

VOL. 65 - 70th YEAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1987

NO. 153

PERES SAYS U.S. WARNINGS AGAINST LAVI PROJECT MUST BE CONSIDERED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that the Israel government would "have to take account" of the latest, toughest American warnings not to go ahead with the Lavi warplane project.

Peres spoke on Israel Radio in the wake of a formal call by the U.S. State Department for Israel to "terminate" the Lavi program.

The Foreign Minister and Labor Party leader has hitherto been counted among the supporters of the project -- though he always stressed that the defense budget must be increased if the project is to go forward. Peres has argued that the Lavi would require a reduction in living standards on the part of the Israeli public -- and that this is worthwhile given the importance of the project to Israel's entire technological infrastructure.

His remarks Wednesday, however, seemed to imply that in the face of this firm and public American position, the Israel Cabinet will have to think long and hard about approving the project's continuation.

Shultz Sends Personal Messages

American urgings against the project were intensified Wednesday. Secretary of State George Shultz sent personal messages to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Minister of Economic Coordination Gad Yaacobi urging them to support the abandonment of the Lavi project by Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

Rabin, in a TV interview Wednesday night, said it was "inconceivable" to him that the Cabinet might decide to continue with the project within the present budgetary framework. That decision would be "impossible to implement ... There simply will not be the money," he said.

Such a decision would mean "the kind of cutbacks in the IDF's strength, including that of the Air Force, that I doubt whether there would be any need for a Lavi in the Air Force any more ..."

Rabin appeared to imply that he would feel forced to resign if the Cabinet took this course, though he did not say so specifically.

He said the budgetary shortfall was around \$220 million and the state -- not the already truncated defense budget -- must provide it if the Lavi project was to continue. Rabin indicated that he did not realistically see any possibility of this sum in fact being provided by higher taxation or further cuts in other (non-defense) government spending.

Rabin confirmed that he and Nissim would jointly propose to the Cabinet Sunday that the Lavi project be ended.

Meanwhile, the Knesset's prime committee, the joint panel of the Foreign Affairs and Finance Committees, has decided not to reopen its debate on the Lavi until after the Cabinet has made its decision. The decision came Tuesday from Finance Committee chairman Avraham Shapira (Aguda Yisrael), despite pressure from Foreign

Affairs Committee chairman Abba Eban (Labor) to reopen the debate and call for a new vote.

In a previous vote Monday, a large majority of the joint committees -- 22 to 6 -- supported the Lavi. It was this, in the view of many observers, that prompted the U.S. State Department to go public with its forthright opposition to the warplane project.

SHARON BREAKS SILENCE ON WAR IN LEBANON, PROMPTING ATTACKS FROM POLITICAL FRIENDS AND FOES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The Lebanon war was a "great success ... a war of salvation ... the most carefully pre-planned and implemented war in Israel's history." Moreover, it was directed on a daily basis by the Cabinet, which was fully privy to every move made, Ariel Sharon declared in a prepared four-hour address to a VIP audience at Tel Aviv University Tuesday night.

Sharon's speech, in which he quoted extensively from the minutes of Cabinet and military staff meetings and briefings of senior army officers, was intended to "tell the truth and clear my name." But it has been followed by the reopening of the Lebanon war debate, with renewed sharp attacks on Sharon and his veracity.

Introducing Sharon to the packed audience of senior government officials, senior army officers and academics, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Aharon Yariv, head of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies (JCSS), which sponsored the meeting, said that Sharon had come under fierce attack during a JCSS symposium on the Lebanon war two months ago "and we thought it only proper to invite him now to present his case."

But JCSS sources said that Sharon himself had decided to break his five-year virtual silence and had insisted on his right to appear, requesting the widest possible press coverage.

Observers suggested that Sharon might now want to present his case in view of possible early Knesset elections and his possible bid to head the Likud.

Avoided Protesters

Sharon, who entered the campus via a side gate to avoid a crowd of anti-Sharon demonstrators, said that the plans to attack Beirut had been prepared years before the 1982 start of the war (when Ezer Weizman was Defense Minister) in what had been code-named "Operation Oranim."

He insisted that the Cabinet, in 92 sessions (some twice a day), had been briefed on every new move made by the Israel Defense Force. Many critics including former Cabinet ministers have claimed that the government had been misled by Sharon, then Defense Minister, who had reported many of his moves only after they had been implemented.

Opening his lengthy address (which left no time for the many critical questions expected from people intimately connected with the war), Sharon said: "I did not come here to respond to various charges. I have come to state the truth, to tell things as they were, for the first time, on the fifth anniversary of the expulsion of the PLO

terrorists from Beirut." He said the PLO expulsion had been the "high point and major objective of the war."

Sharon said the war was a "war of salvation, and I am proud to have been one of its organizers, a war against our main enemy -- the Palestinian terrorism that has been fighting us for 100 years."

Perspiring heavily in a hot auditorium, Sharon went into minute details of some moves during the fighting, with a minute-by-minute report of what he had said during various meetings and what he claimed had been said to him.

Sharon's Claims Denied

Former Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur said immediately after Sharon's address that his lecture had been "full of lies and half-truths."

Weizman, whom Sharon said had prepared a plan for the invasion of Beirut, said: "Sharon is famous for his inaccuracy."

Weizman said Sharon had possibly laid himself open to criminal prosecution for having read in public parts of the minutes of Cabinet and general staff sessions. But Rafael Eitan, Chief of Staff during the war, said Wednesday he had checked the minutes referred to by Sharon and had a different version.

Observers commented Wednesday morning that Sharon had appeared intent on spreading the blame for the Lebanon war as widely as possible and ensuring that none of the decision-makers at that time could claim they did not know what was going on.

Yet, Arye Naor, the Cabinet Secretary at the time, said Sharon had overlooked the fact that at the Cabinet meeting on the eve of the war, from whose minutes Sharon quoted, the Cabinet had ratified an invasion of only 40 kilometers inside Lebanon.

Naor said the former Defense Minister had made "selected use" of what he claimed were stenographic records of Cabinet and staff meetings and conferences with senior army officers to strengthen the claims he has frequently made that the Cabinet agreed with his "defense conception," on which the war had been based.

"That is incorrect," Naor said. "The Cabinet never discussed his conception (ousting the PLO from Lebanon and setting up a pro-Israel Maronite Christian government and state in Lebanon), but only the various consecutive steps and developments of the fighting as presented to it by Sharon. The only overall Cabinet decision was the one referring to the 40-kilometer entry into Lebanon."

Inquiry Urged

Col. Ram Cohen (Res.), who took part in the war and Tuesday demonstrated against Sharon together with Mapam protesters outside the hall, said Sharon was out of order in presenting his case now.

"He stands as the accused in the Lebanon war controversy. The only body which can decide what happened in Lebanon is an officially appointed commission of inquiry," he said. "We cannot allow Sharon to transform himself from the accused into the accuser."

Replying to Sharon's charge that the only opposition to Likud activities including the bombing of the Baghdad nuclear reactor and the war came from Labor Party headquarters, Laborite Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio

Wednesday morning: "Absolutely no truth to the accusation."

He said the Labor Party had been informed of the war plans only after the IDF had already crossed the border and had then been told that the fighting would last only three or four days and would take Israeli forces only 40 kilometers from the border.

Peres said that under questioning at that time the Labor leaders had been told there would be no approach to Beirut and no confrontation with the Syrians.

"We were all taken by surprise for what happened later. Not only were we not informed--we were told 'exactly' the contrary of what happened," Peres stressed. "(Then-Premier Menachem) Begin himself told me he was surprised by the IDF air raids on Beirut and promised me he would check with Sharon."

Peres noted the Lebanon war had begun during a period of relative quiet on the border, and ended with the extremist Hizbullah, together with the PLO, in control of a destroyed Lebanon.

(Sharon had said the war started after a long period of attacks on Galilee settlements, and had ended with the defeat of the PLO.)

Peres said he had until now opposed the idea of a commission of inquiry into the Lebanon war, but Sharon's speech Tuesday night had possibly made essential such an official investigation.

Sharon's Conscience

Weizman said Wednesday that Sharon's conscience appeared to be troubling him.

Reacting to Sharon's statement regarding 1980 plans to march to Beirut, Weizman said: "We had no authorized plans. You have to understand that in the general staff you deal all the time with potential problems and prepare files (contingency plans) for possible events -- such as a strike against the enemy air forces in 1967, which had been prepared in advance."

"But nothing like this was authorized by me or anybody else. The only contingency plans we had was jumping across the Litani River up to the Zaharani."

"But that is not the point. The point is that if Mr. Sharon finds it necessary to open up this discussion now and use me as an excuse, he must have a very heavy conscience, and I would rather argue with a successful and victorious Defense Minister than one who looks for excuses..."

"And back in July 1981, Begin as Prime Minister and with the good offices of (U.S. envoy) Philip Habib achieved a ceasefire between Israel and the PLO on the northern borders which was adhered to. Not a shot was fired into Israel."

"And the only reason that we started the war in 1981 was the attempted assassination of our Ambassador in London."

The public debate on Sharon's version of the Lebanon war is likely to continue for some time, with renewed demands by critics for a commission of investigation into the war, and counter-demands by Likud for an "inquiry commission" into what is termed "the conduct of the Labor Party in sabotaging the war."

PHANTOM AIRCRAFT UPDATED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- An updated version of the Phantom aircraft, which has been in service with the Israel Air Force for some 16 years, was shown to the press on Tuesday.

The updated version of the plane, with new Israeli-developed electronic systems said to be equal to those incorporated in the F-16s just delivered to Israel, is planned to extend the operational life of the Phantom 2000 by some 15-20 years.

The first model of the updated Phantom was test-flown by its Air Force designers for the first time Tuesday. A second prototype will be flown by next March. But the first squadron of improved Phantom 2000s is due for delivery to the Air Force only by the early 1990's.

Several foreign Air Forces are reported to have shown interest in the updated Phantom. Some 2,000 old-version Phantoms are still flying around the world, and upgrading them may be a cheaper alternative for many countries to buying the next generation of sophisticated fighter aircraft.

STILL MOURNING THE MURDERED MIKHOELS AND 24 YIDDISH POETS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- A standing-room-only crowd of Yiddishists, socialists, students and even a black-coated rabbi pushed into Chanan Hall of the Workmen's Circle here Monday evening to see a rare film of the giant of the Soviet Yiddish theater, Shloime (Solomon) Mikhoels.

The man adulated by Jew and non-Jew alike for his exceptional dramatic interpretations was murdered in Minsk in January 1948. His death is remembered every year in August in conjunction with memorial ceremonies for the 24 Yiddish poets murdered by Stalin four years later, on Aug. 12, 1952.

Mikhoels, at the head of the Soviet Jewish cultural vanguard, was the first of these prominent Yiddish cultural figures to be murdered in Stalin's purges.

Traditional Jewish Background

Mikhoels was raised in a traditional Jewish family in Riga, Latvia. He studied law at the University of St. Petersburg. His announcement of desire to be an actor surprised everyone. He was short, not particularly handsome, and nothing in his background had prepared him for that life. In 1918, he entered the Petrograd Jewish Dramatic Studio, despite being told that at the age of 28 it was too late to study acting.

In 1919, Mikhoels went with the Studio to Moscow, where its name was changed to the GOSSET, an acronym for State Yiddish Theater. Mikhoels became its leading actor, and the GOSSET began to attract an unexpected following of non-Yiddish-speaking Jews as well as non-Jews. An estimated 600,000 people saw Mikhoels' "King Lear."

Ben Schechter, director of New York's Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, said that a world authority on Shakespeare, who understood no Yiddish, was persuaded to observe Mikhoels in "Lear," and was so taken by his dramatic powers that he returned several times to see him, proclaiming Mikhoels one of the greatest actors in any language.

The Soviet government accorded Mikhoels the title "People's Artist," and in 1931, on the theater's 20th anniversary, he was awarded the Order of Lenin.

In 1942, the Soviet government founded the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee to garner wartime

support from Jews worldwide, fostering a false sense of security that the Soviets supported international Jewish unity. Mikhoels was named chairman of the committee. Stalin himself chose the Yiddish writers and artists to lead the committee. It was these people who were killed during what are known as the "Black Years," 1948-53.

The committee, formed in '42 and disbanded in '48, became the focus of Jews in these turbulent years. With Nazi horrors reverberating around them, the Jewish writers attempted to demonstrate Jewish will to survive through use of Jewish historical and religious themes in their works. The committee published a journal, Eynikayt (Unity), which publicly pronounced Jewish unity worldwide, something unthinkable before the war.

Mikhoels addressed all Jews throughout the world as his "brothers." Poet Peretz Markish--among those later murdered--wrote, "There are not two Jewish peoples. The Jewish nation is one. Everywhere, we are and shall remain one entity."

The Soviet government even sent Mikhoels and poet Itzik Feffer--also killed in '52--to the United States in 1943 to collect money from American Jews for the war effort.

Morris Schappes, editor of Jewish Currents, recalled having a private meeting with Mikhoels in New York at that time, during which Mikhoels told him he looked forward to buying tanks for the Red Army with the money raised and inscribing on them in big letters "From the Jews of the U.S." It is not known if tanks were bought with the more than three million dollars raised.

Victim Of 'Anti-Cosmopolitanism' Policy

After 1948, anti-Semitism reappeared in the guise of "anti-cosmopolitanism." Mikhoels was the first prominent victim of this policy.

He was sent to Minsk by the Cultural Affairs Ministry as a member of the Stalin Prize Committee, purportedly to inspect theaters. Late at night, on Jan. 13, 1948, he was called from his hotel by an official. He was mowed down by a truck, and although his death was reported an accident, it is generally believed that the KGB killed him. The Soviet government made an extraordinary funeral for Mikhoels, attended by tens of thousands of Jews.

At Monday's event, he was remembered by former students Emil Gorovets, Margarita Polonskaya, Rita Karin and Rosa Kurtz, who emotionally recalled his funeral.

The film, accompanied by slides and sketches, was presented by New York University Prof. Mel Gordon, who spoke about Mikhoels' life and turbulent times. Included in the slides were shots of the scrim which artist Marc Chagall designed for the theater after consulting with Mikhoels.

Monday's program inaugurated a week commemorating the murder in 1952 of the Yiddish poets. After a trial of 25 Jews, begun on July 11, 1952, whose charges and proceedings have not to this day been made public by the Soviet government, 24 were killed on the night of August 12 in the basement of Moscow's Lubianka Prison.

The only reports of the trial came from a book by Esther Markish, widow of Peretz Markish, who in turn drew her accounts from Academician Lina Shtern, a biochemist who was part of the group tried in 1952 but found not guilty. Although Jewish, Shtern was not a part of the Yiddish movement.

To this day, the names of 12 of those poets killed remains a secret. The only names known

are those of Markish, Feffer, David Hofshteyn, Dovid Bergelson, Eliahu Spivak, Doar Nestor, Solomon Lazovsky, Leyb Kvitko, Shmuel Persov, Yehzekel Dobrosin, Itzik Nusinov and Binyamin Zuskin, an actor who was Mikhoels' successor in the theater.

Jewish cultural leaders across the political spectrum have been asking Soviets for an accounting of what happened at that trial.

On Wednesday, the 35th anniversary of the poets' murders, a memorial ceremony took place at the City Council Chambers at City Hall, sponsored by the United Yiddish Culture Committee of the Workmen's Circle, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish Labor Bund, Labor Zionist Alliance, Jewish Forward Association and the I.L. Peretz Yiddish Writers Union, in cooperation with the New York City Council leadership and the NCSJ. The groups called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to meet with them "when you come here to meet our President" in order to discuss the "padlocking of Jewish cultural institutions since the 1950s."

In addition, the YIVO Institute for Yiddish Culture opened an exhibit, "Shattered Dreams," featuring some of the poets' books, letters and photographs, and an evening program was held at the Workmen's Circle including the murdered writers' poems, songs and writings.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONTINUES 1985 ACCORD WITH SOVIET LAWYERS

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Bay Area Soviet Jewry activists are disturbed but not surprised that two efforts to end a formal agreement between American and Soviet lawyers failed this week.

And although the American Bar Association (ABA) overwhelmingly refused to abrogate its 1985 "Declaration of Cooperation" with the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL), a local Jewish lawyer is hopeful for a turnaround next year.

Attorney Ephraim Margolin, one of the strongest opponents of the ABA-ASL agreement to speak at the ABA convention here this week, contended that "we won the debate but lost the vote."

He and other activists pushed abrogation on the grounds that the ASL is an arm of the KGB and not an equivalent of the ABA. The activists said they were sure many ABA leaders were educated on the plight of Soviet Jews during the week.

On Monday, the ABA assembly voted 156-32 to reject a resolution to abrogate the ABA's agreement with the ASL, a group charged directly with Soviet rights violations and anti-Semitic policies.

Denunciations reached a fever pitch at that session, when a representative from the American Foundation for Resistance International called for an "economic boycott" of lawyers who supported the ABA's cooperative agreement with the Soviets. AFRI members include former UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, conservative columnist William Buckley and Republican presidential hopeful Rep. Jack Kemp (NY).

On Tuesday, the ABA's House of Delegates killed by voice vote a resolution by the Arizona Bar Association that sought to delete what its supporters saw as anti-human-rights portions of the pact between the two legal associations. David

Waksberg, director of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews (BACSJ) and vice president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, which Sunday staged a protest calling for cancellation of the ABA-ASL agreement, said the abrogation defeat was "a tragic mistake, and my feeling is that innocent victims are going to pay for the arrogance and ignorance of the ABA leadership."

Appearing at the BACSJ protest outside the Fairmont Hotel here, where the ABA convention was held, former Prisoner of Conscience Zachar Zunshain told approximately 60 supporters that the American-Soviet agreement would be used as a pretext to prosecute more Soviet Jews.

The next day, at the assembly, he repeated that notion to a hushed crowd of lawyers.

OVIR OFFICIAL SAYS USSR IS EASING FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESS

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The head of the Moscow OVIR emigration office said that the Soviet government is acting in accordance with its "international obligations" to ease family reunification procedures for emigration, and that Soviet Jews with relatives in the West will be permitted to join them without obtaining an invitation from relatives in Israel, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Rudolf Kuznetsov told the weekly Soviet journal Novoye Vremya that "in keeping with the Constitution and the international obligations of the USSR, the letter and spirit of the documents of the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and also of last year's conference in Bern, the Soviet government is making human contacts and issues of reunification of families easier."

Bypassing Current Requirements

In effect, according to Kuznetsov, Soviet Jews with relatives living in the West will be allowed to join them, thus bypassing the current requirement that an invitation must be obtained from Israel. He said that former Soviet Jews residing in countries that have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union can invite their relatives to join them.

Kuznetsov also said that it will be possible for trips to be made to and from the Soviet Union, "for meetings not only with close relatives but also with other relations and even with friends."

The publication's interviewer, Lev Yelin, asked if a former Soviet Jewish national could invite a Soviet Jewish relative for permanent residence in the West, to which Kuznetsov replied "Yes, he can." However, Kuznetsov subsequently took a swipe at Soviet emigres who applied to go to Israel and then went to other countries instead. "Those people assured us that all they ever wanted was to live in that country (Israel) and nowhere else -- but in fact they never even put one foot on Israeli soil . . . But that is their business," said Kuznetsov.

Meanwhile, hopes that cellist and Hebrew teacher Aleksei Magaryk might win early release from this three-year sentence in labor camp were dashed on Aug. 5 when his wife, Natalya Ratner, telephoned the camp in Omsk where her husband is imprisoned, and was told that he would have to serve his full sentence. Last April, his term was cut in half, and he is due for release sometime in September.

TRUDEAU DEFERS ANSWER TO CHARGE THAT HE AIDED WAR CRIMINALS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau refused to comment on allegations by Alti Rodal, author of a semi-secret report on Canada's immigration policy, that he privately vetoed taking legal action against suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada.

Interviewed here by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Trudeau suggested that Robert Kaplan, who was solicitor general in the early 1980's, could better explain the government's decisions on the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals.

"I know what the story says," Trudeau said. "The facts speak for themselves. I think you should speak to Robert Kaplan. He was the minister at the time, and he knows the facts."

Since April 1987, Kaplan, a Liberal Member of Parliament, has been prodding the Progressive-Conservative government to honor its commitments and introduce legislation which would allow prosecution in Canada for atrocities committed elsewhere.

Unable To Convince Trudeau

Kaplan held the same views while Solicitor General in the Trudeau government, but he was unable to convince Trudeau to proceed with an investigation in the case of alleged Nazi war criminals.

Kaplan was also among the first to call for release of the Rodal Report, the unpublished portions of the Deschenes Commission research into Canadian policy regarding alleged war criminals.

Last December, Justice Jules Deschenes recommended prosecution of 20 suspected war criminals in Canada and continued investigation of allegations against 218 others. However, Rodal's report was made public only last week in censored form after reporters' requests under the Freedom of Information Law.

Rodal told the JTA that sections of her 560-page study detailing Trudeau's opposition to the prosecution of Nazi war criminals were censored when her report was made public. Kaplan was unavailable for comment.

HISTADRUT LEADER ORDERS ALL FIRMS CONTROLLED BY THE UNION TO END ALL TRADE LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar has ordered all industrial enterprises controlled by the trades union federation to break all commercial ties with South Africa, once present contracts have expired.

His move followed a complaint by Civil Rights Movement Knesset member Ran Cohen that Iskoor, a company owned by the Histadrut's giant Koor Industries, last year bought \$25 million worth of steel and scrap iron from South Africa.

Cohen charged that Iskoor had set up a front company in Switzerland called Talronics to conceal its dealings with South Africa. The Jerusalem Post wrote Thursday that Kessar had ini-

tially refused to respond to Cohen's charges, but Wednesday summoned heads of Hevrat Haovdim, the Histadrut's holding company, and of Koor Industries to impress on them that they must follow the Histadrut's policy of ending all trade links with South Africa.

They reportedly told Kessar they had already given such instructions but noted that Iskoor last year signed a five-year contract with South Africa which would be too expensive to cancel.

Cohen said he would continue his investigations into the Iskoor affair, claiming that other European countries had broken even more expensive contracts with South Africa. He said he also understood that the last Iskoor contract was for three years with an extra three-year option, and not a five-year deal as Koor had reported.

WIESEL 'SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING' VATICAN INVITATION TO MEET THE POPE

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel said Thursday that he is "seriously considering" a long-standing invitation from the Vatican to meet privately with Pope John Paul II later this month and will probably accept. Wiesel said he would decide on the meeting within a week.

Wiesel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he received the invitation weeks ago, before any discussion arose of a meeting between other Jewish leaders and the Pope at the Vatican.

The Pope has invited a delegation of five Jewish religious leaders to meet with him in Rome on Sept. 1. Wiesel's meeting, should he accept the offer, would be prior to Sept. 1.

Wiesel said he will not represent any delegation or organization in his meeting with the Pope but will be speaking to him as a private person.

Critical Of Pope-Waldheim Meeting

Wiesel has been critical of the Pope's granting of an audience on June 25 to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, accused of complicity in Nazi war crimes. But Wiesel has also censured Pope John Paul II for misinterpreting the Holocaust by denying its uniqueness as a Jewish tragedy. Instead, the Pope has acknowledged that Jews suffered more than other peoples but consistently stresses the Catholic victims of Nazism.

Wiesel said he would discuss his view of the Holocaust among other issues with the Pope but refused to elaborate on a possible agenda. He said he hopes the meeting will be private and the discussion will remain a secret.

The Vatican had arranged a meeting between the Pope and Jewish religious leaders on Sept. 11 in Miami during his visit to America. After the Pope's audience with Waldheim, however, many of the Jewish groups scheduled to participate in the meeting withdrew in protest.

Many of the same organizations are now reconsidering their participation pending the outcome of the Sept. 1 meeting with the Pope. The Jewish groups are troubled, among other things, by what they perceive as the Pope's insensitivity to the Holocaust reflected in the Waldheim audience and by the failure of the Vatican to grant diplomatic recognition to Israel.

SIGNIFICANT FINDS UNEARTHED AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Activities by ultra-Orthodox zealots to disrupt archaeological digs in Caesarea have diverted attention from significant finds unearthed at other digging sites throughout Israel this season.

They included a unique 1,800-year-old mosaic floor uncovered two weeks ago at Tsiptori, in lower Galilee, and the ruins of a Bronze Age port dating back 5,000 years at Tel Rami, south of Atlit.

The six-by-five-meter floor at Tsiptori, once the most important city of Galilee, seat of the Roman governors and a major Jewish center where the Sanhedrin officiated after the destruction of the Second Temple, shows an almost life-size portrait of a beautiful young woman and of 15 Greek gods, including Dionysus, all named in Greek.

A Rare Find

The pictures are picked out in tiny colored mosaic stones, with the young woman's cheeks in four shades from flesh color to rouge. The gods are depicted in motion, regarded as rare for ancient mosaics.

The archaeologists, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Duke University of North Carolina, believe the portrait may have been of a woman guest of the governor who was entertained in this very room which, from its size and position, may have been the Roman governor's reception hall.

Tsiptori was the home of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi, who compiled and edited the Mishnah, second only to the Pentateuch in Jewish holy writ, for the last 17 years of his life, at the beginning of the Third Century.

Oldest Known Port City Uncovered

The third season of digging at Tel Rami brought to light Israel's oldest known port city, dating back 5,000 years.

Excavated by a Haifa University team aided by researchers and students from the U.S. and Europe, this year's work turned up a wide range of stone and clay tools, jewelry and weapons "showing that in the late Bronze Age Tel Rami was an important sea traffic station," according to Dr. Michal Artzi, head of the university's maritime civilizations department.

This season's important finds here included a storehouse dating from 3000 BCE, the first of its kind found in the country, as well as a sewage system.

Archaeologists in Ashkelon uncovered a large dog cemetery and what appeared to have been a Philistine brothel, with erotic wall decorations.

The Atra Kadisha Jewish cemetery protection association which halted the Caesarea dig apparently decided that work at these three sites did not endanger Jewish graves, and the researchers were not molested there.

PROJECT HELPS TO PROVIDE CARE AND SHELTER FOR ANIMALS IN ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- There is a growing awareness in Israel of the "need to provide care and shelter for animals" in that country, according to Eytan Bentsur, Israel Consul General in Los Angeles, but Israelis need help

from abroad to follow through with activities and projects to improve the animals' situation.

Speaking recently with West Coast members of the Advisory Board of CHAI (Concern for Helping Animals in Israel), Bentsur pointed to Israelis' increasing sensitivity to the problem of homeless and injured dogs, cats, horses, donkeys and mules in the streets.

Israelis are now starting to recognize the need to address this problem in the spirit of the Jewish principle of preventing "tsaar ba'alei chayyim," the suffering of animals, he said.

Bentsur, who himself has two dogs, said that help is desperately needed from abroad to support spaying and neutering programs to decrease animal overpopulation, for shelters and veterinary care for homeless and injured animals; and for humane education in the school system, to ensure that the next generation deepens the commitment to animal welfare.

Background Of CHAI

Rabbi Sidney Jacobs and Betty Jacobs, CHAI Board members who are also active in animal rights/welfare work in the U.S., explained to Bentsur that CHAI was established in 1984 to help improve existing shelters, create new shelters where none exist, provide veterinary medical equipment and supplies, and sponsor human education projects.

CHAI, at POB 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302, includes on its Advisory Board, in addition to Sidney and Betty Jacobs, Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer; Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) and Annette Lantos, both long active in causes on behalf of animals; and Israeli SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Directors Joan Comay (Jerusalem) and Hilda Friedstein (Tel Aviv).

Since its founding, Rabbi Jacobs said, CHAI has carried out several important projects in pursuit of its overall goals. Last year, CHAI sponsored a Humane Education contest in the public schools to award pupils who performed outstanding acts of kindness to animals or who wrote outstanding essays about humane attitudes towards animals.

CHAI, added Betty Jacobs, has also initiated a campaign to increase public understanding of spaying and neutering, not yet widely understood or practiced in Israel.

It has provided Israeli shelters with funds to improve their facilities, such as putting a roof on the new shelter in Raanana, an autoclave (machine to sterilize veterinary instruments and drapes) for the Jerusalem SPCA, and funds for humane drugs to replace the strychnine poison used in municipal pounds.

It is also raising money for a Humane Education Center at the Tel Aviv Jaffa SPCA's new site, where the shelter will soon be relocated.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Social education instructors from religious-governmental schools have refused to participate in joint workshops with Arabs in a two-week summer course conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture's youth division, according to media reports.

Organizers of the course were forced to establish a separate workshop for the religious participants, while the Arabs were assigned to the workshops of the secular Jewish participants.

DEFENSE DOCUMENTS EXPERT IS SEVERELY SHAKEN AT DEMJANJUK TRIAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The credibility of the defense documents expert who claims that John Demjanjuk's alleged SS identification card is a forgery has been severely shaken.

Just two weeks ago defense counsel Yoram Sheftel confidently predicted at the Jerusalem war crimes trial that his experts' testimony would "pulverize" the prosecution's claim that the ID was authentic.

But after three days of cross-examination, American documents expert Edna Robertson of Panama City, Florida, seemed shaky and battered and trying to defend the vestiges of her expertise.

Gently leading Robertson to trip herself up, prosecuting counsel Michael Shaked chipped away at her professional standing. He referred to Robertson's 1984 opinion given at Demjanjuk's hearings in the U.S. and asked how, as a "self respecting expert," she could base her opinion on a photo of the ID card.

Witness Is Shaken

Robertson insisted that was only a "provisional and qualified" opinion. "I never give an opinion based on copies," she said firmly. Whereupon Shaked referred to an unrelated case in the U.S. where Robertson had been called for her opinion regarding signature authentication. There she had given an opinion based only on photos.

"I should have been more careful," she admitted. "You acted against the principles of your profession," Shaked pressed on. "Yes," Robertson had to concede, "In this one example."

The witness became agitated several times, her intermittent dry cough growing stronger. Judge Dov Levin, concerned for her condition, broke for recess early on one occasion, and another time gave her a few moments outside the court.

Hard Questioning About Photo On ID Card

Wednesday's questioning centered around Robertson's opinion that the photo on the ID card was not the card's original picture.

The defense claim that the ID card, allegedly Demjanjuk's identity document from the Trawniki Nazi training camp, is in fact a Russian forgery.

According to Robertson, the official swastika stamp over the photo was in fact a clever forgery comprising two halves of two different stamps, one half on the photo and the second half on the document.

She based this on an infra-red analysis of the ink in the stamps which, she said, showed a "luminescence" only in the portion of the stamp on the photo. That was the result of the use of two separate types of ink and therefore, she concluded, it was two separate stamps.

The Issue Of Luminescence

At this point Shaked suggested that maybe the luminescence occurred because of the quality of the paper under the stamp rather than because of the quality of the ink. Maybe shiny photographic paper causes luminescence, whereas absorbent regular paper does not.

"Professional literature would have to be rewritten" if that was the case, Robertson replied. Had she tested Demjanjuk's driver's license, a document of unquestioned authenticity, with a

photo and an official stamp over it, for the same effect? Shaked asked. She had not.

But apparently a prosecution witness, U.S. documents expert Dr. Tony Cantu, had. He had found the same luminescent effect on the driver's license, concluding that photographic paper and not necessarily ink, causes luminescence.

Another Embarrassing Scene

Robertson was further abashed during an embarrassing scene when Shaked asked her to display her professional knowledge in court through the use of the Israel police video spectral scanner equipment. She had used the same equipment at the police laboratory to test the ID card. Robertson seemed to fumble and show unfamiliarity with the equipment, and found it difficult to obtain the luminescent effect that she had mentioned.

Shaked asked why she had not used a far more sophisticated piece of equipment, an electron microscope in her examination, especially regarding places in the document where lines crossed. She said she does not own one and only uses such expensive equipment when specifically requested by her client.

But she did not even request it when doing her checks on the document at the police headquarters even though she admitted that she was given any equipment she requested, Shaked persisted. And then to her further embarrassment, Shaked quoted a forensic textbook which stated that use of the electron microscope "was the only way to examine" crossed lines.

Meanwhile, the Soviet government has supplied Israel with three more ID cards from the Nazi training center at Trawniki. These were submitted as evidence by the prosecution Tuesday. The cards were conveyed to Israel by oil magnate Armand Hammer -- as was the original Trawniki card which is allegedly Demjanjuk's own. That card has been the subject of extensive examination during the trial.

ZIONISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN 'COMBAT ANTI-ZIONISM WEEK'

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Bernice Tannenbaum, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, hailed "Combat Anti-Zionism Week" -- Project CASAZ -- as an important continuation of the campaign to condemn as a shameful canard the 1975 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism.

"The WZO-American Section is pleased to join the sponsors of CASAZ, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, in declaring November 7 through 14, 1987, to be Combat Anti-Zionism Week. We will help in every way to promote the observance of this project as an effective public education and counter-propaganda effort."

She added: "I will call upon our American Jewish communities everywhere to conduct events during this week, and to invite their non-Jewish neighbors to join them."

Noting that the WZO's worldwide campaign against this nefarious UN resolution is achieving major results, Tannenbaum praised the chairwomen of: CASAZ, Judge Hadassa Ben Itto and Frances Bernstein, for their leadership. Project CASAZ events are being planned for New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston and Orlando, and college campuses.

BAR ASSOCIATION AGENDA WITH SOVIETS TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The American Bar Association (ABA) resolved in a voice vote at its national convention here Wednesday that human rights will be on the agenda during all meetings it has with a Soviet lawyers group.

Those human rights issues will include permission to monitor trials, release of political prisoners, an end to punitive psychiatric hospitalization and adherence to the Helsinki Accords.

These points have been stressed by Jewish activists pushing for ABA recognition of the plight of Soviet Jews. The activists also had urged the ABA to abrogate its two-year-old formal agreement of cooperation with the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL). The ABA declined to do so during a 156-32 vote on Monday.

Soviet Jewry activists said later that they were skeptical that the ABA's position on human rights would have any effect on the anti-Zionist Soviet lawyers group. However, local attorney Mark Schickman, a member of the ABA's Council on Individual Rights, which sponsored the human rights resolution, called it a victory and a "necessary step" toward improving human rights within the Soviet legal system.

Schickman, a member of both the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco and the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, added, however, that he will be watching the ABA carefully "to see what kind of progress will take place over the next year" in terms of willingness to raise the human rights issues.

Another San Francisco attorney and Jewish activist, Ephraim Margolin, downplayed the ABA action, and cited two other defeated attempts at the convention to abrogate or amend the formal agreement between American and Soviet lawyers.

Margolin and the other activists had been pushing abrogation on the grounds that the ASL is an arm of the KGB and not an equivalent of the ABA. He said there is clear evidence that many ABA leaders have been sensitized to the plight of Soviet Jews.

Patience Huntwork of Phoenix, founder of the Independent Task Force on ABA-Soviet Relations and co-author of Monday's failed resolution, termed its defeat "a setback." Earlier, she had charged that ABA leaders are more interested in economic opportunities than human rights, producing documents that showed high level meetings were held last month between U.S. corporation executives and members of the ASL, arranged by outgoing ABA president Eugene Thomas.

But, Huntwork added, she was encouraged that her group's message that the ABA's cooperative agreement gives undue legitimacy to the ASL has been sounded from other quarters. Those other quarters included Attorney General Edwin Meese, who said Monday that the ABA "should not be afraid to break away from the agreement if the Soviet group is using the accord for propaganda purposes."

NUDEL: NO SECRETS

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Long-time refusenik Ida Nudel has produced a lengthy and detailed account of her work as an economist in the technical evaluation section of a microbiolog-

ical institute concerned with the needs of agriculture and the food industry, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Employed there 16 years ago when she applied to emigrate, Nudel, 55, writes that if her section was concerned with issues other than food and agriculture, "I was not and am not aware of them." She adds that although some sections of the institute were "closed," her own work was based on general areas, which the authorities have classified as merely "second-degree security."

Told in 1971 by an official at the Moscow OVIR, "You had a second-degree security clearance until September 1971... we know that you do not possess any secret information, but you could have overheard something," Nudel was advised that her emigration "is undesirable until 1977."

In 1978, Nudel hung a banner from her Moscow apartment window which stated "KGB, give me my visa." When agents tore the banner down, she replaced it with others, and finally with a cloth bearing the Star of David. For this, she was arrested, imprisoned and sent into exile on charges of malicious hooliganism. She has been living in the Moldavian city of Bendery, where she has been frequently followed and harassed. On occasion, she has been able to visit friends in Moscow.

Nudel seeks to join her sister, Elana Friedman, in Israel. Lilith magazine has mounted a national women's campaign for Nudel's freedom, asking that individual petitions be sent to Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the Soviet leader, via Lilith, 250 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR SOVIET YIDDISH CULTURE, SAYS YIVO DIRECTOR

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- There are "fledgling signs that a dismal picture" of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union are getting better, says Samuel Norich, executive director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Norich was addressing a commemorative ceremony Wednesday evening at the Workmen's Circle here for the 24 Yiddish poets murdered Aug. 12, 1952 in Moscow's Lubianka Prison.

Norich said that since the 1960's, books by the murdered writers have been published sporadically, albeit with no biographies underneath the authors' photographs. Publication of these writers' works indicates "exonerated without rehabilitation," Norich told JTA.

He spoke of publication of Yiddish papers in the USSR as a positive sign, signalling the Sovietsk Heimland, published in Moscow, and the Birobidjaner Shtern, published several times a week in the Soviet Jewish autonomous region of Birobidjan. Whereas Heimland publishes book and theater reviews; commentaries and Yiddish translations of declarations by the Communist Party, said Norich, "the Jewish content of the Birobidjaner Shtern is even more interesting," Norich said.

He also referred to a claim by the Heimland editor that a Russian-Yiddish dictionary was being published. This assertion was made in a New York Times interview in 1984. Although publication of Yiddish books now pales in comparison to what it used to be through the 1940's and ending in 1948, Norich is cautiously optimistic. "I expect that what has happened (with glasnost) in other fields of Soviet life will happen in Yiddish life, as well."