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THE CHOSEN ONES

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A minyan of Jewish representatives has been chosen to attend an historic meeting with Pope John Paul II and high-ranking Vatican officials next week, according to a spokesman for the delegation.

Representatives of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), the organization of five Jewish groups which received the Vatican's invitation, would not release the names of the delegates until Monday. IJCIC scheduled another meeting Monday night to finalize the list of those who will meet with the Pope.

But representatives of the organizations involved said members of IJCIC and several other organizations met repeatedly last week to debate who would meet the Pope at his summer home in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome. The Vatican had requested that no more than five Jewish officials attend the meeting with the Pope scheduled for September 1.

Gunther Lawrence, the spokesman for the delegation who will attend the Vatican meetings as press officer, said the group hoped that more than five would be admitted to the session with the Pope.

The nine other Jewish officials set to attend the meeting include: Mordechai Waxman, chairman of IJCIC, who will lead the delegation; Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, Synagogue Council of America (SCA) president; Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, American Jewish Committee director of international relations; Seymour Reich, president, B'nai B'rith International; Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of interfaith affairs, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress governing board; Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive director, American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC); and Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder of the Israel Interfaith Committee.

All the delegates are affiliated with one of the five IJCIC member organizations which include: Synagogue Council of America, World Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International, Israel Interfaith Committee and American Jewish Committee.

A Sign Of A Thaw

The meeting in Rome is one of several signs of a thaw in Vatican-Jewish relations, which soured after the Pope granted an audience to accused Nazi war criminal and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim last June. Last week, Catholic American officials released a letter from the Pope to the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops highly sympathetic to Jewish suffering in the Holocaust and conciliatory in its tone on Catholic-Jewish relations.

Pending the outcome of the Rome meeting, representatives of major Jewish organizations may meet the Pope in a ceremonial meeting in Miami Sept. 11 during his 10-day visit to the U.S.

Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate, announced last week that he will postpone a visit to the Vatican

until after the Pope's meeting with Jewish leaders because he did not want to interfere with their mission. Wiesel said he received his invitation to meet the Pope before the Vatican invited the IJCIC members but decided to postpone his meeting on request from some Jewish officials to do so.

A YEAR AFTER ARRIVING IN U.S.,
DAVID GOLDFARB WANTS TO RETURN
TO MOSCOW TO VISIT DAUGHTER

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Nearly a full year after Prof. David Goldfarb arrived suddenly in the U.S. from Moscow on board the private jet of billionaire industrialist Armand Hammer, he wants to go home for a visit. On Monday, Goldfarb held a press conference here in the apartment of his son Alex to announce that on Tuesday morning he and his wife Cecilia will go to the Soviet Consulate in Washington to ask for a temporary visa to see their daughter Olga "for a few weeks."

As was the case last October, when the ailing retired geneticist arrived on a stretcher to the glare of intense publicity, Goldfarb was once more turning to the media to advance the cause of family reunification.

Goldfarb, 69, seated in a wheelchair and speaking very softly, told the crowd of reporters that he and his wife "miss our daughter and granddaughters very much and cannot go on any longer without seeing them. They cannot come here, so we decided to go there." He read from a carefully prepared written statement and then answered questions from the press as hot television lights beat down on him, his wife and son.

The elder Goldfarb said he wanted to make it clear "that it is not interpreted as our disappointment in the United States or rejection of any aspect of our life here. The reasons for our decision are not political but personal."

Although it has been variously reported by private individuals that some Soviet emigres have been permitted to visit the Soviet Union and return to the U.S., Goldfarb's case is different because he and his wife still retain Soviet citizenship.

When he was abruptly taken from his hospital bed last October and flown here in a private deal between Hammer and high Soviet officials, Goldfarb, a seven-year refusenik, did not go through the normal procedure in which Soviet emigres must relinquish their citizenship. Goldfarb came to this country as a medical emergency under a provision called "humanitarian parole," and he and Cecilia still retain their Soviet passports. "As Soviet citizens, we need Soviet permission" both to go in and get out of the Soviet Union," Goldfarb said.

Olga Goldfarb, now 34, was permitted to visit her father here last November when he underwent surgery for lung cancer. The move was unexpected from Soviet authorities and lent hope to the family that they would soon be reunited in New York. However, Olga's emigration is still pending along with that of her two daughters, Katya, 10, and Nadia, 4, and Olga's husband, Yuri

Lev, 37. In June, Goldfarb suffered a transient stroke in which an embolus traveled from his heart to his brain. At the time, he was unable to speak, but after about two days his symptoms were dispelled, said his physician Kenneth Prager of Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. Prager sent a cable to the Soviet Embassy asking that Olga again be permitted to visit as she had last year after the doctor sent a similar cable. This time, said Alex, "the conditions have changed," and their situation is not considered special.

Goldfarb said he is aware of his precarious medical condition, but "I do not have the time to wait for years. I do not have the strength to wage a war of attrition to get them out." He acknowledged that he "will not get there proper medical attention if needed. I do not know whether we will be allowed back out. But life without our girls is unbearable and we decided to take this risk."

Prager told JTA that "It's a damn good thing he came when he did" last year, suffering as he did from acute diabetes and an ulcerated foot that threatened his remaining leg. He lost the other in World War II. He has been fitted with a prosthesis, which is not yet comfortable. His leg problem has cleared up and he has had "no sequel from lung cancer," Prager said. "He can travel, but there is a risk," the doctor said.

Goldfarb said he would risk the chance of being allowed into the Soviet Union without the promise that he could return to the U.S. Ideally, his desire is that Olga and her family be allowed to join them in New York.

In 1984, Goldfarb was purportedly offered visas for himself, his wife, daughter and her family if he would help the KGB entrap American reporter Nicholas Daniloff of U.S. News and World Report in some form of espionage. Alex said they received postcards announcing that visas awaited them. However, Alex admitted, they never saw the visas.

SHAMIR IN SUPPORT OF MFN FOR ROMANIA By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has come out in support of Washington's restoring Rumania's Most Favored Nation status of which it was recently deprived by the U.S. Congress because of American concern over human rights violations in Rumania.

Shamir, who paid an official visit to Bucharest last week, told visiting U.S. Sen. John Breaux (D. La.) this week that he wished the Jews in the Soviet Union received the same treatment as the Hungarian minority in Rumania.

It is the treatment of this minority that has been the focus of much concern in Washington.

Shamir added that Rumania was the only country in the Communist bloc which enabled its Jewish community to enjoy a full Jewish life. Bucharest, moreover, had permitted free Jewish emigration over the years and indeed the great bulk of the community had gone to live in Israel. Shamir said these aspects of Rumanian policy should be taken into account in Washington.

During his visit to Bucharest, Rumanian officials denied that President Nicolae Ceausescu was seeking Shamir's help in Washington. But observers nevertheless felt this was one of the important factors involved in the Rumanian President's invitation to the Israeli Premier.

HESS BURIED IN SECRET TO PREVENT FURTHER NEO-NAZI DEMONSTRATIONS

MUNICH, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, was buried Monday in secret at an unknown location. German Radio said the federal government ordered his immediate burial to prevent further neo-Nazi demonstrations and efforts to try to turn the former Spandau prisoner into "some sort of martyr."

The Mayor of Wunsiedel, Hess' home town where the burial was scheduled to take place Wednesday afternoon, said that Hess has not been buried anywhere in or near the city.

It is not known whether Hess' widow, Lisa, 87, attended the ceremony. His son, Wolf-Ruediger, 50, is still in the intensive care unit of a Munich hospital after suffering a stroke Saturday evening at his Munich home.

Hess died last Monday in Berlin's four-power Spandau Prison for war criminals where he had been serving a life term. A British military coroner had said the 93-year-old Hess died of asphyxiation after choking himself with an electric wire in a suicide attempt.

The four-power allied control over Spandau Prison is scheduled to end Monday when the U.S. guard will march out. The red brick fort will be razed to prevent it from becoming a neo-Nazi shrine.

Secret Burial Ordered

The federal government ordered Hess buried secretly and without delay as neo-Nazi demonstrations took place throughout West Germany over the weekend. In Wunsiedel alone, 75 neo-Nazis were arrested after a crowd of several hundred massed outside the cemetery gates. Police said sympathizers had come from as far away as north Germany, Bavaria and nearby Nuremberg to attend a banned demonstration. Police found Nazi flags, armbands and Nazi posters in some of the searched cars.

After the news of Hess' burial broke, local state and city police increased patrols near the city and cordoned it off from the main highways. Entrance into the cemetery itself was banned and local officials confiscated flowers and wreaths placed outside the cemetery wall.

Many West German papers Monday continued printing lengthy reports, often in a sympathetic tone, on Hess' life and the 40 years he spent in prison.

Hess' former Nuremberg trial lawyer, Alfred Seidel, Monday accused the four Western Allies of having kept Hess in prison in spite of his age and poor health. Seidel, who gave a "press" conference in Munich, said that the Allied claim that it was the Soviet Union which had vetoed Hess' liberation "was only an excuse -- taking refuge behind the skirts of the Soviet Communist Party."

MUSICIANS PROTEST AGAINST WALDHEIM AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL

SALZBURG, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Two internationally-renowned musicians wore yarmulkes during a concert appearance at the Salzburg Festival, saying they intended the gesture as a protest against Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Violinist Pinchas Zukerman and pianist and composer Marc Neikrug made no statement on stage, but told reporters during the intermission

that they did not normally wear the religious head coverings while performing and that "We don't normally perform in a country which has a President who was sufficiently suspect not to be allowed into our country."

The U.S. Justice Department has placed Waldheim on its "Watch List" of undesirable persons, citing evidence that he was involved in atrocities while serving in the German army from 1942 to 1945.

Israeli-born Zukerman said of his decision to perform in the yarmulke: "It's not a political statement but a feeling from inside that I must speak. I wear this as a symbol of the Jewish people."

U.S. Ambassador to Austria Ronald Lauder was among those attending their performance of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Richard Strauss.

Neikrug, a native of New York, counts among his own compositions the musical theater piece "Through Roses," about a violinist forced to perform while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp.

WORKERS STRIKE LOCK-IN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- More than 1,000 workers of the giant Soltam arms and munitions factory at Yokneam in the Emek returned from an enforced five-week vacation Sunday and locked themselves and heads of the plant and its Histadrut Koor industrial complex owners inside the building.

The factory area was still closed and fenced off by Monday afternoon, with no sign of a break in the dispute on imminent dismissals.

The Histadrut's central committee was scheduled to meet Monday night to discuss the standoff but demanded that the management "hostages" first be released.

The employees have been angered by a Koor decision to dismiss many of the workers in the wake of sharp reductions in military and civilian orders. Soltam has been a major producer of heavy military equipment for the army and repairer of tank and personnel carriers.

But cuts in the defense budget have led to the cancellation of many orders, and demand for the company's civilian products has also fallen off.

Meanwhile, across the Carmel range, workers at the Rom Carmel factory on the outskirts of Haifa Monday continued their 10-day lock-in at the plant. They are protesting a decision by the Ordan Metal Works, which bought Rom Carmel some years ago, to dismiss many workers in a re-trenchment move, also due to an empty order book.

DAY SCHOOL WON'T ADMIT BOY WHOSE MOTHER IS NOT HALACHICALLY JEWISH

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A Jewish day school here has refused to admit a 13-year-old boy because his mother is not halachically Jewish.

The board of the Jewish Maimonides Lyceum, the only Jewish secondary school in Amsterdam, has stated it will not admit Aram Bruckner for the upcoming school year despite his parents' desire to give the boy a Jewish education. The school denied Bruckner admission last year also. The boy's father, Robert Bruckner, said he will

present his son for admission despite the board's statement. He has already initiated legal proceedings to force his son's admission.

The father filed suit in the Amsterdam Lower District Court which ruled in favor of the school. He then appealed to the Amsterdam Higher District Court which ruled that the boy must be admitted because barring him would be tantamount to racial discrimination, a punishable offense under Dutch law.

The court also ruled that for each day the boy is not admitted, the school must pay a fine of about \$500.

The Maimonides Lyceum appealed the second ruling to the Supreme Court which will not hear the case for at least a month. In the meantime, the school has filed for an injunction to reduce the fines.

Local press has given considerable attention to the Bruckner story, depicting it as an example of Orthodox Jewish rigidity. One Amsterdam daily ran an interview with Aram in which he said he wanted to attend the Jewish day school because he experienced much anti-Semitism during the six years he attended a village elementary school in the province of Vorarlberg in Austria.

AJCONGRESS WINS REVERSAL OF OPINION THAT THE U.S. IS A 'CHRISTIAN NATION'

CHICAGO, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Hailing the decision by the United States Court of Appeals last week holding Chicago's City Hall creche unconstitutional as a major victory, Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that "the court's ruling is a welcome and much needed reversal of the District Court's holding that 'America is a Christian nation'."

Pointing out that the decision is not hostile to religious celebration, Mann said that the court's opinion "does not mean that religious symbols must be invisible, or confined to the home, church or synagogue. It means only that they may not be placed in a public context which connotes an alliance between church and state."

The lawsuit, American Jewish Congress vs. City and County of Chicago, was filed in 1985 by American Jewish Congress lawyers on behalf of itself, other Jewish organizations and residents of Chicago to challenge the city's long-standing practice of having a creche displayed in City Hall at Christmas time.

"The court's ruling is especially gratifying as the latest in a series of opinions reflecting judicial recognition of the dangers of an overly broad reading of the Supreme Court's disturbing 1984 decision allowing a municipality to sponsor a creche," Mann said.

"We are pleased that municipal authorities in Chicago have indicated that they will not appeal, and therefore that the court's decision will be allowed to bring an end to what has long been a deeply divisive practice in this city."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The number of Jews worldwide fell by one million from 1970-1985 but rose by almost the same figure in Israel, a demographer said here. Dr. Roberto Bach, professor of statistics and demography at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said the world's Jewish population now stands at 12.881 million.

FIRST TAKE-OUT KOSHER RESTAURANT IN USSR TO OPEN NEXT MONTH IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The first kosher take-out restaurant in the Soviet Union will be opened on the grounds of the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow next month, it was announced here by Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Schneier said approval for the kosher food service had been given by Konstantin Kharchev, chairperson of the Council of Religious Affairs, USSR Council of Ministers.

At a recent meeting with Kharchev in Moscow at which they discussed plans for the new facility, Schneier said, it was agreed that the take-out restaurant would be established as an interim step prior to the opening of a full-fledged kosher restaurant.

Earlier this year, on his return from the Soviet Union, Schneier reported that Soviet government approval had been given for a kosher restaurant to be opened in Moscow. Because of problems in finding a suitable site for the restaurant, the provisional step of a take-out service was suggested by Schneier and accepted by Kharchev.

The Soviet official, who was the guest of Schneier in the U.S. late last year, is currently part of a Chautauqua Society "people-to-people" delegation of Soviet citizens, including an interfaith group of Russian Orthodox, Baptist, Catholic, Jewish and Moslem religious leaders, that arrived in the United States last Friday.

The Jewish member of the delegation is Rabbi Adolph Shayeveich, spiritual leader of the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow. The visitors will be in Washington Sunday, August 30.

Kosher Food From Hungary

Kosher food for the Moscow take-out service will be imported into the USSR from Hungary under the terms of an agreement Schneier worked out with Imre Miklos, chairperson of the Hungarian Church Office, a post equivalent to that of Minister of Religion.

Schneier pointed out that a wide variety of kosher foods was currently produced in Hungary, including cured meats, fruit preserves, wine and cheese. The only rabbinical seminary in Eastern Europe is located in Budapest, he noted.

All of the kitchen equipment that will be used for the take-out facility and also for the kosher restaurant when it is opened will be furnished by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Schneier said.

The Foundation will also provide "seed money" for the initial supply of foodstuffs that will be made available in the take-out restaurant, he added. The Appeal of Conscience leader, who is the rabbi of Park East Synagogue in Manhattan, said he expected "strong interest" among Moscow Jews in the kosher take-out restaurant and expressed the hope that, after the initial investment in food and equipment was made, the facility would become self-supporting.

The take-out restaurant will be located in a small building on the grounds of the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow. It is currently used for kiddush (refreshments) following Sabbath and holiday services in the synagogue.

In a related development, Schneier reported that 5,000 copies of a Hebrew-Russian Pentateuch (chumash), shipped to the Soviet Union from New York, were now being made available to syna-

gogue-goers in Moscow and other Jewish communities in the Soviet Union. The chumash was originally printed in 1902 in Vilna (now Vilnius, capital of Lithuania) and reprinted by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Five thousand copies were shipped to the USSR in 1977 but another 5,000 copies were held up by the deterioration of U.S.-Soviet relations. Schneier won permission to complete the shipment in a meeting in Moscow earlier this year with Kharchev, to whom he presented a copy when they met in Moscow.

YONA BOGALE DEAD AT 79

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Yona Bogale, the Ethiopian Jewish scholar and leader, died in Israel last week, it was reported here by the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. He was 79 years old. Those who witnessed the funeral in the Givat Shaul Cemetery in Jerusalem described it as an "incredible" scene. Busloads of Ethiopian Jews followed the body as it was transported from Bogale's home in Petach Tikvah to Jerusalem where he had requested to be buried.

About 4,000 mourners came to pay their respects to the great patriarch of the Ethiopian Jews. Among them were the Speaker of the Knesset, Shlomo Hillel, who delivered one of the main eulogies. Another one was delivered by Prisoner of Zion Gedaliah Uria, who survived terrible torture from the Ethiopian secret police for continuing to teach Hebrew and Jewish subjects against the government's wishes.

Bogale left Ethiopia as a youngster with Prof. Jacques Faitlovitch, a French social scientist who spent many years working to help the Ethiopian Jews. Faitlovitch took Bogale to Palestine to study Hebrew and other Jewish subjects, and then to Germany for study at an Orthodox school in Frankfurt-Am-Main. He later studied in both Switzerland and France. Ultimately, Bogale spoke nine languages fluently.

When he returned to Ethiopia in 1932, he taught at the school Faitlovitch opened and eventually became principal. In addition, after World War II, Bogale was hired by the Ethiopian government to work in the Ministries of Finance and Education.

In the 1950's, he supervised more than 20 Jewish schools opened in villages in Ethiopia by the Jewish Agency and he remained involved with Jewish education in his homeland until 1979, when he and his wife, Tayitu, were brought to Israel by the American Association for Ethiopian Jews (AAEJ).

On Nov. 15, 1979, Bogale went to Montreal where he addressed the General Assembly of the Council of the Jewish Federations, appealing to 2,500 North American Jewish leaders. He had become convinced that immigration to Israel was the only way his people could be saved.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The two Chief Rabbis and the aged Hasidic Rabbi of Gur were among Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox figures who took part Monday evening in a mass pray-in at the Western Wall against Sabbath desecration in Jerusalem. The turnout -- many thousands -- was somewhat less than the organizers had hoped for but nevertheless impressive. The prayers ended with the sounding of the shofar.