Associates

O'Connor was sharply critical of his two assistants, particularly Sheftel, whom he accused of having "connections" with the prosecution. He said he would disclose the facts if his dismissal is upheld by the court. The court is expected to discuss the firing on Wednesday.

Tension and disagreement was evident among the defense lawyers since the trial opened last February 16. They appear to stem from personality clashes, how to use the limited defense budget and who would be featured in media coverage.

O'Connor claimed that Sheftel recently visited the U.S. and Belgium without informing him and concealed documents which O'Connor had assembled over the five years since he agreed to represent Demjanjuk. He said he had tried to fire Sheftel, but that the Demjanjuk family objected.

In the five months since the trial opened, Demjanjuk has been identified by more than a score of Treblinka survivors as the brutal guard who operated the gas chambers. He was also identified from photographs by former SS man Otto Horn, who gave testimony in West Berlin last month.

Nevertheless, the defense has succeeded in creating an element of doubt. It insists Demjanjuk was a German prisoner of war during the time he is alleged to have been at Treblinka. It has tried to discredit witnesses, questioning their memory of events more than 40 years ago, and has alleged that key prosecution documents are Soviet forgeries. "I am the one who cares for John Demjanjuk," O'Connor told the press conference. "Where are the other lawyers who claim to be leaders of the defense? Where is John Gill, whom I brought to the defense? Where is Yoram Sheftel, whose services I hired? Has any of them visited Demjanjuk in jail, has any of them shown any interest in the fate of this lonesome person?"

**RABIN, NISSIM REPORTEDLY TO URGE
SCRAPPING OF LAVI JET PROJECT**

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim have concluded that the Lavi fighterplane project must be abandoned for budgetary reasons and will present a joint proposal to scrap it, Israel Radio reported Monday.

The report said they have informed Premier Yitzhak Shamir they intend to submit their proposal to the Cabinet shortly. According to Israel Radio, they told Shamir that there was no way to increase the defense budget and without extra funds, Israel's second generation jet fighter could

not be produced. Shamir was reported to have replied that he wanted to continue examining the alternatives.

NATHAN PERLMUTTER, AUTHOR AND ADL DIRECTOR, DEAD AT 64

NEW YORK, July 13 (JTA) -- Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith who was widely cited for his fight against bigotry and discrimination and dedication to humanitarian causes, died Sunday of cancer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center here at age 64. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at Temple Emanu-El here.

Perlmutter was a recipient last month of the 1987 Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian award, for his public service. In making the presentation at the White House, President Reagan said it was "his life work to champion human dignity. He is a hero indeed."

Mayor Edward Koch of New York presented Perlmutter with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award last May "for extraordinary courage, enduring humanity, unshakable faith in a world without prejudice." In March he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Perlmutter was an author, lecturer, lawyer and former Marine infantry officer. His 38-year career in the human relations field began when he joined the ADL in 1949. He served through 1964 as director of the three of the human rights agency's regional offices -- in Detroit, Miami and New York. From 1965-69 he was associate national director of the American Jewish Committee.

He returned to the ADL in 1973 as assistant national director and became its national director in 1979. He was a vice president of Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., from 1969 to 1973.

The son of immigrant parents from Poland, Perlmutter grew up in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, NY. He entered the civil service at age 19 and worked as a clerk/typist at the Pentagon. He enrolled at the Georgetown University School of Diplomatic and Consular Practice and also studied at Villanova College. He obtained his law degree from New York University Law School. Perlmutter was the author of "A Bias of Reflections" and co-author with his wife, Ruth Ann Perlmutter, of "The Real Anti-Semitism in America."

ISRAELIS EXPECT UN WAR CRIMES FILES TO BE OPEN TO PUBLIC SOON By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 13 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomats here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Monday that they expect all of the former members of the United Nations War Crimes Commission will soon support Israel's request for opening to the public the UN files on Nazi war criminals.

Only six countries out of the 17-member Commission still oppose the opening of the files. They are Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India and Poland. "We have reason to believe that these countries will soon announce that they have changed their position in favor of opening of the files," an Israeli diplomat said.

Asked how long "soon" meant, he said a matter of months.

Last week five nations -- Belgium, China, Luxembourg, New Zealand, and Norway -- informed Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that

they changed their initial position and would join six other nations that have already come out publicly in support of opening the files to public inspection. The five nations joined Australia, Denmark, Greece, Holland, the U.S. and Yugoslavia.

The announcement last week represented a victory for Israel and followed a major campaign on the part of the Israelis to win the support of the governments concerned on behalf of opening the files. When Israel started its campaign last year, only Australia supported its request to grant the public free access to the files.

The Israeli diplomats noted Monday that although there is a majority now among the former members of the War Crimes Commission for opening of the files, the final authority on opening the files to the public is in the hands of the UN Secretary General.

The UN files on Nazi war criminals are stored in an archive in Manhattan. The archive reportedly contains 40,000 files. Israel has already assumed several thousand files under the rule that permits governments who are members at the UN to inspect any file on a confidential basis.

EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS REAFFIRM PLEDGE TO MIDEAST PEACE CONFAB By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, July 13 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministers of the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) member states affirmed here Monday their support of an international conference for Middle East peace as the only formula at present to advance the peace process in the region.

The Ministers are attending the European Political Cooperation conference here. Denmark assumed the rotating presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers on July 1.

The Ministers recalled the positive response to their declaration of last February 23 endorsing the idea of an international conference. They expressed hope that conditions favorable to such a gathering can be established rapidly by agreement between the parties to it.

The EEC Ministers said they have closely followed developments in the region and decided to pursue, bilaterally and through the Council presidency, contacts on all levels and with all interested parties in search of a comprehensive, lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They reaffirmed that this included a settlement of the Palestinian problem, in accordance with the EEC's June 1980 Venice Declaration. That document stated that the Palestine Liberation Organization must be a participant in the peace process.

The 12 Ministers also recalled their commitment to the respect of human rights in the Israel-administered territories. They agreed that the deterioration of the economic and social situation in the territories and in the region as a whole, threatened to complicate the search for peace.

The EEC countries pledged to continue to contribute to economic and social development, with the understanding that it is no substitute for peace.

HUSSEIN, THATCHER AGREE ON CONFAB AS BEST WAY TO ADVANCE PEACE By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 13 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and King Hussein of Jordan

agreed here Monday that an international conference was the best way to advance the peace process in the Middle East.

Thatcher and Hussein discussed the matter at a two-hour luncheon meeting. Officials said they "stressed the importance of not missing the opportunity to take a major step forward in the peace process."

Their talks followed a visit here three weeks ago by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was soliciting the support of Western European leaders for an international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices. The Israeli government is divided on the issue. Premier Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud party consider an international conference a danger to Israel.

Thatcher is to report on the progress of her contacts with Hussein and Peres when she meets President Reagan in Washington later this week.

SOVIETS STILL SLOW WITH VISAS, SAYS EDELSHTEIN IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- Former refugee Yuri Edelshtein said on his arrival in Israel Sunday night that while some Jews are getting exit visas to leave the Soviet Union, "even more" are not.

Edelshtein, 29, who spent nearly three years in a Siberian labor camp, landed at Ben Gurion Airport with his wife Tatyana and her 12-year-old daughter Yulia. They received an emotional reception from a large crowd of welcomees, mainly Orthodox Jews. The various groups in Israel working on behalf of Soviet Jews have been virtually taken over by religious activists in recent months.

Edelshtein, speaking fluent Hebrew and English, told an airport press conference: "What I want to ask is not to forget my friends who are still in the USSR. I want, as quickly as possible, to be greeting other Jews arriving here from the Soviet Union."

He said despite his delight at being in Israel, he was sad to have left behind "many who are perhaps more worthy than I to be here."

"What I want to stress is that there are even more people not getting permission" (to leave) he explained, "those prisoners of Zion who are longtime refuseniks, and new applicants -- a lot of people are still staying there and so we may be joyful that some families are coming. But we mustn't forget that there are still a lot" who are still waiting.

Edelshtein first applied for an exit visa in 1978. His persistence and the fact that he taught Hebrew clandestinely got him a three-year sentence to a Siberian labor camp in 1984 on drug charges.

He was released last May, four months before his official term expired.

LABOR ABSENT FROM KNESSET FOR NO-CONFIDENCE VOTES, BUT SHAMIR STILL SUPPORTS UNITY GOVERNMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- All but two members of the Labor Party Knesset faction absented themselves from the Knesset Monday evening to avoid voting on five no-confidence motions introduced by leftist parties.

The issue was Premier Yitzhak Shamir's vote last Wednesday in favor of a bill by the religious

parties to pardon the seven members of a Jewish underground still serving prison sentences for acts of violence against Arabs in the West Bank.

Many Laborites made it clear to the party leadership that they would not, under any circumstances, support the government on this matter. The party absented itself en-bloc to head off a possible move by Likud to oust Labor from the unity coalition government for failure to support the government against the five motions.

The two Laborites who participated in the voting were Haim Ramon, who supported the leftwing opposition parties, and Aharon Nahamias, who backed the government.

The motions were easily defeated. Shamir stressed that he did not intend to seek Labor's removal and hoped the unity government would remain in office. But the parliamentary breakdown of Likud and the religious parties on one side of the issue and Labor and the left on the other strengthened political speculation that the unity government would soon be replaced by a narrowly based coalition headed by one or the other of the two major parties.

Supporters of the no-confidence motions denounced Shamir for voting for and giving his moral support to the pardon bill, which Likud Justice Minister Avraham Sharir had rejected in his official statement for the government last week. Shamir maintained that the Justice Minister spoke for himself, not the government.

He said his vote in favor of pardons reflected his "views and feelings" about the underground members remaining in prison, but did not in any way imply acquiescence to their crimes.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETURN TO WORK, BUT FURTHER STRIKES THREATENED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- More than 450,000 public employees who staged a 24-hour strike Sunday were back at their jobs Monday. But longer work stoppages threatened even as Histadrut accepted Finance Minister Moshe Nissim's offer to negotiate a new labor contract immediately.

Nissim reportedly is prepared to grant pay increases to low-wage employees and pensionnaires, and even a shorter work week. But some unions wanted the strike to continue until some progress was made toward an overall contract.

The recalcitrant unions held off wildcat strikes only on the promise by Histadrut leadership that the trade union federation would take tough measures if negotiations with the Finance Ministry did not make speedy progress.

Chaim Haberfeld, who heads Histadrut's Trade Union Department, said he has not yet received a reported promise by Nissim that the Treasury would sign an agreement quickly on condition that a new contract would be of two years' duration with an undertaking that there would be no strikes in that period. Previous contracts have been for one year.

Haberfeld said Histadrut would consider the offer when it is received. But clerks at the Tel Aviv magistrates court declared a one-day strike Monday morning. They charged that Histadrut officials had ignored their particular demands, which they did not specify.

Meanwhile, public services shut down Sunday were operating. Radio and television broadcasts were resumed and garbage was being collected.

FACING INTERNAL STRIFE, HERUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE BLASTS PERES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir and other speakers at the Herut Party Central Committee meeting here delivered scathing attacks on the Labor Party and its leader, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Shamir barely stopped short of accusing the Labor bloc of giving comfort to Israel's enemies. He insisted he wanted the Labor-Likud unity government to continue. If it breaks up, Likud "will go to the people and ask its support in elections," Shamir said.

The central issue in the dispute between the coalition partners is an international conference for Middle East peace which Peres advocates and Shamir opposes. As long as Likud is in the government, there will be no international conference, Shamir declared to applause.

He described Labor as a "political camp within us which tells our enemies that we are sick and tired of Judea and Samaria and we should return to the Green Line," a reference to the demarcation line between Israel and the administered territories.

Another speaker, Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon, demanded that Peres should be fired if he continues to press for an international peace conference.

But despite the fire-eating rhetoric of its leaders, all is not well within Herut ranks. Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy have emerged as rivals to Shamir for party leadership. Their differences have prevented the Herut Central Committee from electing an executive.

PERES ACCUSED OF SELL-OUT IN SETTLING LAND DISPUTE WITH DRUZE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA)--A land dispute with Druze villagers in Galilee that erupted in violence last Monday was settled to the villagers' satisfaction through the intervention of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The arrangement appears to have won the Labor Party the support of Israel's 75,000 Druze, at least for the time being. Peres was accused by Likud and some Laborites of selling out the Mt. Meron Nature Sanctuary for political advantage.

One Likud politician, Mayor Eli Landau of Herzliya, was so incensed that he created one of Israel's worst traffic jams Thursday as a gesture of protest. He ordered heavy trucks from his municipality to block the main Tel Aviv-Haifa highway, causing traffic to back up for several miles. It lasted 45 minutes.

"I blocked the road to protest against the shameful behavior of the Druze," Landau told police who came to try to unravel the jam. He also handed them flowers and insisted that he, not the truck drivers, was solely responsible.

The Association of Local Government Authorities and several mayors denounced Landau's action. The police said they were "looking into" it.

Residents of the Druze village of Beit Jahn claimed ownership of 3,000 acres of the nature preserve. Recently they illegally erected a tent

encampment there. Park rangers, escorted by police, dismantled the encampment July 6 and were attacked by hundreds of chain-and-club-wielding Druze. Six rangers, 23 policemen and six villagers were injured, and 20 vehicles belonging to the police and the Nature Reserves Authority were damaged. A forest ranger's hut was ransacked.

Police declared Thursday they would prosecute the Druze responsible for the attack. But most of the villagers' demands were met. Peres, Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and Ezer Weizman, all Laborites, told Druze leaders at a meeting at the Knesset that the villagers may now cultivate land in the nature reserve previously barred to them.

Sheikh Amin Tarif, leader of the Druze community, praised Peres as a great leader who is fit to head any Israeli government. "This statement by the Sheikh is worth at least one mandate in the elections," a Druze journalist commented afterwards.

But others thought the price was too high. Uri Baidatz, head of the Nature Reserves Authority, said, "This is a dark day for nature lovers, a victory for violence and deceit." He said the Authority would do whatever it could to nullify the agreement.

Likud politicians denounced it. So did Laborite Nissim Zvilli, head of the Jewish Agency's Settlements Department. He urged both Labor and Likud to stop trying to make political gains at the expense of the State.

Likud Minister Moshe Arens, who is in charge of the affairs of minority groups in Israel, has also been wooing the Druze. He visited Beit Jahn recently with a promise to try to return more of the disputed land. Peres apparently outbid him. But apart from the issue of political gain, many Israelis feared that the dispute with the Beit Jahn villagers could spread to the 18 other Druze villages in Galilee.

SING FOR INTERFAITH UNITY, SCHOLAR TELLS CANTORS' GROUP

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- Liturgical music was proposed by a Dominican monk this week as a means to promote unity, understanding and peace between the different faiths in Jerusalem.

Father Marcel DuBois, head of the Philosophy Department of the Hebrew University, spoke at the 40th annual convention of the Cantors Assembly here. DuBois, a member of the Vatican's Commission on Jews, said every person of good faith, whether Jewish, Christian or Moslem, listens to music. "Every one of us sings according to our own melody, but when we sing together, it is not a cacophony. We are singing the same music to Jerusalem," DuBois said.

He described Jerusalem as "a laboratory of tolerance" where Jews, Christians and Moslems of every denomination are trying to live together. He thought the division of the churches between the eastern and western parts of the city was a "scandal."

DuBois, a Jerusalem resident since 1962, said more Christians than ever were coming to Jerusalem to read the Bible with Jewish friends to "discover the significance of Jewish history."