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DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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AN HISTORIC MEETING

By Edwin Eytan

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- An international Jewish delegation met Tuesday for over one hour with Pope John Paul II for what a member of the delegation described as "a historic meeting which would have been inconceivable to previous generations."

The Pontiff and the nine Jewish representatives discussed all the issues which have been troubling Jewish communities throughout the world, including the Waldheim affair, relations with Israel and recent revisionist trends in western Europe.

Although the Pope did not respond directly to all the subjects according to one of the participants, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, he "listened carefully and patiently and responded in general terms."

Pope Approves Three Decisions

The Pope also approved the three decisions reached by the delegation in its meetings Tuesday morning with Agostino Cardinal Casaroli and during its negotiations with high ranking church officials Monday.

"The elaboration and the release of a Church declaration explaining its stand on the Holocaust, its condemnation of revisionist tendencies and tracing the roots of anti-Semitism. The Pope praised this decision and said he hoped it will have important consequences. The Pope also reminded the delegation that Tuesday, Sept. 1, was the 48th anniversary of Poland's invasion by Nazi Germany: 'I know what a tragedy this meant. It is fitting we meet today.'"

* Providing for a mechanism which would enable the Catholic Church and the Jewish community to keep in closer contact so as to prevent such "surprises" as the Pope's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, his invitation to Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and the beatification of Edith Stein. This mechanism will also provide for regular meetings between representatives of the Jewish community and the Vatican State Secretary.

* Access to the Pope "whenever the need arises" for further frank discussions.

'A Historic And Moving Occasion'

All the nine Jewish representatives seemed emotionally moved as they left the Papal palace. Rabbi Henry Siegman of the American Jewish Congress said after the meeting, "it was a historic and moving occasion. It is the first time in history that the head of the Catholic Church engaged in a general conversation with members of the Jewish community, something which would have been inconceivable to earlier generations."

Rabbi Gilbert Klapperman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said the meeting with the Pope "makes new relationships with the Catholics now possible."

Tanenbaum, director of International Relations of the American Jewish Committee and one of the veterans of Jewish contacts with the Vatican, said after the meeting, that the Pope responded to all the issues raised though not

always directly and more in a generalized sort of way.

About Israel, the Pope responded, according to Tanenbaum, "in careful and even circumspect words, he did not want to go beyond the official Catholic church's known position."

Klapperman, who raised the issue once again towards the end of the meeting said the Pope, who had visited Jerusalem as a Bishop of Cracow some 15 years ago, said he "would like to revisit it." The delegation assured him he would be warmly welcomed.

The Pope also went out of his way to stress his deep understanding of the role Israel played in the consciousness and sentiments of the Jewish people. Tanenbaum said the Pope spoke with what seemed like personal affection about the Jewish State.

Joint Recitation Of A Psalm

The delegation had what some Jewish delegates described as "a strong conversation" on this subject earlier in the day with Casaroli. The nine Jewish representatives and the Pope started their historic meeting by reciting in turn, in Hebrew and in Latin, a psalm in front of an open Bible.

Both Jewish and Catholic spokesmen said this joint reading was meant to symbolize their joint heritage. As if to further stress the informal nature of the meeting, the Pope sat apart but on the same level with the other participants.

The long awaited meeting, which many hope will mark a turning point in the often tortuous relations between Jews and Roman Catholics, took place in the Pope's summer residence, a 17th century palace 20 miles south of Rome.

A Ceremonial Beginning

The nine Jewish representatives and six high ranking Catholic officials arrived together aboard a cavalcade of Vatican limousines. The Swiss guards, in their yellow uniforms with blue and red stripes, raised their lances, a traditional gesture of welcome, and Vatican officials greeted them at the gate.

The delegates were introduced into one of the Pope's private rooms on the fourth floor of the palace. The 15, nine Jews and six Catholics, sat in a semi-circle facing a throne from which the dais had been removed. Between the two lay an open Bible on a low table.

Emotion-Laden Atmosphere

The Pope, dressed in his usual white robes and a red skullcap, entered the room at exactly 12 noon. He moved slowly along the line of Jewish delegates shaking hands and greeting each one of them starting with Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), who headed the delegation.

The formal and at times emotion-laden atmosphere was broken by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. As the Pope walked up to him Schindler said "my only claim to fame lasts from your visit to New York (in 1979). I was at St. Patrick's Cathedral and held up a little boy saying: 'Remember for the rest of your life that

it was a rabbi who helped you see the Pope." Vatican spokesperson Joaquim Navarro who was present told reporters that the Pope burst out laughing dispelling the tension in the room.

The conversation took place in English which, some of the participants said, "is obviously not the Pope's main language." The Pontiff replied generally to several of the delegates but often after a short pause as if trying to better formulate his words. To a certain extent this turned the otherwise free and frank conversation into somewhat of "a dialogue on the Jewish side and a monologue on the part of the Pope," some participants said.

Miami Meeting Looming As A Success

The Pontiff showed, however, a definite understanding for Jewish worries and preoccupations. He indicated that he intends to use his Miami Sept. 11 meeting with representatives of the Jewish community for "a substantial statement and not a formal address," in the words of one of the participants. Most of the participants were convinced that the Miami meeting will be a huge success.

After the one-hour-and-five minute formal meeting, the delegates and the Pontiff spent another 10 minutes in what was described as "a friendly exchange." Tanenbaum told him that Polish friends who remember the Pope from his Cracow days had assured him that John Paul II "was the best Polish bishop with whom the Jews had ever to deal." The Pope, known for his continued contacts with his native country, seemed pleased.

Pope Cites Continuing Source Of Hope

The Pope concluded the meeting by citing the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt as continuing source of hope. He also expressed his conviction that "with the Lord's help, evil can be overcome and even the awesome evil of the Shoah overcome and somewhat repaired."

Earlier the delegation conferred with Cardinal Casaroli, the second highest ranking Vatican official. Tanenbaum later said that Casaroli "agreed to meet with us again as the opportunities demand to prevent further surprises from taking place, such as the Pope's meeting with Waldheim, his invitation to Arafat and the canonization of Edith Stein. Such contacts would prevent Jewish-Catholic relations from being shocked and disturbed. Such consultations would also help the church understand what is happening in the Jewish community."

Tanenbaum added "obviously we shall also have access to the Pope if and when circumstances warrant it."

Joint Communique Issued

The two delegations issued a joint communique reiterating their decisions and expressing the hope for a future better understanding.

At a joint press conference, Bishop William Keeler, Bishop of Harrisburg and chairman of the American Bishop's Conference for Inter-religious Affairs, said that Jews and Catholics will work together in elaborating and drafting the Vatican document on the Holocaust and the roots of anti-Semitism.

Keeler said American Catholics "need such a document as much as our Jewish brethren." Waxman explained that the Jewish delegation has expressed its shock and outrage over the Wald-

heim affair and the Vatican expressed its own reasons for the meeting.

He concluded: "Now that we have all made our position clear it is time we move forward."

CAMPAIGN TO PERSUADE THE VATICAN TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles stepped up its campaign this week to persuade the Vatican to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel by taking out full page advertisements in major national and international newspapers.

The ads which appeared in the International Herald Tribune, The New York Times, and Los Angeles Times on Monday and Tuesday note that 250,000 Americans have signed a petition calling upon Pope John Paul II to reverse Vatican policy and establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The ads coincided with a top level meeting of Jewish leaders and Vatican officials including the Pope on Monday and Tuesday. But the Wiesenthal Center has also increased efforts on this front in anticipation of the Pope's visit to America beginning next week. The Vatican's absence of diplomatic relations was one of four central topics raised by Jewish leaders at their meetings in Rome this week.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center, said "Not since the days of Pope John XXIII's historic Vatican II Council's message of reconciliation has there been a higher level of expectation by world Jewry in connection with our relationship with the Vatican."

While noting that the Pope has been a victim of Nazism and has spoken out against anti-Semitism, Hier said "this is also the Pope who met with Yasir Arafat and Kurt Waldheim and who, in 1988, will meet with Waldheim again in Vienna"

Hier also noted the inconsistency of the Vatican's relations with dictatorships like Fidel Castro's Cuba, Agosto Pinochet's Chile, Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran and "scores of other military juntas" while virtually singling out Israel as a country not worthy of such ties.

"It is time, then, to also focus on symptoms that made possible Pope John Paul II's stepping to the front of the line to rehabilitate Kurt Waldheim, and what makes possible a return visit with Waldheim next June," Hier said. "It is, in our view, in large measure due to the long silence with which the Vatican has treated the Jewish people, a long silence which was deadly during the Holocaust years, and which continues through the Vatican's refusal to accept the reality of Jewish renewal."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force soldier was slightly injured in south Lebanon Tuesday, when a roadside charge was exploded as he passed by. The incident took place inside the security zone, near the village of Bint Jbail.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 7, Labor Day, a postal holiday.

SOME 2,000 WORKERS TO BE DISMISSED IN WAKE OF CANCELLATION OF LAVI

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Senior defense sources said Tuesday that no more than 1,500-2,000 Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) employees will be dismissed as a result of the cancellation of the Lavi warplane project.

The sources, according to Maariv, said that IAI in any event had intended to soon dismiss about 1,500 employees as part of efficiency measures. Also, any IAI employee who is fired because the Lavi project has been scrapped will receive an average compensation of \$55,000, according to Defense Ministry data that has been conveyed to the Ministries of Finance and Economy and Planning. Yediot Ahronot reported that about 500 employees of IAI's engineering division who saw the writing on the wall are currently conducting negotiations with South African firms interested in their skills. These companies have offered the engineers monthly wages of about \$7,000, most of which is to be deposited into Swiss bank accounts.

According to Maariv, IAI employs 22,392 persons, including 4,007 engineers, 4,558 technical engineers, 8,142 production workers, and the rest -- no fewer than 5,685 -- are services and administrative employees, or 25 percent of the IAI work force.

The paper said there is a feeling in some circles that this ratio is too high, and that IAI, which is operating at a loss, can make personnel cuts. In fact, IAI management had intended to dismiss 1,500 workers without any connection to the Lavi project.

Unemployment Not Expected To Increase

The Lavi project itself employed 5,085 persons, of whom only 1,592 were engineers and scientists. The rest were 1,230 technical engineers, 1,495 production workers and no fewer than 758 service employees.

Maariv commented that according to Defense Ministry figures, the alternatives to the Lavi are supposed to provide work for 3,700 persons in 1988 and 5,000 in 1989.

The conclusion is that unemployment will not grow because of the cancellation of the project. Normal unemployment will be generated, and there will be a need to retrain workers, who would in any case have undergone retraining in another two or three years.

According to Defense Ministry figures, 7,090 persons have been dismissed from defense industries in the past two years, inter alia because the Ministry's budget was cut in other areas beside the Lavi. Since April 1985, 1,910 employees have been dismissed from Israel military industries, 1,300 from IAI, 1,200 from Tadiran, 620 from Beit Shemesh Engines, 500 from Rafael (armament development authority), 450 from Ordan, 300 from Ashot Ashkelon, 250 from Elop, 220 from Elbit, 180 from Ilisra, and 160 from Cyclone.

VANUNU AND POLICE STRUGGLE AT COURTHOUSE DOOR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- A struggle erupted Monday in front of Jerusalem District Court between former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, on trial for alleged espionage and treason, and police escorting him. The tussle

arose when Vanunu tried to remove the motorcycle helmet which he has been forced to wear to keep him from communicating with the press.

Upon entering the court and upon his departure, Vanunu tried to take off the helmet to yell something to the press. Police guarding him thwarted him by force, and operated their sirens to drown out his voice.

The trial of Vanunu, charged with leaking detailed plans of the Dimona nuclear facility to The Times of London, began Sunday behind closed doors. If convicted, he faces life imprisonment.

On Sunday, Vanunu was brought to the courthouse in a blue police van with the windows painted over to prevent his being seen or communicating with reporters. The van entered the court compound Sunday out of sight of the dozens of journalists waiting to get a glimpse of the defendant. On Monday, however, journalists were able to get closer to the van.

Vanunu's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, told the press Sunday that his first aim would be to have at least part of the trial opened to the public. Feldman contended that the "circumstances under which Vanunu was brought to Israel" negated the admissibility of confessions which were presented to the court, as well as the court's jurisdiction in the case. Vanunu's confessions were admitted as evidence on condition that the court would eventually reject Feldman's argument.

Vanunu's younger brother, Asher, was not allowed into the courtroom and stood in the corridor of the courthouse, waiting for word of the trial's proceedings. He said that although the rest of the family would not come to the court, the family stood behind the defendant.

The first prosecution witness called to the stand Sunday was Shimon Savir, head of the police unit investigating serious crimes. Savir reportedly testified on the police interrogation of Vanunu. The last prosecution witness completed his testimony on Monday, and Vanunu was to begin his own testimony Tuesday.

The first stage of the trial is expected to end this week. The defense will then call in experts from abroad to testify on the general dangers and alleged illegality of nuclear weapons.

There were press reports Monday that Vanunu had been nominated for the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize.

SCHOOLBELLS ARE RINGING

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Some 1.4 million schoolchildren -- about one out of every three Israelis -- returned to the classrooms Tuesday, at the end of the summer vacation. The figure of 1,370 million students was some 20,000 more than at the start of the last school year. University students begin their academic year in October.

The Education Ministry reported fewer than usual problems with the start of this school year. Teachers decided not to implement a threatened strike Monday night, saying that sufficient progress had been made in salary negotiations to allow them to start work on time.

Schools in the Arab sector, with some 200,000 pupils, will open Wednesday in a demonstrative move against the shortage of classrooms.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon explained his Ministry had not been able to keep up with a great increase in the number of Arab pupils which, he said, was mainly due to greater acceptance on the part of Arab fathers of education for their daughters.

CHARNY CASE HIGHLIGHTED BY MASS. ATTORNEY GENERAL By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The Attorney General of Massachusetts, James Shannon, has added his voice to that of a host of Massachusetts lawmakers, religious and communal figures in asking the Soviets to permit the emigration of cancer patient Benjamin Charny of Moscow, whose brother Leon lives in Needham, Mass.

Shannon held a meeting in his Boston office several days ago at which he initiated an effort to make the Charny case a priority with attorneys general across the country, according to the New England regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which has been instrumental in efforts on behalf of Charny. Shannon said he will urge a representative group of U.S. attorneys general who will be traveling to the Soviet Union in October to raise the Charny case in specific, and human rights in general, with prosecutors general there.

Benjamin Charny, an eight-year refusenik, suffers from malignant melanoma (skin cancer), as well as neck and thyroid tumors which Soviet oncologists agree cannot be surgically treated because of severe heart failure and chronic hypertension.

Could Be Treated In U.S.

Appraisal of his condition by a Montreal oncologist, Gerald Batist, who saw Charny last year in Moscow, has lent credence to the belief that Charny could avoid himself of advanced medical techniques available in the West. The New England Medical Center in Boston has had a long-standing offer to treat Charny free of charge if only he would be allowed to emigrate.

The 49-year-old mathematician is unable to work because of his medical condition and because of his refusenik status, accorded him in 1979 by virtue of knowledge of "state secrets." His published papers on mathematical formulas have long been part of the general international mathematical literature and reveal no secrets, says Leon, 34, who emigrated in 1979 just weeks before his brother's cancer was diagnosed. Benjamin has been a father figure to Leon since the early deaths of their parents.

The younger Charny, a doctoral student in computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been pleading his brother's case vigorously. In May, he stood solitary vigil in front of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. He was joined in his demonstration one afternoon by several members of Congress. At that time, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) circulated a petition in Congress that was signed by virtually all lawmakers present, asking the Soviets to allow Benjamin to emigrate.

Leon has also appeared with Batist in front of Congressional committees on health to discuss his brother's case as well as that of other cancer patients in light of a U.S.-Soviet cancer research agreement on the books but not in practice.

The cancer refusenik's case has also been championed by the Junior Sen. from Massachusetts, John Kerry (D.), as well as Rep. Joseph Kennedy Jr. (D. Mass.), Speaker of the House Jim Wright (D. Texas), who was in Moscow earlier this year; by Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis (D.) and his wife Kitty, who works personally on behalf of Soviet Jewry; by Bernard Cardinal Law of Boston, and by the entire New England ADL

office under the helm of regional director Leonard Zakim, who urged the attorney general's attention to the Charny case.

Shannon, a key supporter of a resolution drafted at the June 1987 meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General, titled "Legal Exchanges with the USSR -- Human Rights Statement," has reportedly also agreed to contact the president of the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL) to personally request the latter's intervention in the case as demonstration of the ASL's stated commitment to human rights.

In 1985, the American Bar Association (ABA) entered into a "declaration of cooperation" with the ASL to promote the development of international law for "peace and human rights through law," which was reaffirmed last month at the ABA's annual convention in San Francisco despite arguments against the agreement by a special task force formed to oppose U.S.-Soviet legal ties and by Soviet Jewry activists.

Shannon, who as a Congressman visited the USSR in January 1982, is also asking the ABA itself to join with him in seeking Charny's emigration. This week, the ABA sent a delegation to the USSR to meet with the ASL.

Earlier this month, Benjamin's daughter, Anna Blank, and her husband, Yuri, and two-month-old daughter, Sima, received permission to emigrate. They applied to emigrate with Anna's parents Benjamin and Yadviga in 1979 and individually in '83.

The Blanks are reluctant to leave the Charnys behind, fearing Benjamin's medical condition and a repeat of the situation in 1979 when Leon emigrated, believing his brother and family would be joining him shortly. Earlier this year, Benjamin was told by OVIR authorities "not to bother them" until 1995.

At last week's meeting, attention was also drawn to other cancer patient refuseniks: Sophia Bravve, 38, who suffers from cancer of the thyroid gland, and whose sister-in-law, Rimma Bravve, died of metastasized ovarian cancer in July in Rochester, NY. Sophia received permission but her parents, both ill, have not. Naum Meiman, 76, former dissident, has been diagnosed as having leukemia. His wife, Inna, who was a cancer patient refusenik, died in February in Washington. The Soviets would not let her husband accompany her.

Other cancer patients requesting permission to emigrate include Mariana Simantova, Boris Furman, Fayima Kogan and Eduard Ehrlich, 8.

Charny was among a group of five original cancer patient refuseniks organized in Moscow and publicized in the West by Batist in Montreal as the International Cancer Patients Solidarity Committee. Of the five, Tatyana Bogomolny is now in San Francisco, and the other three--Bravve, Meiman, and Lea Maryasina -- died in the West after long waits for their visas that delayed their treatment.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Tuesday that 782 Jews were allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union last month. August marks the second time this year that Jewish emigration decreased: in July, 819 emigrated; and in June the figure slipped to 796, after reaching 871 in May.