

ISRAELIS REACT CALMLY TO SOVIET THREATS REGARDING ISRAEL'S REPORTED TESTING OF NEW BALLISTIC MISSILE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Israeli officials reacted calmly to Soviet threats regarding Israel's reported testing of intermediate-range ballistic missiles that could be fitted with nuclear warheads.

A report in the Geneva-based International Defense Review, which claimed Israel had successfully tested the Jericho 2 missile in a 500-mile range, prompted the Soviet threats. Radio Moscow, in a Hebrew-language broadcast last week, said development of the Jericho 2 amounted to a provocation against the Soviet Union.

"Israel has thus turned itself into part of the nuclear confrontation between the powers," the broadcast said. The Soviets also warned that Israel would not enjoy a monopoly on deploying nuclear weapons in the area and would eventually pay the price for the development. The missiles could potentially reach Soviet targets in the Black Sea.

Puzzled Over Dual Soviet Policy

Israeli leaders puzzled over the apparent duality of Soviet policy towards Israel, noting that the threats came at a time when Soviet-Israeli relations seemed to be thawing out. A gradual increase in Soviet Jewish emigration, the release of Jewish political prisoners and the visit of a Soviet consular delegation to Israel this month all pointed to a warming of relations.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stated last week in the Knesset that Israel agreed to the Soviet delegation's visit only after Moscow made certain concessions, such as the relaxation of emigration restrictions.

Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin have all stressed that Israel has no interest in threatening Soviet targets and has only "defensive" interests, in Peres' words.

Friday night, Moscow toned down its threats with a Moscow radio Hebrew broadcast calling on Israel to support the Gorbachev initiative for the elimination of medium-range missiles in Asia. The broadcast encouraged Israel to join the initiative because Israel then would be able to live without fear of the Soviets stationing missiles in Arab countries.

The Sunday Israeli papers also reported the arrival of the first batch of advanced Soviet-made MIG-29 fighters landing in Syria next to stories about a visit by a Soviet church delegation to Jerusalem and a scheduled 1989 visit of the Red Army Choir and the Bolshoi Theater. (See related story.)

SOVIET MIGs IN SYRIA NOT SEEN AS IMMEDIATE DANGER TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- Senior Israeli military sources stated Sunday that the MIG-29s Syria received last week from the Soviet Union would not constitute a qualitative change in the military balance of forces between the Israel

Defense Force and the Syrian army. But Syria's possession of the sophisticated aircraft would make it necessary for the IDF to find "operational solutions" to much more difficult and complicated challenges than in the past, the military sources noted. They pointed out that it will be a number of months before the MIGs are operational.

It is still not clear how many of the planes will be provided by the Soviets to Syria. Only a relatively large number of planes would constitute a significant change in the strength of the Syrian air force. Meanwhile, Soviet technicians have arrived in Syria to assist the air force personnel in learning to use the planes. The Syrian pilots who will fly the MIGs are to undergo training in the USSR.

In a related development, Moscow announced that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has decided not to supply Syria with ground-to-ground missiles. No reason was given for halting the scheduled shipment.

SHULTZ: ISRAEL CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR U.S. DECISION TO SELL ARMS TO IRAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz stressed Friday that Israel cannot be blamed for the Reagan Administration's decision to sell arms to Iran.

"We have to take responsibilities for our own action," Shultz said as he ended two days of testimony before the Senate-House committees investigating the Iran/Contra affair.

His remarks came as Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho) noted that Shultz has testified before other committees that the interests of the United States and Israel were not always the same in seeking the opening to Iran.

McClure has recently extracted from witnesses that it was Israel that first suggested to the U.S. the initiative to Iran and sought to continue it when the U.S. was reluctant, although he stressed Israel had the "legitimate" right to pursue its national interest.

Shultz, who testified about his opposition to the sale of arms to Iran, explained his position on the relationship with Israel. "As everybody knows, I am a very warm supporter of a strong relationship with Israel," Shultz said. "I've worked on that very hard. However, I think we have to recognize that while our interests and Israel's interests are parallel in many respects, they are not always exactly the same. We have to be smart enough to see that. They have legitimate interests which are not necessarily exactly our interests and we have to recognize that fact."

"When it comes to undertaking something by the United States government, then we have to recognize also, however, that we're big boys and we have to take responsibility for whatever it is we do. We can't say that somebody else suggested it to us, therefore it's their fault."

HIJACKER OF AFRICAN JET WAS RELEASED FROM ISRAELI PRISON IN IRC EXCHANGE

GENEVA, July 26 (JTA) -- The hijacker of an Air Afrique jet who murdered a French pas-

senger here Friday was a prisoner in Israel who was released in 1985 under an exchange supervised by the International Red Cross. Hussein Ali Mohammed Hariri, 21, a Lebanese Shiite who reportedly has ties to other Lebanese terrorists, was imprisoned in Israel in 1984 on terrorist charges after being found with a hand grenade.

According to Swiss officials, Hariri, who commandeered the flight from Paris to Brazzaville, Congo, is from a Lebanese village near Tyre considered a stronghold of the Hizbullah, believed to be connected to adherents of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

His chief demand, according to the Tribune de Geneve, was the release from West German prison of the Hamadei brothers, being held for terrorist crimes. Swiss sources have described Hariri as being a "comrade in arms" of the Hamadei brothers.

The West Germans have said they will try Mohammed Ali Hamadei, 22, in Frankfurt Regional Court for the hijacking of a TWA jet in June 1985 and the murder of U.S. Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem. The United States has unsuccessfully fought to extradite Hamadei to stand trial in the U.S. for Stethem's murder. Hamadei was arrested in January in Frankfurt carrying three bottles of liquid explosive.

Hamadei's brother, Abbas Ali Hamadei, 26, was subsequently implicated in a rash of kidnappings of more Americans in Lebanon, as well as of West German nationals. The older Hamadei, who is a West German citizen, was then detained and interrogated, leading Bonn officials to a large cache of liquid explosives in the Saarland and on the French-German border. West German officials said he would stand trial in federal court on charges that may include his complicity in the kidnappings of two West Germans.

In addition, a third brother, Mohammed Abbas Hamadei, is believed to be security chief of the Hizbullah in the Beirut suburbs.

Terrorist To Be Put On Trial

Switzerland's president, Pierre Aubert, who is also Foreign Minister, said that Hariri would be put on trial for the hijacking and murder, which took place at the Geneva airport. A flight attendant was also wounded in the fray, from which the passengers escaped largely through their own devices before Swiss police could storm the plane.

Aubert said a chief reason Swiss authorities decided not to allow the plane to fly to Beirut, as Hariri had requested, was the presence on board of 64 French nationals. He said Switzerland feared the French would be held as hostage in Lebanon, adding to the six French hostages already being held in that country.

The Swiss president said Hariri would stand trial on charges of air piracy and murder, for which he faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Hariri's capture marks the first time in recent years that Switzerland is holding a terrorist accused of murder who is tied to organized Middle East terrorism. Aubert said he could not rule out reprisals against Swiss citizens living in Iran or Lebanon. Many Swiss are married to Lebanese and some work in Lebanon for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In May 1985, under IRC supervision, Israel exchanged 1,150 Palestinian prisoners for three Israeli soldiers captured in the Lebanon war and held in Damascus by the Popular Front for the

Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabril. Among the Palestinians being held in Israel were accused murderers serving life sentences.

The exchange, which was preceded in 1983 by an exchange of six Israeli soldiers for 3,000 Palestinians, was hotly debated in Israel. Eight of the Israelis had been taken prisoner without offering resistance and there were demands in Israel that they be court-martialed.

NINETEEN ARRESTED IN SAN FRANCISCO SOVIET JEWRY PROTEST AT CONSULATE; THREE FACE FEDERAL CHARGES

By Tamar Kaufman

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26 (JTA) -- Nineteen protesters were arrested here Wednesday for blocking the gates to the Soviet Consulate, an action they said was an attempt to give the Soviet officials "trapped" inside the consulate a sample of what their government regularly does to Jews.

"For decades, the Soviet government has kept their Jewish community hostage, prisoners, trapped behind the Iron Curtain," explained Greg Smith, a vice president of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews (BACSJ) and one of those arrested. "It is time for the Soviet officials to understand what this experience is like."

The 19 protesters, many wearing prayer-shawls and skullcaps, prayed and sang Hebrew songs while, across the street, nine supporters carried three large banners. One proclaimed: "The USSR destroys families."

BACSJ public affairs director Rusty Frank, who also was arrested Wednesday, explained that the civil disobedience was the result of a promise to two refusenik families, Lev and Inna Elbert of Kiev and Leonid and Ekaterina Glizman-Yuzefovich of Moscow.

Both families have relatives in Israel. The Yuzefoviches have been waiting for permission to emigrate for six years, the Elberts for 11.

'Life And Death' Matter

Smith contended the demonstration also was a matter of life and death. If the families are not allowed to leave the Soviet Union soon, he said, "we believe that they will resume their hunger strikes, which could very well be fatal considering the health problems of the people involved."

In March, Leonid Yuzefovich and both Elberts began 41-day hunger strikes that ended when they received word from Soviet emigration authorities that their cases would be reconsidered.

"Last week, the Yuzefovich family was turned down again," Frank said. The basis for the refusal is "state secrecy," which, according to the BACSJ, denotes Leonid's "army service, as he never worked with any classified information or had security clearance."

Yuzefovich, a conscript, served as an officer in the regular army from 1972-74. The Elberts have not heard from the authorities. They also had been refused because of alleged access to classified information.

The civil disobedience "is something we do not do lightly," Smith added, "but we're concerned about saving lives."

BACSJ director David Waksberg, who also was arrested Wednesday, said that he had told the refuseniks the previous week of the action planned on their behalf. Sixteen of the protesters who

sat down in front of the consulate were arrested on three California state misdemeanors -- unlawful assembly, refusal to disperse after a formal command and remaining at the place of a demonstration after having been asked to leave.

They were taken to the Hall of Justice here, fingerprinted, photographed and handed a citation to appear in court August 25. They were released on their own recognizance.

According to Officer Bob Davis, a police spokesman, the maximum penalty for these charges is one year in the county jail, a \$500 fine or both.

Federal Misdemeanors Charged

The other three protesters, who appeared before a U.S. magistrate Wednesday afternoon, were arrested on federal misdemeanor charges.

Their arrests occurred when a man with a Russian accent -- who declined to identify himself -- tried to enter the consulate, as did a mail carrier. Reuben Haller, a member of the BACJS board, refused to let them pass. He was arrested by FBI agents, and Frank immediately took his place.

She, too, was placed under arrest, and when the third demonstrator, Tom Loos, took her place, he also was arrested. Haller, Frank and Loos were taken to the Federal Building here and charged with violating the so-called "hundred-foot rule," which among other things prohibits obstruction of foreign premises such as the Soviet Consulate.

Attorney Ephraim Margolin, who with Lawrence Gibbs represents all the protesters, reported that the three also were released on their own recognizance, and that they face a maximum penalty of \$500 fine, six months in jail or both. Their next court appearance is July 29.

Refusenik Leonid Yuzefovich, 38, is a physician, and his wife is a French teacher and Hebrew teacher who last month gave birth to their fifth child.

Lev Elbert, 39, also is a Hebrew teacher, as well as a civil engineer. According to the BACJS, he served a year in prison for alleged draft evasion. In addition, the family has been harassed continually by the KGB and their only son, Carmi, age 16, was beaten in school so severely that he suffered a concussion. After his release from the hospital, he was cared for by his mother, who is a physician.

ROBERTSON FORESEES STRONG SUPPORT FROM JEWS IN PRESIDENTIAL BID

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- The Rev. Marion "Pat" Robertson, the television evangelist who probably will seek the Republican nomination for the Presidency, said Friday that he expects to have support in the Jewish community.

"I would anticipate, especially among Conservative and Orthodox Jews, I would have a tremendous body of support," Robertson said at a National Press Club luncheon. "I'm counting on it from everything I've seen."

His remarks were made in response to a question on whether he was seeking support among Jews and Catholics. He did not mention Catholics.

"I have been a supporter of Israel for years," he said. "I have been over there something in the neighborhood of 15 times."

Robertson noted that he has developed "a friendship with some key Jewish leaders in America," particularly within the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the United Jewish Appeal.

He said that a leading Jewish supporter of President Reagan in California is expected to back his campaign. His staff would not reveal his name.

Two Jewish Aides

Robertson said two of his key aides are Jewish -- Ben Waldman, executive director of the pro-Republican National Jewish Coalition during the 1984 Presidential campaign, who now is in charge of the West for Robertson; and Richard Pinsky, who heads the effort in the Southeast.

Waldman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that no major effort has yet been made in the Jewish community, but that it would come in the later stages of the campaign next year when the primaries are held in such states as New York and California, which have large Jewish populations.

Robertson, who moderates the "700 Club" television program on the Christian Broadcasting Network, reiterated Friday that he will officially announce his candidacy on September 17 if by then he has accumulated three million names on a petition urging him to run.

He did not discuss church-state issues Friday, the area where he is expected to find the most opposition to his candidacy from the Jewish community. But he did note that he expected the appointment of Judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court, which he supports, would result in the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

ADL PROTESTS EXCLUSION OF JERUSALEM FROM WORLD CONCLAVE HOSTED BY KYOTO

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has protested the exclusion of the city of Jerusalem from the forthcoming World Conference of Historical Cities to be hosted by the city of Kyoto.

In a July 23 letter to Japanese Ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga, ADL national director Abraham Foxman said that barring Jerusalem, which is "rich in cultural and religious history, serves the interests of those who seek the political delegitimization of Israel's capital."

The conference, which is scheduled in November, will be represented by 35 cities. The Kyoto City Council voted not to extend an invitation to Jerusalem. The ADL first raised the matter of Jerusalem's exclusion with the Japanese Embassy in Washington last May. But the Embassy has informed the ADL that the decision still stands.

Expressing "disappointment and dismay," Foxman said that barring Jerusalem "contradicts several of the conference's stated aims, including those of promoting 'international friendship' and contributing to world peace."

Kyoto's decision, he added, "is not an isolated instance of Japanese political bias against Israel." Foxman cited Tokyo's support of the Arab economic boycott against Israel and Japan's refusal to engage in scientific exchanges with Israel and promote cultural ties.

"We believe that the inclusion of Jerusalem in the Kyoto conference would be an important step in bettering Japanese-Israeli ties and we urge the (Kyoto) council to reconsider its exclusionary decision," Foxman said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES SHIFT IN FOCUS OF DEMJANJUK TRIAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- The focus of the Treblinka war crimes trial will shift this week from "Ivan the Terrible," the bestial young butcher of Treblinka, whose exploits were recounted through months of gruesome evidence, to John Demjanjuk, the 68-year-old Cleveland grandfather, who is to take the witness stand in his own defense.

The scenes depicted will shift, too, from the Treblinka death camp to the barracks and battlefields of Gen. Andrei Vlasov's regiment of turncoat Russian soldiers, in whose ranks Demjanjuk claims he fought in the last years of World War II.

Ever since the U.S. immigration authorities first moved, in the 1970's, to strip the Cleveland auto mechanic of his citizenship, Demjanjuk has doggedly claimed he is the victim of mistaken identity, through a plot heinously hatched by the Soviet KGB in order to strike fear into the hearts of all those Ukrainian soldiers who switched sides after their capture by the Germans during the war, and subsequently managed to escape to the West.

Monday his version will finally undergo judicial scrutiny, as the Jerusalem district court opens the defense case in this five-month-old trial.

Near-Collapse Of His Defense Team

Apart from the massive weight of meticulous evidence amassed and submitted by the state prosecutor and his assistants during the long months of daily hearings, Demjanjuk must overcome, too, the near-collapse of his own defense team.

Earlier this month he informed the court definitively that he had decided to fire his long-time attorney, Mark O'Connor of Buffalo N.Y., for "incompetence."

Judge Dov Levin was plainly reluctant to accede to the defendant's insistent demand that O'Connor step down. He warned repeatedly that the defense would receive no further delays or recesses in which to prepare its witnesses.

But Demjanjuk was adamant. He had consulted, he explained, with his whole family, and they decided together that O'Connor was handling the case badly. They were looking for a top American trial lawyer. Their first choice, John Broadley of Washington D.C., had declined. Meanwhile their Israeli lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, would lead, supported by American attorney John Gill.

Charges And Counter-Charges

Sheftel, a relatively unknown Tel Aviv attorney, has been at daggers drawn with O'Connor almost from the moment when O'Connor hired him as his assistant. The court has on occasion criticized Sheftel for superficiality. O'Connor accused Sheftel of turning the family against him, after he has devoted six years of his professional life to defending Demjanjuk in the passionate conviction that he is innocent.

O'Connor, theatrical in style but always courteous, has won the grudging respect of the bench and of the public, following this traumatic trial on television and radio.

It remains to be seen now how the average Israeli will stomach the additional trauma of

hearing the alleged Nazi deathcamp guard defended in Hebrew by a fellow-Israeli.

Planned To Adduce 'Painful Evidence'

In his letter of resignation to Judge Levin, O'Connor wrote that he planned to adduce "powerful evidence" to the effect that the key Trawniki document is a forgery. This document, supplied to Israel by the Soviet authorities through the good offices of American oil billionaire Armand Hammer, purports to be Demjanjuk's SS identification card, issued to him at the SS training camp at Trawniki, where he trained for his gory duties at Treblinka.

O'Connor also wrote that he intended to put on the witness stand a man named Walter Dubowitz who would attest that he served as Demjanjuk's superior officer in the renegade army of Gen. Vlasov. He would also adduce evidence from two Soviet peasants who drank with "Ivan" and would testify that Demjanjuk is not "Ivan."

O'Connor implied that all this preparatory work would not now properly be used and presented by Sheftel and Gill. But that of course remains to be seen.

There has even been speculation here that without O'Connor, who is fiercely anti-Soviet, the defence might change its tack altogether, possibly even changing the defendant's plea or seeking a plea-bargain with the prosecution.

CABINET OKAYS IN PRINCIPLE A 5-DAY WORK WEEK FOR CIVIL SERVANTS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- The Cabinet decided in principle Sunday to adopt a five-day work week for the civil services and authorized Finance Minister Moshe Nissim to negotiate the major change in Israeli labor relations with the Histadrut.

The Histadrut, in its latest round of wage negotiations, has made the five-day work week a major demand.

The Cabinet set several conditions for the change: the Histadrut must sign statewide work agreements for two years and must agree to manpower reductions in the public sector; the change will not require enlarging the state budget; and no salary increases or cuts in total number of work hours will result from the change.

Any agreement with the Histadrut is subject to the approval of the whole government. Some 14 ministers supported the change in the Cabinet session Sunday. Former Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, Gideon Patt, Science and Technology Minister, and Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens, all of Likud, voted against the measure and four abstained.

Yisrael Kessar, Secretary General of the Histadrut, welcomed the decision as a step in the right direction.

CORRECTION

An article in the July 22 Bulletin incorrectly identified Hadassah as being part of the General Zionist Confederation. It is part of the World Confederation of United Zionists, which includes Bnai Zion and the American Jewish League for Israel. In addition, Hadassah has not endorsed anyone for the chairmanship of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization.

**YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY TO
OPEN AN OFFICE IN JERUSALEM**

TEL AVIV, July 27 (JTA) -- The Tanjug official Yugoslav news agency will have a bureau in Israel and its local representative, Miroslav Vishjic, formerly head of its Cairo bureau, said Sunday the establishment of its office in Jerusalem signals improved Yugoslav-Israeli relations.

"The fact that an official news agency opens its bureau in Israel speaks for itself. After this, similar step-by-step moves most probably will follow," he told reporters. He said he had chosen Jerusalem as the center of his news gathering and reporting activities because he suffers from asthma. An official Tanjug agency report issued in Belgrade on Saturday said its Israel bureau would be opened in Tel Aviv.

Vishjic has been in Israel several times, coming here on special reporting assignments from his previous post in Cairo.

**SHAS CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR
RABBINICAL COURT LAW AMENDMENT**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 27 (JTA) -- The ultra-Orthodox Shas party proposed in the Knesset Monday an amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Law which would give the court sole authority to approve all conversions performed abroad.

The anticipated proposal prompted a delegation of American Jewish leaders to take an unscheduled trip to Israel Sunday to convey to Israeli officials and public their serious concern and opposition to the politization of the "Who is a Jew?" issue.

A leader of the delegation, Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said last week the series of amendments to Israeli laws dealing with converts would delegitimize millions of non-Orthodox American Jews.

Likud warned Shas Sunday night that it could not guarantee a majority vote to pass the proposal at the first introductory reading scheduled for Wednesday. Likud and Shas representatives are scheduled to meet again Monday night but a Shas spokesman indicated that they might withdraw the proposal by Wednesday if the legislation seemed doomed to failure.

Effect Of The Shas Amendment

The "back door" Shas amendment would have the same effect as other proposed amendments to the Law of Return which would redefine "Who is a Jew?" The ultra-Orthodox have introduced numerous amendments to the Law of Return which would stipulate that a convert undergo a halachic conversion in order to qualify for automatic Israeli citizenship granted to all Jews on request.

Under Israeli law, an amendment that fails can only be reintroduced six months after the vote. The Shas amendment effectively keeps the issue on the political agenda after the failure of proposed amendments to the Law of Return on July 8.

American Jewish leaders have expressed their opposition to the issue becoming a political football rather than a religious dispute. Shas has

threatened to pull out of the unity government and vote for early elections if Likud would not push the amendments through Knesset. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in an apparent capitulation to pressure from Shas, pledged several months ago to do all in his power to get the amendments passed.

Likud MKs almost unanimously supported an amendment to the Law of Return on July 8 but the measure was narrowly defeated.

FEDORENKO EXECUTED

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 27 (JTA) -- Feodor Fedorenko, the Nazi guard at the Treblinka death camp deported in 1984 from the United States to the Soviet Union and sentenced to death last year, has been executed, according to a report from the Soviet news agency Tass. The report did not indicate when the 79-year-old Fedorenko was executed.

Fedorenko was the first Nazi war criminal to be deported from the U.S. to the Soviet Union. The Ukrainian, who came to America in 1949, was charged by the U.S. government with failing to disclose his wartime activities when he entered the country, and when he applied for U.S. citizenship, granted him in 1970. The prosecution charged him with having beaten and shot Jewish inmates.

Fedorenko was the first Nazi war criminal to be judged by the U.S. Supreme Court, and the first time a U.S. Attorney General had taken part in the proceedings.

In 1981, Fedorenko, who had been a factory worker in Philadelphia, himself applied to live permanently in the Soviet Union, where he had family, after the Supreme Court revoked his U.S. citizenship in January of that year for lying about his past when he immigrated to the U.S. He was ordered deported in February 1983. At the time, he faced no charges in the Soviet Union, and he lived as a free man for approximately a year before being arrested and charged with wartime crimes.

Fedorenko himself admitted at his original denaturalization trial that he had been an SS guard at Treblinka, according to Eli Rosenbaum, former prosecutor at the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations. And he admitted, said Rosenbaum, joining his fellow guards in shooting "in the direction of" escaping Jewish prisoners during the Treblinka uprising in 1943. The Soviet court in the city of Simferopol passed the death sentence on Fedorenko on June 19, 1986 after finding him guilty of treason and the mass execution of citizens from many countries at Treblinka.

In April, the U.S. deported Nazi concentration camp guard Karl Linas to the Soviet Union, where he had been sentenced to death in absentia in 1962 for his crimes. Linas died earlier this month before a decision was made to confirm that sentence.

It was during several photo-spread reviewing sessions by Treblinka survivors being asked to look at photos in the Fedorenko case that the survivors instead pointed to a photo of John

Demjanjuk, identifying him as "Ivan the Terrible" from Treblinka. Demjanjuk's picture was on the spread only because the government had needed photographs of eight men of similar appearance.

Demjanjuk at the time was under investigation for crimes committed at the Sobibor death camp. Monday, Demjanjuk began testimony in his own defense at his trial in Jerusalem.

FOCUS ON ISSUES LONGHORNS, ISRAELIS AND JNF By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 27 (JTA) -- Surely, there is no mention in any liturgy of Laredo, Texas, as a "land of milk and honey." Yet, with the sure vision and unflinching approach of the agriculture commissioner of the Lone Star State, a troubled and poor spot is about to bloom on the Rio Grande, with Israeli know-how and the Jewish National Fund partners with Texas in an unusual but highly practical experiment.

Jim Hightower, the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, was at JNF headquarters in New York last week to announce the novel project. Charlotte Jacobson, treasurer and past president of JNF, and Dr. Samuel Cohen, JNF executive vice president, presented the softspoken Texan with a comprehensive plan for developing a "Blueprint Farm of the Future" at Laredo using Israeli farm technology.

JNF financed \$50,000 for a feasibility study by the Texas-Israel Exchange (TIE), Hightower's maverick creation of mutually beneficial agriculture projects that include crop production, water conservation, cooperative marketing, integrated pest management and solar energy generation. The Laredo project is the first of the TIE program. A 15-member steering committee of public officials and local business and agricultural leaders from south Texas is working with TIE on the project.

"Because of the financial support of the Jewish National Fund, the technical expertise of an Israeli evaluation team, and the pioneering spirit of the people of Laredo, our 'Blueprint Farm' is ready to advance from the talking stages into the plowing and planting stages," Hightower said.

Determined To Make Project Work

Since the demise of Texas oil riches and because of the painful difficulties that American farmers are facing -- a story in itself -- the small Texas farmer, and the state in general, have plummeted in productivity. But Texas sees these problems as a challenge to even more productivity. Hightower, a man of great conscience and an iron will, is determined to make a project work. He has devoted a large chunk of his time to bringing together the sharpest minds and greatest expertise among Israelis and Texans.

Hightower is a mover and a shaker, but he is also modest, and he gives credit to others as it is due, and immediately. He said he owes his idea of bringing together Texas and Israel for the novel exchange to Sara Ehrman, a Jewish Texan once a member of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), active in Texas Jewish and Democratic activities, and TIE's first Texas coordinator. (Hightower announced last week that Nancy Epstein now serves in that position.)

Ehrman, he said, approached him back in 1982 -- as soon as he was elected commissioner -- to look into the possibilities of such a Texas-Israel cooperative venture. On the face of it, the

partnership might look a trifle lopsided, but the fact is that Texas and Israel lie on the same latitude, and have similar problems with aridity and the need for advanced irrigation techniques and crop rotation.

An interesting footnote: drip irrigation, always spoken of with Israel in mind, was, said Hightower, invented at Texas A&M University.

The Evolution Of An Idea

Hightower was invited to Israel but, he said, he "wanted to do more than just take a tour. I wanted it to be a useful trip." He went to Israel "to see people who did something innovative," he told JTA in a long interview at the JNF offices.

About 200-300 leaders of the Texas Jewish community were interested in the idea, and AIPAC and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith also got involved in the venture; ADL out of missions to Israel by its Texas regional members who came back "wanting to do something."

In 1984 in Israel, Hightower was advised by several people in government to talk to Avraham Katz-Oz, then a Labor Member of Knesset, a kibbutznik personally involved in agriculture and since named Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Hightower said there was "no need to discuss grandiose schemes. It was only necessary to make one thing work." A team of Texans, comprising farmers, business people and government figures, was invited to Israel. After talking to Katz-Oz about an agricultural exchange, "They were really bowled over," Hightower said. Katz-Oz himself came to Texas in the spring of 1985. "This raised a lot of eyebrows in Texas and Jerusalem," Hightower laughed. "The Foreign Ministry asked, 'What's going on?'"

No Small Potatoes

It wasn't just small potatoes. Together, the Texans and the Israelis had come up with the idea to rotate crops of December tomatoes; asparagus, melons, bell peppers, sweet basil, dill and other fresh herbs; and cut flowers such as irises and gladiolus.

Hightower and Katz-Oz then signed a memorandum of agreement in Austin, Texas, for Texas-Israel agricultural cooperation, with each man becoming a cochairman of TIE. In fact, Katz-Oz admitted that Israel could learn from Texas farmers, citing Texas's ability to grow sweeter citrus fruits.

Hightower returned to Israel in November 1986, having been reelected to his post, with specific proposals and a meeting with the Israel contingent of TIE. In Texas, John Vlcek, assistant commissioner for marketing and agricultural development, toured Texas with Ehrman, visiting Rotary Clubs and other places where farmers gathered to discuss the planned venture.

The dean of Laredo Community College, Jacinto Juarez, offered 100 acres of the college's land for farming. A local farmer and businessman, Randolph Slaughter, offered additional acreage, already irrigated, for the project. In all, the project is making use of 47 acres of the land offered.

At this point, Hightower approached JNF in Texas, which agreed to commit a small portion of the money it raised to go to the project. In Israel, Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd., a government-owned company, was commissioned to assess the land in Laredo.

This past March, a team of three Israeli agriculture experts spent a month making a

detailed analysis of the farmsite's soil characteristics, irrigation capabilities and climate. The team, composed of Dr. David Ityiel, agricultural planner, Dr. David Melamed, irrigation engineer, and Dr. Binyamin Gamliel, crops specialist, indicated that crop production could begin this coming fall.

Some Favorable Statistics

The total cost of developing the Blueprint Farm -- which will include greenhouses, protective nets and a drip irrigation system -- was calculated by the Israelis at approximately \$480,000. TIE has already received a grant of \$125,000 from the Meadows Foundation of Dallas to hire an Israeli farm manager, prepare the land, buy seed and equipment and develop market surveys for the farm.

The Israeli team estimated costs and yields on a 25-year basis, and figures that the internal rate of return would be about 20 percent, "with all capital investment recovered within nine to ten years."

With these favorable statistics in mind, TIE is now seeking additional funds to develop the project from the Hobbizelle Foundation of Dallas, the Ford Foundation and the Jewish Fund for Justice.

And Hightower's maverick concept has not stood still with Israel. Texas now has an exchange agreement with Egypt, sending 12,000 dairy cows to Egypt, as well as a crop exchange with Mexico, and other states have since established individual ties with Israel, following the lead of Texas.

60 LAWMAKERS URGE JAPAN TO INVITE JERUSALEM TO CONFERENCE IN KYOTO

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA) -- Sixty House members have signed a letter to Nobuo Matsunaga, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, urging that Jerusalem be invited to send representatives to a World Conference of Historical Cities to be held in Kyoto in November.

"Any conference on the impact of the major cities of the world on the history of mankind would be noticeably incomplete without a discussion of the historical contributions of the city of Jerusalem," the Congressmen stressed in the letter initiated by Reps. Mel Levine and Robert Matsui (both D. Calif.). "In this case, such an omission is so blatant and unjustified that it raises concerns of political bias and prejudice," the letter said.

The exclusion of Jerusalem was first raised with Matsunaga in May by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Abraham Foxman, at that time the ADL's associate national director, in a letter to the Ambassador, noted that "not to have Jerusalem, is, in our judgement, unjustified and raises questions as to whether there is some political bias at work here."

Fears Appear Justified

This fear appears justified from the reply Foxman, now national director, received this month from Koichi Haraguchi, the Japanese Embassy's counselor for public affairs. Haraguchi said that Foxman's letter was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, which then received from the City of Kyoto several reasons for not inviting Jerusalem, including a decision that since Jerusalem's status was the "subject of political controversies as reflected in the debate at the

United Nations," the Israeli capital would not be invited "irrespective of its long history and tradition."

Enclosed with Haraguchi's letter was a copy of the Dec. 15, 1980 UN General Assembly resolution rejecting the Knesset action annexing all of Jerusalem and declaring the city Israel's capital. Japan voted for the resolution.

Foxman replied to the Ambassador last week that "Unfortunately, Jerusalem's exclusion from the Kyoto conference is not an isolated instance of Japanese political bias against Israel. Your government's open support for the Arab boycott, its refusal to engage in scientific exchanges and to promote cultural ties with Israel have contributed to the coolness that has characterized the two countries' relations for more than a decade."

His remarks were echoed by Jess Hordes, associate director of the ADL's Washington office, who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "This incident is unfortunately indicative of Japan's traditional reluctance to have full and open political, economic and cultural relations with Israel." Hordes also noted that "No Japanese official of ministerial rank has ever visited Israel." Haraguchi, who could not be reached for comment Monday, also stressed in his letter that the City of Kyoto wanted "to make it clear" that its decision does not reflect any "racial or religious bias."

He added that such cities as Fez, Baghdad, Tunis, Quebec and Cuzco had asked to attend and were rejected. Among the 35 cities invited were Alexandria, Egypt, and Damascus, Syria. The only United States city invited was Boston.

SCIENTISTS ASK FOR LERNER'S PERMIT

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 27 (JTA) -- Hundreds of computer scientists meeting in Seattle this month for the Sixth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence appealed to Soviet authorities to allow their colleague, Prof. Alexander Lerner of Moscow, to emigrate, according to the Committee of Concerned Scientists.

Lerner, 73, a cyberneticist, is one of the longest-term refuseniks, first applying to emigrate in 1971. He was refused that year, and many times subsequently, on the basis of knowledge of "state secrets," although prior to 1971 he had traveled to the West for scientific symposia with testimony by his highest supervisor to the KGB that Lerner was not privy to state secrets.

Lerner and his late wife Judith, who died in 1981, had two small daughters before World War II who were killed at Babi Yar with their grandparents. Lerner had taken the girls, ages three and five, to his native Vinnitsa in 1941 for vacation with their grandparents, two weeks before the German invasion on June 22.

After the war, the Lerner's had two other children, Sonya and Vladimir. Vladimir is currently a Moscow refusenik and Sonya Lerner Levin lives in Rehovot, Israel. Lerner was among eight people cited earlier this year by the Soviets as never to be permitted to emigrate on grounds of "national security." The petition on behalf of Lerner was circulated by Judea Pearl, a professor of computer science at UCLA and a member of the Committee of Concerned Scientists, an independent organization of 5,000 American scientists and engineers dedicated to scientific freedom and human rights of colleagues worldwide.

IN THIS AGE OF WORKING MOTHERS, HADASSAH SEEKS NEW, YOUNG LEADERS

By Alan Feiler
Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE, July 27 (JTA) -- With the clear majority of its nearly 400,000 members past the age of 50, Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization, finds itself in the predicament faced by many Jewish service organizations -- needing young leadership in an age when women increasingly are juggling careers and families.

Although Hadassah's membership and fund-raising figures are up, officials of the 75-year-old organization, which held its 73rd annual convention here earlier this month, said that it is imperative to reorganize the goals and agendas of its 1,700 chapters to meet the demands and interests of the 1980's career woman who wants to contribute to the development of Israel.

"We live in different times," said Carol Kaplan, president of the southeastern region of Hadassah, who at age 39 is the youngest member of the national board. Kaplan said that older women continue to be the backbone of Hadassah, which has been highly instrumental in the growth of Israel's medical and educational resources.

But, Kaplan said, "between their families and working, there's very little leftover time today for younger women to get involved. We have to show them that there is still a place for them in Hadassah, even if they only have limited time. It's a real challenge for our organization."

Hadassah At Night

Kaplan ought to know. A mother who runs a retail store with her husband in Macon, Ga., she finds that she can tackle Hadassah projects only very late in the day. Her presidency includes Hadassah chapters in Georgia, South Carolina and portions of North Carolina.

"I often say to myself, 'Why am I doing this?' when it's 2 a.m. and my family is sleeping soundly while I'm working at my desk," said Kaplan, who quickly answered her own question: "This is the only way for me to live in Macon, Ga., and direct my feelings about Zionism. Hadassah is my passport."

"Hadassah is aware that we need to have available programs for career women," said Toby Blake, a Baltimore member. "We're having more meetings in the evenings and on weekends, and we're featuring more subject matters that will bring in the professional women."

Indeed, many of the sessions and discussions at the convention dealt with women's place in Jewish life and how to balance family and work. According to Hadassah's national officials, career seminars and offering child care are some of the ways that the organization is attracting younger members.

Recently, Hadassah created a young leadership division that promotes career women and outreach programs for young members who are wives and mothers. However, according to James Lee, director of Hadassah public relations, involvement in Hadassah ultimately depends on the commitment of the individual.

Blake concurred. "Young women are still joining Hadassah because of the work that the organization does. The whole concept of tzedakah is part of Jewish culture. Hadassah is not dying. It's growing," she said. A sense of pride over 75

years of accomplishments combined at the convention with excitement for the future of the organization and the main benefactors of its efforts -- American Jewish women and Israel.

More than 2,500 delegates from all 50 states and Israel converged upon the Baltimore Convention Center to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah by Baltimore native Henrietta Szold and listen to such speakers as former Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, Maryland Senators Paul Sarbanes (D) and Barbara Mikulski (D) and Secretary of State George Shultz discuss a variety of domestic and international matters.

At the formal opening of the convention, Hadassah national treasurer Deborah Kaplan announced that the organization raised \$65.5 million in 1986-87, an increase of \$9 million.

Contributions included \$16.4 million raised for the Hadassah Medical organization, \$2.9 million for the organization's Youth Aliyah program, \$1.7 million for educational services in Israel, \$1 million for the Jewish National Fund and \$1.9 million for projects for Zionist youth activities. In addition, dues were increased by \$2.8 million, and it was later announced that more than \$1.25 million in pledges was raised at the convention's annual founder's dinner.

Senator Urges Child Care

In an impassioned speech that was frequently cheered by Hadassah delegates, Mikulski called for increased U.S. funding for Israeli schools and hospitals. She also called for more affordable child care and long-term health care to help American women.

Shultz, who was honored for his work on human rights, praised in his speech American Jews for their commitment to civic duty and human rights, and called for a continued American presence in world affairs, including those concerning Middle East peace prospects.

Hadassah president Ruth Popkin said at the convention's close that many goals were reached there, including the restructuring of Hadassah's youth activities and the formation of a new outreach program at Hadassah's community college in Israel.

ISRAEL'S TOP LEADERS REFUSE NBC-TV INTERVIEWS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTARY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 27 (JTA) -- Israeli spokesmen say the refusal by the three top government leaders to grant interviews to NBC-TV correspondents is an expression of displeasure over a July 1 network documentary on Israel.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, said NBC's "Six Days Plus 20 Years ... A Dream Is Dying" was a "completely biased and one-sided documentary on Israel." He complained that only non-representative Israeli officials were on camera.

NBC has complained that the refusal of interviews by Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin is a boycott of the network. The Foreign Press Association in Israel is looking into the situation, saying official attempts at a boycott of a foreign news agency was a dangerous, undemocratic precedent that smacked of news management such as that practiced in the Soviet bloc.