



NEW YORK  
JUL 15 1987

# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 165 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10036-2574 • (212) 575-9370

VOL. 65 - 70th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1987

NO. 132

## SOVIET CONSULAR TEAM INSISTS ISRAEL VISIT NOT POLITICAL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- A Soviet consular delegation met briefly with Foreign Ministry officials here Tuesday, insisting the visit to Israel, the first in 20 years by an official Soviet group, was technical and without political significance.

Yaacov Aviad, head of the Foreign Ministry's consular division, the senior Israeli to meet with the visitors from Moscow, described their discussion as "extremely positive" and "a good beginning."

Aviad declined to respond to suggestions by reporters that the three-man Soviet mission, accompanied by staff, seemed too large for the stated purpose of their visit -- to review the status of Soviet nationals and Soviet property in Israel.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, Yevgeny Antipov, who heads the consular department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, showed no disinclination to speak to Israeli reporters and was in fact interviewed on the Army Radio Tuesday morning.

The Army Radio opens its daily news program with greetings by a prominent personality. On Tuesday morning it was Antipov who delivered a cheerful "Good morning, Israel!" in Hebrew.

### No Reciprocal Visit Now

After his meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Antipov told reporters a reciprocal visit to Moscow by an Israeli delegation was precluded because there are no Israeli nationals or Israeli property in the USSR.

Antipov scolded Israel for extending citizenship to Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate. He said it was a violation of Soviet law, which does not permit dual citizenship.

The Soviet group was scheduled to call at the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv Tuesday afternoon. The Embassy has represented Soviet interests in Israel since Moscow broke diplomatic relations in 1967.

Later the team will meet with Soviet nationals who are permanent residents of Israel. In addition to functionaries of the Russian Orthodox Church, they are mainly Russian women who married Israeli Arabs who studied in the USSR.

A group of Soviet immigrants demonstrated outside the Foreign Ministry while the meeting with the Soviet delegation was taking place. Among them was Ilana Friedman, sister of longtime refusenik Ida Nudel, and Yosef Mendelovich, chairman of the Jerusalem-based Soviet Jewry Information Center.

## ISRAELIS CHECKING RUMORS OF REFUSENIK FLIGHTS VIA RUMANIA; ISRAELI VISIT TO USSR ANTICIPATED

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- Israeli officials were checking reports Tuesday that Soviet authorities will henceforth allow Jewish emigrants to fly directly to Israel via Rumania, bypassing Vienna, the usual transfer site.

Israeli media were speculating meanwhile that the current visit by a three-man Soviet

consular mission to examine the status of Soviet nationals and Soviet property in Israel was in fact a test by the Kremlin of Arab reaction to a possible improvement in Soviet-Israel relations and had far greater political significance than officially stated by both countries.

Haim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency's Aliya Department, said Tuesday that the Rumanian government has agreed to allow Soviet Jews to travel to Israel via Bucharest. But it is not yet known whether Moscow is ready to change its policy on direct flights, Aharon told Voice of Israel Radio.

There has been a flurry of rumors that a group of Jews would arrive this week or early next week from Odessa via Bucharest. Both El Al and the Rumanian airline Tarom maintain regular flights to Tel Aviv.

### Rumors Of Prominent Refuseniks

Aharon said he heard that two prominent refuseniks had received permission to fly to Israel via Bucharest. But this was less a breakthrough than a Soviet "public relations ploy," he said.

Officials here said if reports of direct flights are true, it remained unclear whether all Jews leaving the Soviet Union would be allowed to use them or only Jewish emigrants from the Ukraine, the Caucasus and Soviet Georgia which are closer to Bucharest than to Vienna.

Israel has been pressing for direct flights because the great majority of Soviet Jews travelling via Vienna do not come to Israel.

Haaretz quoted the Foreign Ministry's Political Director General, Yossi Beilin, Tuesday that "Only a blind man can ignore the numerous signs indicating an important improvement in the Soviet attitude toward Israel, whether in the rise in the number of immigrants from the Soviet Union since January, the release of all 'Prisoners of Zion,' contacts for the establishment of interests sections in other Eastern European countries, and so forth."

"However," Beilin said, "we are not prepared to accept these signs as a response to our central demands." He added that it is possible that by dispatching a delegation to Israel, "the Soviets want to study the reaction in the Arab world. If they see that they can live with this reaction it is conceivable that they will try to institutionalize the delegation and leave it permanently in Israel, perhaps as a base for a future embassy," Beilin said.

### Expects Reciprocal Trip

Beilin disclosed that Israel granted the Soviet delegation visas "with the understanding that a similar Israeli delegation would reach the Soviet Union within a reasonable period of time," Haaretz reported. He said he expected that "We will soon receive a green light from the Russians to dispatch an Israeli consular delegation."

Hadashot reported Tuesday that the Soviet delegation might serve as a base for a diplomatic delegation in Israel. It quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying they might request an extension of their visas and turn their temporary office in Ramat Gan into a permanent legation.

Al Hamishmar reported Tuesday that Israel will soon approach the Soviet Union through the

Dutch Embassy in Moscow -- which handles Israeli interests there -- to request visas for an Israeli consular delegation.

The Soviets meanwhile have stopped jamming Hebrew language broadcasts of Voice of Israel Radio. Broadcasts in Russian, Georgian and Bukharan are still being jammed. Officials here are not certain whether the halt in jamming reflects a new policy or is an isolated incident. Victor Grajewski, director of Voice of Israel's foreign services, said Monday that it was not the first time the Soviets stopped jamming Hebrew broadcasts. In the past they renewed it after three or four days, he said.

Earlier this year, the Soviets ended their long-standing jamming of Voice of America and BBC radio broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

#### SHAMIR ASKS FOR CABINET CALM, AS ECONOMIC ISSUES PRESSING By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir moved Tuesday to avert a breakdown of the Labor-Likud unity coalition government, telling a meeting of leaders of the coalition Knesset factions that the government must be preserved to deal with urgent economic matters.

The latest rift occurred Monday when all but two Labor Party MKs absented themselves from the Knesset because they could not, as a matter of principle, support the government against five no-confidence motions introduced by leftist opposition parties.

The issue was Shamir's vote last Wednesday in favor of a bill by the religious parties to pardon seven members of a Jewish terrorist underground still serving prison terms for crimes of violence against West Bank Arabs.

The no-confidence motions were easily defeated. Of the two Labor MKs who voted, one of them, Haim Ramon, opposed the government. Rafi Edri, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, told Shamir that disciplinary action would be taken against him.

While Labor has been careful to avoid a coalition crisis by voting against the government in which it is a partner, demands are mounting in the Labor camp to end the coalition by other means. Laborite Minister of Immigration Yaacov Tsor called for early elections Tuesday. The Labor Party newspaper Davar declared that the unity coalition exists "only on paper."

The meeting with Shamir was attended by Edri and Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction. The Prime Minister urged both political camps to cool their tempers.

#### JEWISH LEADERS TELL VATICAN OFFICIAL OF ANGER OVER POPE-WALDHEIM MEETING By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- A meeting last Thursday between Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli and U.S. Catholic and Jewish officials, described by one participant as a "no-holds-barred" exchange, focussed on rising tensions between Catholics and Jews in the wake of the Pope's recent granting of an audience to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who is accused of Nazi war crimes.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international affairs for the American Jewish Committee and one of the four Jewish participants in the meeting, said he and others also expressed con-

cern about the Pope's attitude toward the Nazi Holocaust and anti-Semitism and had discussed the steps necessary to improve Catholic-Jewish relations.

Archbishop John May, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said of the meeting: "Among other things, we shared with his Eminence our assessment of Catholic-Jewish relations in the United States, especially as they have been impacted by recent controversies and allegations that the Catholic Church is insensitive to the Holocaust."

Casaroli, second in command at the Vatican, met with the U.S. religious leaders at the home here of Archbishop Renato Martino, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations. Casaroli agreed to the unscheduled meeting while he was on unofficial business in New York.

The controversy heated up last month when Pope John Paul II granted an audience to Waldheim in the face of adamant Jewish opposition. The Pope characterized Waldheim, a former two-term UN secretary general, as a great international servant who has advanced world peace.

But Jewish groups were angered that the Pope neglected to mention Waldheim's Nazi past or the six million Jews and millions of others who perished under the Nazi regime that Waldheim served as an intelligence officer in the Balkans.

#### 'Hijacked' The Vatican

"What is troubling is his attitude on receiving Waldheim," Tanenbaum said. "He has allowed Waldheim to hijack the Pope and the Vatican for his own purposes. Waldheim called the Pope 'the conscience of mankind' and it follows that Waldheim is absolved in the conscience of mankind."

Tanenbaum said the Pope has sent a mixed message on the Holocaust, at times speaking "movingly and sympathetically about the unique suffering of the Jewish people." At other times, Tanenbaum said, it was "as if he was revising that history."

Tanenbaum added: "We told them how real this problem is. It is not a problem that is going to be dealt with in cosmetic or quick-fix public relations terms or by symbolic gestures." American Catholics have said openly the Papal meeting was unfortunate. Tanenbaum said he received "hundreds of statements, letters and calls from American Catholic bishops, nuns and priests saying it was a grave mistake."

The four Jewish leaders who attended the meeting are members of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations: Tanenbaum; Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, Committee chairman and president of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA); Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, past president of the Rabbinical Council of America; and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly. The Catholic Archbishop of New York, John Cardinal O'Connor, also attended.

Tanenbaum said he will travel to the Vatican July 19 to continue the dialogue he began last week with Vatican officials.

In response to the Pope's meeting with Waldheim, at least two American Jewish organizations -- the American Jewish Congress and SCA -- have decided to boycott a meeting with the Pope scheduled for September 11 in Miami. Other Jewish organizations scheduled to attend -- the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations -- told the Jewish Tele-

graphic Agency they are reconsidering. The groups are waiting for a clear signal from the Vatican that it is responsive to Jewish concerns, according to Tanenbaum.

#### STATE DEPT. CONCERNED OVER REPORTS OF ISRAEL DENYING ENTRY TO U.S. BLACKS, PALESTINIANS; ISRAEL SAYS IT'S JUSTIFIED

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- The State Department expressed concern Monday about several complaints received from Palestinian-Americans and U.S. Blacks who say they were denied entry to Israel or had their passport confiscated while trying to enter.

"We've raised the issue with the government of Israel...stressing that all American citizens are entitled to equal treatment under the laws of foreign countries and that we oppose any discrimination against any of our citizens on the basis of race, religion or ethnic background," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

Redman was responding to a New York Times article which reported Monday that the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Consulate in Jerusalem are urging the State Department to issue a travel advisory warning Arab-Americans and Black Americans that they may encounter harassment in trying to enter Israel.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) here reports that 30 American-Palestinians were turned away this summer and another 50 had their passports revoked. Most of these individuals were traveling to Israel to visit parents in the occupied territories.

#### Accused Of Harassment

The ADC also reported cases of Israeli officials demanding that Palestinian-Americans post bond before they enter the country, in some cases as high as \$100,000.

"It's a much bigger problem than I anticipated," said ADC president Abdeen Jabara, who recently returned from trip to the West Bank to investigate the problem.

"It's a selective form of harassment," added an ADC spokesman. "There seems to be an effort to chill the American-Palestinian community and to discourage them from going."

Nawal Hamad, a resident of Arlington, Va., born in the West Bank, said that she flew to Israel with her four children last month to visit her parents. But when she arrived at Ben Gurion Airport, she said, she and her family were taken into custody by Israeli security officials, held for several hours without explanation and later forced to board a plane back to New York.

"I was treated like garbage," Hamad, a bank office manager, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. She said she and her children were told they were not welcome in Israel.

Hamad said she was recently informed that she may visit Israel if she signs an affidavit testifying that she will not extend the stay provided by her visa. But she said she has not been given any financial restitution for the cost of the last trip and is unsure she can afford another ticket. Asher Naim, Minister of Information at the Israel Embassy here, said that cases like that of Hamad were not a result of Israeli discrimination against Palestinian-Americans.

"These are individuals who we have reason to believe form a security problem and their intentions are not just to visit and leave Israel,

but they have other agendas," Naim said. "This is a prerogative of any government to accept or reject anyone who comes to its shores."

Naim said Black Americans have been turned away because they are suspected of belonging to the Black Hebrew Israelites. In 1972, Black Hebrews were ruled not to be Jews and so did not fall under the Law of Return.

Naim said the Israeli government is investigating the case of Marvin Vaughn, a Black resident of Cincinnati who was deported at the airport along with Hamad, and who the ADC maintains was simply a tourist. Vaughn was acting peculiarly when he left the plane by declaring that he was the Messiah, Naim said, and might have been mistaken for a Black Hebrew.

American citizens who have doubts about being allowed to visit Israel can contact the Israeli Consulate. "We would be happy to give them the information," Naim said.

#### EEC TO RESUME HIGH-LEVEL TIES WITH SYRIA, BUT SANCTIONS REMAIN

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, July 14 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community (EEC) will resume high-level diplomatic relations with Syria, suspended last November after the Syrian Embassy in London was linked to a terrorist attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner in London.

The decision was taken Monday by the Foreign Ministers of the 12 EEC member states attending the European Political Cooperation conference in Copenhagen. But other EEC-imposed sanctions against Syria will remain in effect for the time being. These include an embargo on arms deliveries, freezing of EEC aid and surveillance of Syrian diplomatic activities and Syrian airlines.

The EEC gesture toward Damascus was seen as an expression of approval of Syrian moves to distance itself from international terrorism such as the closure of the offices of the Abu Nidal terrorist group in Damascus and Syrian help to gain the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

According to diplomatic observers, the EEC's move toward rapprochement with Syria coincides with the renewal of high level U.S.-Syrian contacts. Another consideration is said to be Syria's potential role in efforts to convene an international conference for Middle East peace. An international conference has been endorsed by the EEC as the only way to advance the peace process at this time. Syria has always been seen by the Europeans as a key player in the process.

The 12 EEC Foreign Ministers consider the sharp division in the Israeli government over an international conference to be one of the main obstacles. But they also stressed the necessity to await the outcome of the next Arab summit conference at which the Arab states are expected to take a common position on a conference.

#### TORAH SAGE, EDUCATOR RUDERMAN OF BALTIMORE DEAD AT 87

BALTIMORE, July 14 (JTA) -- Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchok HaLevi Ruderman, head of the Ner Israel Yeshiva in Baltimore and a senior member of the Council of Torah Sages of Agudath Israel, died here Saturday at the age of 87. He was buried Sunday. More than 6,000 mourners attended the funeral. Ruderman's death was widely seen as the end of an era. He was the last survivor of the

venerated "Roshai Yeshiva" who came to the U.S. from Lithuania early in the century.

Born in Dohlinov, near Vilna, Ruderman studied at the Slabodka Yeshiva and at the age of 19 authorized the "Avodas Levi," an in-depth analysis of some of the most complex issues of the Talmud.

He settled in Baltimore in 1933 and founded the Ner Israel Rabbinical College that year to train a new generation of Jewish religious leaders and educators.

As president and dean over the past 50 years, he ordained more than 1,000 rabbis. His advice and counsel was sought by Jewish leaders on a myriad of issues.

In addition to his position on the Council of Torah Sages, Ruderman served as chairman of the Rabbinic Advisory Board of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
RIGHTIST, RELIGIOUS PARTIES SEEN  
INTERESTED IN NARROW-BASED CABINET  
UNDER SHAMIR, DESPITE HIS OBJECTIONS**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- The rightist-religious coalition based on Likud and the Orthodox parties has become the main subject of speculation in Israel's political community, following last week's narrow defeat of religious-inspired legislation on conversion.

Political pundits say the lesson learned by Likud and the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, from the defeat of the "Who is a Jew" amendment and the similar attempt to amend the Religious Communities Ordinance in the Knesset last Wednesday, is that the present national unity coalition is not the best framework within which to achieve those goals.

The religious-backed measures fell because of small but crucial defections within Likud. Likud-Liberal MK Sarah Doron voted against the proposed amendment to the ordinance. Eliahu Ben-Elissar (Likud-Herut) deliberately absented himself from the chamber.

On the surface, Shas is still threatening to back Labor's call for early elections if Likud is unable to deliver. But behind the scenes both Shas and Tehiya, the pivotal rightist-nationalist party also ostensibly toying with early elections, are said to be scheming how to force Premier Yitzhak Shamir to set up a narrow coalition.

**Understanding The Logic**

The logic is best understood from a remark made Wednesday by Likud-Liberal Uriel Linn. Linn voted against the "Who is a Jew" legislation but reluctantly supported the proposed amendment of the conversions ordinance.

He explained that if the fate of the government had been on the line, he was sure all Likud members would have dutifully maintained party discipline.

His implication was that since the Shas-sponsored amendment was going to be defeated anyway, Doron's and Ben-Elissar's failure to support the conversions ordinance bill was excusable.

Shas now seeks to create a narrow-based government in which every vote would count.

Shamir is aware that the national unity government is still popular, and that in a narrow based government his Herut rivals would have

more power than they do today. He is reluctant therefore to disturb the present tenuous arrangement in which Likud and Labor govern uneasily together.

The religious parties and Tehiya believe with growing confidence that they can force Shamir's hand, and, together with such Knesset mavericks as Aharon Abu Hatzaira (Tami) and Yigael Hurwitz (Ometz), set up a narrow government which, they hope, would push through religious legislation and large new budgets for new settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

They want Shamir to resign. Failing that, they would vote no-confidence in the government and force him to do so. They would then urge the President, who by law must consult with all the Knesset factions, to select Shamir to form a new government.

With the help of Abu Hatzaira and Hurwitz, who have both recently signed deals with the Likud, and Shinui MK Zeidan Atshe, who is reportedly about to sign one, the Likud-religious bloc could amass a majority of 61.

**Shamir Under Pressure**

An indication that Shamir may be moving in this direction came Sunday night, at the Herut Central Committee meeting. He warned repeatedly that the way to protect the integrity of "Eretz Israel" is to ensure the survival of the present Knesset -- in other words, to thwart Labor's push for early elections.

Shamir seems ready now at least to contemplate ending the present partnership with Labor and creating in its place a Likud-religious alliance that would hold power until the end of the Knesset term in the fall of 1988.

Such combative trends on the right are matched by a perceptibly growing feeling within Labor that the party must withdraw from the government in order to salvage its standing and self-respect.

Shimon Peres, the party leader, rejected that course earlier this year, when it became clear that Shamir was successfully blocking his peace conference policy. There is now mounting pressure on the Labor leadership from rank-and-file Knesseters who are troubled by the steady decline of the party's fortunes in the opinion polls.

The Laborites see that Shamir is determined to pursue a policy of undermining and discrediting Peres on the foreign relations front and in domestic affairs. On Monday, Shamir remarked offhandedly that the agreement that Peres worked out last week with the Druze villagers of Beit Jahn in their land-dispute with the Nature Reserves authority "does not commit the government."

Since Shamir forever proclaims at home and abroad that Peres' peace policy, too, does not commit the government, a situation is rapidly growing in which the Foreign Minister is being held up to public ridicule.

**CRASH IN GAZA KILLS SIX**

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- A head-on collision near Ashkelon early Monday took six lives, including that of a three-month-old child, and injured seven other people, five of them seriously. Most of the victims were Arabs. According to police, a Subaru pick-up truck enroute from Ramle to Ashkelon was struck by an Arab-owned taxi coming from Rafa in the Gaza Strip. Both drivers were killed.