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# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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## OPTIMISM SPARKED BY USSR DECISION TO GRANT EXIT VISAS TO SOME REFUSENIKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- The decision of the Soviet authorities to grant exit visas to four prominent long-time refuseniks and others sparked optimism here that a general relaxation of emigration restrictions is under way in the Soviet Union.

The four, all former Prisoners of Conscience, expected to arrive in Israel soon are Iosif Begun, 55, Viktor Brailovsky, 52, Vladimir Lifshitz, 46, and Semyon Yantovsky, 78. But aliya sources noted that 23 other former prisoners are still waiting for exit permits. Chaim Chesler, secretary general of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry, stressed that pressure must continue on the Soviet leadership on their behalf.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir expressed hope Monday that the others, including such prominent activists as Ida Nudel and Vladimir Slepak, will soon be allowed to leave. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sent congratulations to Begun and Brailovsky. "Your dedication to the idea of the renaissance of the Jewish people in its homeland is the great light illuminating our way," his cable said.

Haim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, noted a rise in aliya this year and attributed it mainly to the arrival of Jews from the USSR. So far, 936 Soviet Jews have come to Israel compared to 200 during all of 1986. The Soviets have issued the largest number of exit visas this year since 1981. Nevertheless, the "dropout" problem remains. The great majority of the 4,681 Jews who left the Soviet Union this year did not go to Israel.

Senior officials here said the change in Soviet emigration policy is another manifestation of the new policy of "glasnost" (openness) introduced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. They attribute it in part to the forthcoming meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York, the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution and the possibility of a Gorbachev visit to the U.S. this year.

## FIVE MORE REFUSENIKS GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE USSR

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Five more long-time refuseniks have been given permission to leave the Soviet Union, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed Tuesday by Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry (LICSI).

Singer said the information was given her by Vladimir Slepak and Mark Terlitsky in a telephone call from Moscow, both prominent refuseniks still denied exit visas.

According to Singer, the five who will be allowed to emigrate with their families have been granted permission by the Soviet authorities, but actually obtaining their visas is a process that can take from three weeks to two months. They are:

Vladimir Prestin, 53, of Moscow, an electrical engineer; his wife Elena, 54; and their son

Mikhail, 23. Prestin first applied for an exit visa in 1970 and was subjected to harassment and frequent arrests.

Boris Kun, 30, of Moscow, an aircraft engineer; his wife Gedi, 30, an economist; their daughter, Pavla, 16. Kun first applied for a visa in 1974 and was refused on grounds he was privy to state secrets. He resigned from his position and has worked at menial jobs since then.

Evgenya Palanker, 48, a computer engineer from Yerevan, Armenian SSR; her husband, Vili, 52; their sons Dmitri, 27, and Evgeny, 21; and mother-in-law, Elizabeta Demanovskaya. Palanker first applied for a visa in 1980. Her husband received permission to leave the USSR but would not without his family.

Emma Landsman, 46, of Moscow, a computer programmer; her husband, Boris, 49, an engineer; and their daughter Aviva, 4. They had applied for visas in 1976.

Valery Lerner, 44, of Moscow, a mathematician and economist; his wife, Janna, 38; and son, Igor, 15. Lerner first applied for a visa in 1977.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA THREE RABBIS TO ATTEND PAPAL CEREMONIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA By Helen Silver

COLUMBIA, S.C., Sept. 8 (JTA) -- When Pope John Paul II visits this city, the capital of South Carolina, on Friday, on the second leg of his tour of the United States, three state Jewish leaders will attend the ceremonies.

Dr. William Rosenthal, rabbi of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, the historic Reform congregation in Charleston, will attend the service at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, but not the service at the Williams-Brice Stadium which about 60,000 are expected to attend.

Rabbi Milton Schlaiger of Sumter and Rabbi Gary Perras, formerly of Charleston but now of Jacksonville, Fla., will also attend. Rabbi Sanford Marcus of Columbia's Tree of Life Temple will not attend because the time will conflict with Sabbath preparations and also because of his "dismay" by the meeting the Pope had with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Jewish leaders in the state received letters several weeks ago asking whether they would like to receive invitations to the events in Columbia. Those who replied affirmatively, like Rosenthal, subsequently received formal invitations. One reason for the decision of Rosenthal to attend is the close interfaith bonds that exist in Charleston among the various denominations, exemplified by the Christian-Jewish Council, in which many Charleston Jews participate.

### Basic Reason For Attending

Rosenthal stated that the "basic reason for my attendance is a demonstration of friendship for the Roman Catholic community of South Carolina." Rosenthal said he is going to present a letter to the Pope, basically a request that the Vatican recognize the State of Israel.

Charleston clergy cooperated during a march of the Klu Klux Klan in downtown Charleston on Sunday, Aug. 2, by holding an interfaith service

simultaneously at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, a few blocks from the march. Rosenthal and the Bishop of Charleston, The Most Reverend Ernest Unterkoefler, participated in this service and a similar service held in the suburb of Summerville where the Klan marched a few months ago.

#### JEWISH VISIT WITH POPE ASSESSED By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Jewish figures who met last week outside Rome with Pope John Paul II have come away from their unprecedented dialogue with the leader of the Roman Catholic Church with refurbished hopes for Catholic-Jewish relations. These aspirations are seen now as especially meaningful in light of the meeting which will take place this Friday between the Pontiff and Jewish representatives.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, noted that "Catholic-Jewish dialogue would no longer be limited to the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, but would be elevated to the level of the office of the Vatican Secretary of State and the papal office itself."

He said that the nine-member delegation had "received the strong impression that the Vatican plans to create a kind of 'diaspora desk' that would initiate an ongoing relationship with the Jewish community on non-religious, non-theological matters," a recognition that "Jews are people not only of faith but also of social concerns and political interests."

Schindler said this would mean that the Vatican would now heed not only its representatives from 21 Arab countries but Jewish sources as well, "thus reducing the likelihood of a repetition of the (Kurt) Waldheim affair."

#### Satisfied With Pope's Promise

Two other Jewish figures who met with the Pope aired their feelings about their meeting Sunday night on WCBS Radio's "Let's Find Out." Speaking with host Art Athens were Rabbi Mark Tanenbaum, international affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, and Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International.

Despite the Pope's refusal to discuss his reception of Waldheim, the Jewish leaders said they are more than satisfied with the Pope's promise to prepare a major encyclical dealing with the history of the Catholic Church and anti-Semitism, and the Church's relation to the Holocaust. Such a document is absolutely unprecedented, said Tanenbaum, who called it an "extraordinary development."

Reich said that Church authorities responded to the Jewish delegation's dismay about the Waldheim audience in two different ways, "state and moral." The state reason given was that "the Holy See is a sovereign state, and as such the Pope is supposed to meet with the heads of other states. We could understand that," Reich admitted.

However, he continued, they had difficulty with the moral reason: Because Waldheim had not been convicted of a crime, the Vatican was not prepared to pass moral judgment on him until such conviction.

Reich said they shared their concern about that explanation with Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, "suggesting that the Pope was a man of moral authority, and

not to take the opportunity after the meeting with Waldheim to express concern about his (Waldheim's) lying about his Nazi past, and to have been elected Secretary General of the United Nations, we found that dismaying."

#### The Issue For The Delegation

Tanenbaum told the JTA that it was "naive" for the Jewish community to consider their meeting with the Pope a waste if he declined to apologize for his having received Waldheim. "The issue for us was to get across to the Pope and the Vatican the seriousness of the reasons why we were appalled by the audience with Waldheim, that it was not a matter of irrationality or vengeance or simple anger, but that it had very profound consequences, and that receiving Waldheim contradicted much of what this Pope has been saying and doing to improve relations with the Jewish people, and to set forth an understanding of the Nazi Holocaust."

Tanenbaum said that many Jews find it "ambiguous and difficult" to understand the Vatican's differentiation between its status as a sovereign state and its religious function. There should be no infallibility attached to Vatican political decisions, he said. "They are as right or as wrong as any state department or foreign ministry makes." He said, however, that traditional Catholics feel the Pope "has some special status on morals and that he has the absolute right to proclaim faith and morals in an infallible way."

Tanenbaum said that many Catholics do view what Jews construe as political criticism as being disrespectful of the man they regard "as the Vicar of Christ on earth, almost as a crucifixion." Every Cardinal and Bishop he had spoken to, he said, told him they had received hundreds of letters and phone calls expressing much anger at the Jews. The Catholic religious leaders said they told their congregants "there are legitimate differences with the Jews, and we feel they are our friends."

#### 'A Remarkably Coherent Group'

Tanenbaum described the delegation that went to Rome as "a remarkably coherent group with a wonderful sense of unity." He derided the "noise made by people who have no experience with the Vatican who were making judgments and statements." He underscored that the criteria for choosing those who would meet with the Pope included a firm grounding in Vatican protocol and substantial prior experience dealing with the Church.

On Israel-Vatican relations, he said they "opened some conversations with the Vatican Secretary of State which we didn't have before."

The two meetings, Tanenbaum said, "have to be seen in their entirety. The audience with the Pope alone without what preceded it would have been far less significant substantively in terms of program, decisions. We laid the foundation for a number of fundamental developments on all the crucial issues, and the importance of the Pope in his symbolic role in the Church."

Tanenbaum said the Pope confirmed and supported the decisions made by the Jewish and Catholic delegates at the prior meeting, and that support "takes on a message that is acceptable to the world's 852 million Catholics, 52 million of them in America. And that's the importance of Miami." Tanenbaum said there had been "some messages in Rome that the Pope's statement in Miami will contain more than a ceremonial message."

## A YEAR OF DEBATE:

## 5747 IN REVIEW

(First In A Series)

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Jews argued throughout 5747, perhaps more than during any recent year. As individuals and organizations, Jews took on adversaries and perceived adversaries of Israel and Jewry, and -- no less vociferously -- each other.

Some of the talk only threatened action, such as Israel's oft-endangered national unity government that held together through the rotation of the premiership, and afterward despite conflicts over the budget and the proposed international Mideast peace conference.

Other talk was in reaction to events. Pope John Paul II was said to be good to the Jews, then bad, then was willing to converse, although to whom was the subject of well-publicized U.S. Jewish in-fighting through most of August. It's not yet wholly clear what the papal meeting with Jewish delegates finally accomplished.

Still other talk during 5747 was intended to spur action. Diaspora Jewish leaders, asserting themselves in Israel more than ever, successfully lobbied against changing laws that define Jewish identity for purposes of Israeli citizenship. Indeed, the debate over what -- or who -- defines Jewishness continued to vex the Jewish world.

Many other events took place despite what Jews had to say. More Soviet Jews -- 4,696 -- than at any time over the last five years emigrated in just the first eight months of 1987, but tens of thousands more, perhaps 400,000, wish to join them, and Soviet repression continues against religious and cultural expression.

Of course, the news of the Jewish world concerned far more than all this, as the following month-by-month description demonstrates:

October 1986

JERUSALEM -- An angry crowd attended the second funeral in less than two weeks in Ashkelon for a Jewish resident stabbed to death in Gaza.

NEW YORK -- Robert Pires, 22 and an alleged member of the white supremacist Aryan Nations, was charged with three counts of bombing and one count of attempted bombing in Coueur d'Alene, Idaho.

JERUSALEM -- The first Israelis of diplomatic rank to be posted in Poland in nearly 20 years were applauded by about 130 Rosh Hashanah worshippers at the Warsaw synagogue.

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Jewish representatives urged human rights be discussed at the U.S.-Soviet summit in Iceland. Secretary of State George Shultz promised it would be at the top of the agenda. Outside the summit meeting, Jewish activists and families of refuseniks from a half dozen countries pleaded the cause of Soviet Jewry.

JERUSALEM -- A grenade attack on Israeli soldiers and their families in the Old City killed one person and wounded 69 in the bloodiest terrorist foray here in more than two years.

NEW YORK -- Long-time Jewish refusenik David Goldfarb left his hospital bed and then the Soviet Union with his wife Cecilia aboard the jet of industrialist Armand Hammer.

NEW YORK -- Nobel Prize winners included three Jews: author Elie Wiesel of New York, for

Peace; and Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcine of Rome and the U.S. and Dr. Stanley Cohen of Nashville, Tenn., for Physiology and Medicine.

JERUSALEM -- Pundits ate their words as Israel's unity government actually rotated the premiership from Shimon Peres to Yitzhak Shamir, as promised, 25 months into the government. Peres took Shamir's job of Vice Premier and Foreign Minister. Otherwise, the Cabinet remained nearly identical.

BONN -- The legislature mandated that victims of Nazi persecution be accorded the same status as war victims and wounded veterans with regard to pensions and welfare.

ROME -- Chief Rabbi of Rome Elio Toaff headed the Jewish delegation to the 12-religion day of prayers for peace at Assisi.

VIENNA -- Austria recalled for consultations its Ambassador to Israel, Otto Pleinert, over Israel's failure to replace its retired Ambassador to Austria, Michael Elizur. Israel's move was seen as a reaction to the election as president of Austria the previous summer of Kurt Waldheim, allegedly involved in Nazi crimes.

GENEVA -- The International Red Cross Movement changed its name to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Neglected was the Red Magen David, Israel's health organization.

JERUSALEM -- Women gained ground in religious affairs with the appointment of two women to the Labor Party delegation to the 96-member electoral college that would choose the next Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv.

PARIS -- Ivory Coast, which resumed diplomatic relations with Israel a year ago, said it would move its recently reopened Embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv in accordance with a UN resolution.

PARIS -- Britain was unable to convince its 11 fellow members of the European Economic Community to join the British dissolution of diplomatic relations with Syria over the latter's alleged involvement in world terrorism.

November

WASHINGTON -- Two Jewish incumbents were reelected to the U.S. Senate, Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) and Warren Rudman (R. Vt.), meaning eight Jews continued to serve in that body. A number of Israel's best Senate friends also were re-elected. Twenty-nine Jews were elected to the House, one less than in the previous Congress. No candidate affiliated with extremist Lyndon LaRouche won.

NEW YORK -- The New York Marathon was rescheduled from October 26, Simchat Torah, to November 2, allowing an estimated 2,000 Jews to participate guilt-free.

JERUSALEM -- The Chief Rabbinate accepted the medical definition of brain death, meaning heart transplants would be permitted in Israel.

JERUSALEM -- Shamir charged that Jews who leave the Soviet Union with Israeli visas but settle in other countries gravely endanger efforts to increase Soviet Jewish emigration.

JERUSALEM -- About 1,000 people demonstrated here in favor of religious pluralism following the disruption of a Simchat Torah service in a Reform synagogue by Orthodox Rabbi Eliahu Abergil. He later apologized, the Kol Haneshama synagogue dropped charges and Abergil embraced Reform Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman.

TEL AVIV -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin seemed to confirm in a speech to insurance agents that Israel supplied arms to Iran to help the U.S. obtain the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

JERUSALEM -- Police questioned and released on bail of four leftists who headed the Israeli delegation that met in Bucharest with PLO representatives.

TEL AVIV -- Rambam Hospital in Haifa said it would continue liver transplant operations despite the death of a second liver recipient, Eliahu Shreier, 18 days after surgery.

JERUSALEM -- Israeli soldiers killed an Arab driver at a Gaza roadblock shortly after an Israeli Jew was stabbed in a Gaza marketplace in the third such attack in two months.

JERUSALEM -- The government placed the debt-ridden Beit Shemesh engine plant, with 340 employees, in receivership.

PARIS -- A powerful bomb exploded outside the main synagogue in Antwerp, causing extensive damage but no casualties. The building was unoccupied at the time.

NEW YORK -- Congregation Bene Naharayim here, the first American-Israeli synagogue, consecrated its ark and five Torah scrolls.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. -- About 50 farmers met with 100 local Jews in an effort to understand the growing farm crisis and each other.

JERUSALEM -- Four young men were arrested in Rumania in connection with the burning of a synagogue in the town of Bohush in October and the stabbing of its Jewish janitor, who survived.

JERUSALEM -- Shamir said that Israel did not violate British law in its transfer of alleged nuclear tattle-tale Mordechai Vanunu to Israel. He added that Israel "is not selling arms to Iran."

JERUSALEM -- The war crimes trial of John Demjanjuk of Cleveland was set to open here January 19. He is charged with committing atrocities at the Treblinka death camp -- where 900,000 Jews were murdered during World War II -- as the sadistic guard "Ivan the Terrible." But at a hearing in District Court here, the first suspected Nazi war criminal extradited to Israel for trial said he was not "Ivan."

CHICAGO -- Speaking at the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly here, Peres appealed to Jews not to split over religious and secular issues.

JERUSALEM -- Knesset members reacted angrily to the Israeli confirmation that it supplied \$12 million of U.S. arms to Iran "in response to an American request."

BONN -- West Germany expelled five Syrian diplomats, froze economic aid to Syria and said its Ambassador's post there will remain vacant -- this in the wake of a court finding of Syrian complicity in the bombing of the German-Arab Friendship Society in West Berlin.

JERUSALEM -- Calm was apparently restored in the Old City after nine days of Jewish anti-Arab violence and vandalism touched off by the fatal stabbing of yeshiva student Eliahu Amdin in the Moslem Quarter. It was the worst ethnic violence in the 20 years since Israel conquered East Jerusalem.

WASHINGTON -- Jewish groups were shocked at the ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Frank McGarr in Chicago that a creche may stand at Chicago City Hall because the U.S. is a Christian nation. A federal appeals court overturned the decision in August.

## SHAMIR MENDING FENCES WITH THE ARMY AFTER RAPPING IDF ROLE IN LAVI DEBATE

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir has begun to mend fences with the army after his sharp criticism of the Israel Defense Force high command for its alleged interference in the political debate over the Lavi fighterplane project.

Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron was received by Shamir Tuesday for a reconciliation talk. The Premier sought to defuse the tense atmosphere created by his remark at a Herut Central Committee meeting in Ariel in the West Bank Sunday, blasting the IDF for its "unprecedented and dangerous involvement" in the Lavi debate.

He stressed his full confidence in the military and its commanders, although he did not retract his statement. Shomron replied that the IDF took no stand on the political issues involved in the Lavi debate but merely presented its professional view when asked to do so.

Most top-ranking IDF officers, including the Air Force commander, recommended abandonment of the Lavi project on grounds that it was robbing urgently needed funds from other vital weapons systems. The Cabinet decided by a 12-11 vote last week to scrap the Lavi, which would have been the second-generation combat aircraft designed and built in Israel.

### Vote Split Along Party Lines

The vote split along party lines. Likud supported continuation of the project. Labor was opposed. Observers believe the bitterness expressed by Shamir toward the military was more an expression of disappointment over losing the political battle than any real concern that the army might turn political.

In fact, Shamir's remarks were mild compared to the rhetoric of other Likud-Herut-spokesman at the Ariel meeting. They singled out Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin for attack for scuttling the Lavi. Peres hit back Monday at a Histadrut gathering in Even Yehuda, north of Tel Aviv.

"They say I am against Zionism, well, that is right. I am against so-called Great Zionism when that means 600 percent inflation or the loss of \$4 billion in the bank shares crash..." Peres said. He was referring to economic disasters during the years Likud headed the government.

Rabin, addressing reporters Monday before leaving on an official visit to West Germany, the first by an Israeli Defense Minister, said he had personally encouraged the military high command to have their say on the Lavi at Cabinet and Knesset committee forums.

Other Labor Party spokespersons wondered aloud what Shamir's and Likud's reactions would have been "if the IDF had sided with the Likud and against the Labor Party position in the Lavi debate ... Would he (Shamir) have then attacked the generals?"

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GENEVA (JTA) -- Israel and Hungary will sign an agreement establishing interests offices in both countries at the Foreign Ministry of Switzerland in Bern on September 14, it was announced here. Switzerland has represented Israeli interests in Hungary since the 1967 Six-Day-War, when Hungary broke diplomatic relations with Israel.