

**ISRAEL AND SOVIET OFFICIALS  
MEET FOR 10 HOURS IN BONN**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) — "The gaps are still wide — but we are talking." This was the essence Tuesday of top Foreign Ministry aide Nimrod Novik's public confirmation of a 10-hour meeting last weekend between him and a senior Soviet official at the Soviet Embassy in Bonn.

Novik indicated that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the United Nations General Assembly next month and that there may be further meetings between officials before that.

He indicated, too, that the two sides had agreed to create a direct channel of communications between them. "Thus the presence of the Soviet Consular delegation in Tel Aviv is not the sum total of the evolving dialogue," Novik told Galei Zahal, the IDF radio station.

Novik's interlocutor was Vladimir Terasov, deputy to Vladimir Polyakov, head of Middle East policy at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Peres gave first word of the meeting Monday to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, saying it was a cause for "cautious optimism."

**Soviets Approved Official Publicity**

Novik noted Tuesday that this was the first time the Soviets had approved of official publicity in the wake of such a meeting. In the past, meetings of this kind — which had never, he added, lasted for more than two hours — had not been officially confirmed, at the insistence of the Soviet side.

Formal diplomatic dialogue between the two countries began with an official meeting last August in Helsinki. But that broke up after 90 minutes without any apparent breakthrough. In April, Peres met with Polyakov and another Soviet expert in Rome.

Novik made it plain that there had been several unpublicized encounters in between. Other Israeli sources have indicated that the Soviet consular team in Tel Aviv is believed to be empowered to conduct political talks, though thus far such talks have not been held and both sides are rigidly sticking to the formula that the Soviet team is here on purely Consular business.

**Shamir Begins Talks In Rumania**

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir began his talks Tuesday in Rumania with President Nicolae Ceausescu and his aides. On the plane from Tel Aviv Monday night, sources close to the Premier told reporters Shamir certainly intended to try through Rumania to promote Israel's dialogue with other Warsaw Pact nations.

They noted that Shamir had conferred in Jerusalem Monday, before his departure, with the Israeli diplomat heading the interests office in Warsaw, Ambassador Mordechai Paltsur.

Israel Television reported Monday night that agreement had been reached with Hungary for interest offices to be set up in Budapest and Tel Aviv. Government sources told the Jewish Tele-

graphic Agency they could not give a timetable for this development.

**FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS:  
EAST BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY  
TO HAVE A RABBI OF ITS OWN**

NEW YORK, Aug. 18 (JTA) — For the first time in almost a quarter century, the small Jewish community in East Berlin will have a rabbi of its own, the result of a four-year effort spearheaded by the American Jewish Committee.

Rabbi Isaac Neuman, a 65-year-old Auschwitz survivor from Champaign, Illinois, will leave for East Germany on Sept. 10 to assume his post and prepare for the High Holy Days. As his first rabbinical action, he will attend the International Ecumenical Conference in East Berlin on Sept. 13 as the official representative of the less than 600 remaining East German Jews.

The Reform rabbi, who is a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, will become the only permanent American rabbi ministering in all of the East Bloc nations.

"I am going because there are Jews who are in need of spiritual service in this place out of which so much evil and destruction once emanated," said Neuman. "It is my joy to try to rebuild and reconstruct and provide for the needs of this Jewish community."

He added: "What I hope to bring is the information that will help them understand the oneness of the Jewish people, their shared history and experiences."

Eugene DuBow, director of AJC's Community Services Department, who has overseen this project since its conception, noted that "the process of having a permanent rabbi placed in East Berlin to help revive and rejuvenate the Jewish population there took a lot of time and energy on the part of concerned individuals, but we know that we have accomplished something incredibly worthwhile."

**Chronology of Events**

DuBow offered the following chronology of events leading to Neuman's appointment:

In the fall of 1983, an AJC leadership delegation to Germany became the first post-war American Jewish group to visit East Berlin. The president of the Jewish community there asked for AJC help in obtaining kosher wine, prayer shawls, German language prayer books, and a rabbi to conduct High Holy Day services. In early 1984, AJC shipped the materials and arranged for a rabbi from Chicago to go to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to conduct services.

In the fall of 1985, an AJC delegation returned to East Berlin and was informed of the overwhelmingly positive reaction of the Jewish community to the rabbi's visit. East German Jewish community leaders discussed the possibility of finding a more permanent religious figure with the delegation, in an effort to maintain Jewish life and help young people discover their Jewish heritage. After a long search, AJC suggested Neuman for the position.

In the summer of 1986, Rep. William Lehman (D. Fla.) heard about AJC's project and offered

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his help. He, along with AJC leaders, held several meetings with U.S. State Department officers and East German officials.

In January 1987, the State Secretary for Religious Affairs of the GDR arranged for Neuman, Lehman, DuBow, and State Department officials to go to East Berlin for Passover to meet with leaders of the Jewish community there and to "firm up" Neuman's appointment.

Neuman's position was officially confirmed by the East German government early last month. The GDR will pay his salary and provide him with an apartment and a car. Major funding for AJC's work with the Jewish community in the GDR came from Saul Mirowitz of St. Louis, who has established the Barbara Mirowitz Fund for East German Jewry in honor of his wife.

#### JEWISH STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST PLAY WHICH SUGGESTS NAZI-ZIONIST COMPLICITY By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Nearly 100 Jewish students Monday night demonstrated in Edinburgh against the first public performance of "Perdition," a play which suggests Zionist complicity in the Nazi Holocaust.

Jewish youth groups, some of which travelled from London, Manchester and Glasgow, stood outside Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Studio Theater and held placards, distributed leaflets and gave pavement readings of literature about the Holocaust.

The play has been the center of controversy since last January when London's Royal Court Theatre scrapped the premier at only two day's notice.

Performances have also been abandoned in other cities following protests by Jewish groups that the play is malicious distortion of events in Hungary in 1944.

Playwright Jim Allen, a leftwinger who claims flawless anti-racist credentials, said Monday night that he was out to counter the "Hollywood version" of the Holocaust and the State of Israel epitomized by the film Exodus.

His theme, dramatized in the form of a post-war libel action in a London court, is that Hungarian Zionist leaders entered a conspiracy of silence with the Nazis about Auschwitz, thereby sharing responsibility for the death of more than half a million people deported there from Hungary.

Allen, hailing the showing as a victory for free speech, now intends to seek more venues for "Perdition." However, Monday night the young Jewish protesters had the last word. As the Edinburgh audience dispersed in the setting sun, they stood in a circle in the road and sang Hatikva.

#### SHAIKE OPHIR DEAD AT 58

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Shaikhe Ophir, Israel's foremost mime and one of its leading comic actors and entertainers, died Monday after what was described as a lengthy illness. He was 58 years old. Virtually the entire Israeli press Tuesday described Ophir as the "prince of the Israeli comic stage."

Friends and colleagues were aware for some time that he was suffering from a terminal illness. The general public might have been aware that something was wrong because of the sudden increase in radio rebroadcasts of his earlier taped

performances. Ophir's friends said Tuesday that a scheduled "Salute to Shaikhe" gala performance would be held Thursday as planned, in his memory. For many years he performed in New York and Hollywood under the name of Shai K. Ophir.

Ophir was born and raised in an observant Jewish family in the Mea Shearim quarter of Jerusalem and left school at an early age to join the Palmach underground in the years leading up to the 1948 War of Independence.

He was one of the founders of the Army's first entertainment troupe, the Chizbatron, which first brought him to the stage.

After the war he went to France and studied mime under the great French mimist, Marcel Marceau, returning later to Israel to establish his own mime troupe.

#### Inspiration For Israeli Entertainers

Ophir appeared in more than 20 Israeli films and his stage skits were the inspiration for many Israeli entertainers, notably the most popular Hagash Hahiver trio of entertainers for whom he wrote much material.

One of his most popular stage roles was as professor Higgins in the Hebrew version of "My Fair Lady."

Tributes to Ophir were broadcast from virtually all top politicians and entertainment-world stars. Hundreds of admirers filed past his bier as it lay in state at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv before his interment at the Nachlat Yitzhak Cemetery here Tuesday afternoon.

#### THE IDF IS WALKING TALLER

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The IDF is ordering new and longer beds for its soldiers--not because the beds have shrunk, but because its new recruits are three centimeters (an inch-and-a-half) taller than they were 10 years ago.

The new beds now being ordered are expected to answer the requirements for sleeping stretched out for all except six percent of the tallest new recruits. These unlucky soldiers will have to sleep with bent knees or with their feet sticking out of the end, the IDF quartermaster said. As far as is known, no research has yet been conducted to determine why today's recruits are taller than those a decade ago.

#### CONVICTED JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS TRANSFERRED FROM PRISON TO 'YESHIVA'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Minister of Public Security Haim Barlev is defending the transfer of two convicted members of the terrorist Jewish underground from prison to the prison system's "rehabilitation yeshiva" in Afula.

Knesset member Mordechai Virshubski of the Citizens Rights Movement had complained to Barlev that the transfer of Yitzhak Ganiram, serving six-year-and-nine-months' prison term, and Yehuda Etzion, serving a seven-year sentence, indicated that they were getting preferential treatment. Virshubski demanded that the two be returned to prison.

Barlev said "The underground prisoners have been treated just like any other prisoners. The prisons' commission is not required to go beyond the terms of the punishment prescribed by the court."

They had both completed more than a quarter of their sentences and thus, after meeting

criteria set by the rehabilitations committee, were eligible for the rehabilitation program, Barlev said. The Minister said he would be willing to grant the same privileges to eligible Moslem and Christian prisoners, if similar religious seminaries were opened in Israel.

Ganiram and Etzion, who were jailed in April 1984, are now serving the remainder of their sentences together with 15 other convicts at the Afula Yeshiva, from where they are taken to work at various locations. They also receive weekend leave.

The inmates are taught by Rabbi David Grossman, of Migdal Haemek, and are supervised by a prison commission official.

#### **SPECIAL INTERVIEW AN ABSURD AND IMMORAL SUGGESTION By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The commander who led the Israeli forces that liberated the Old City of Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War, says that the idea calling for the "transfer" of the Arab population of East Jerusalem and the West Bank is "absurd, impractical and immoral."

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Uzi Narkiss, who was the chief of the Central Command during the 1967 war, said that Israel is facing a situation that cannot be altered. "Look," he said in an interview here, "any Arab who wants to leave is free to do so. But to force any Arab on the West Bank to leave against his or her will is simply absurd."

Two weeks ago an Israeli politician, Deputy Defense Minister Michael Dekel of Likud called for the "transfer" of the Arab population in the West Bank to other countries. His suggestion raised a storm of protests in Israel and was widely reported around the world.

"I believe that Mr. Dekel talks of transfer because he wants to be in the news and be elected again to the Knesset," Narkiss said, stressing once more that the idea of transfer is "groundless and impossible."

Narkiss arrived in New York as part of a delegation of 12 commanders and officers of the Israel Defense Force units that liberated Jerusalem more than 20 years ago. Members of the delegation will visit Jewish communities in the United States and Canada in the next three weeks to participate in the Israel Bond campaign's "Operation Jerusalem."

#### **Fears Anti-Zionist Majority In Jerusalem**

The Jerusalem-born Narkiss, who is now the head of the World Zionist Organization's information department, expressed concern, however, that Jerusalem might face a situation in the future in which the anti-Zionist elements in the city will be the majority.

"Since the majority of Israelis, I would say about 90 percent of the population, do not want a territorial compromise on Jerusalem, we do have to face the problem of the growing anti-Zionist elements in the city that include the Arab population and the ultra-Orthodox who do not believe in the Jewish State."

Noting that although the present majority of the city's population is Jewish and Zionist, with 30 percent Arabs and 10 percent "Haredim" (anti-Zionist religious Jews) Narkiss said that, nevertheless, if measures are not taken now Zionist Jews might lose their majority in the city.

"Israel must encourage young Israelis to come and live in Jerusalem by offering them

affordable housing and employment," Narkiss suggested. He said that world Jewry can help, too: "Jews around the world must come on aliya in growing numbers and settle in Jerusalem."

#### **'Felt We Were Creating History'**

Recalling the awesome days of the liberation of Jerusalem, Narkiss said that when he and his troops entered the gates of the Old City on the third day of the war, "we felt and we knew that we were creating history. We felt that this is an historic occasion, the fulfillment of 2,000 years of dreams and longing. After two days of intense fighting, during which we lost 183 soldiers, we suddenly faced a real Jerusalem, a city of stone that could be touched and felt. It was a unique experience, a one-time event in a nation's life. I feel very proud that I was part of it all," Narkiss said.

Members of the delegation, which include Gen. (Res.) Mordechai Gur, then commander of the paratroop brigade, and Brig. Gen. (Res.) Uri Ben Ari, then commander of the Harel Brigade, will visit more than 100 Jewish communities in the U.S. and Canada. "Operation Jerusalem" commemorates the 20th anniversary of the reunification of the city.

"Through the symbol of reunited Jerusalem, American Jews can now even strengthen their ties to the Jewish State," Narkiss observed. "By investing in Israel's economy, through the purchase of Israel Bonds, American Jews will make both communities closer and stronger."

#### **JEWISH WAR VETERANS TO CREATE GROUP FOR ITS DESCENDANTS**

By Steve Feldman  
Jewish Exponent Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the USA has laid the groundwork for its future with its first planning meeting for a new subsidiary organization, Descendants of JWV.

The goal of the new group, open to sons and daughters of Jews who have served in the U.S. military, is to aid and perpetuate the principles, policies and programs of JWV.

"We need you, the children of Jewish war veterans, to help us in certain areas," Jack Litz, JWV national judge advocate, told the prospective members of the new group who attended the meeting at the Lt. Charles Freedman Post here last week.

Litz said the new group will include men and women and is aimed at persons ages 18 to 35. He added that the organization will possibly be divided into adult and youth groups.

He told JWV members at the planning meeting that "our children must be our living extension of our organization. They must remind the world that the Holocaust happened. We need them to help us with the disabled veterans, with service to the community."

Jack Shattuck of Wilmington, the son of a World War I veteran, said he wanted to join the group to "fight the lie" that Jews have not fought to defend the country.

Steven Shaw, national executive director of JWV, said that "one day, JWV, the membership organization, will cease to be in existence" since all hope there will not be more war, and thus no more veterans. In such a case the descendants would carry on the work of JWV.