

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
A GLASNOST INVITATION**

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Australian Soviet Jewry activist Isi Leibler has accepted an official invitation to spend Rosh Hashanah in Moscow as a guest of the capital's Jewish community center. The invitation has aroused interest in international Soviet Jewry circles because it is understood to be the first of its kind since the proclamation of the glasnost era by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Although the Soviets, even pre-glasnost, had occasionally invited rabbis as their official guests, Leibler is believed to be the first non-rabbinical leader involved in international Jewish affairs to receive a formal invitation in the Gorbachev era.

Where other Jewish leaders have visited the Soviet Union in recent years it has usually been at their request or by arrangement -- not as a result of an official invitation.

The Moscow community center houses the Moscow Synagogue under the direction of Chief Rabbi Adolf Shayevech and is a government-sponsored body associated with the Ministry of Cults and the Council of Religions of the USSR. The Leibler invitation therefore would have been sanctioned at a senior government level.

Leibler's invitation came from Boris Gramm, president of the community center. Together with Shayevech, Gramm was in Budapest last May at the same time as the historic conference of the World Jewish Congress where he met Leibler, president of the WJC's Asia-Pacific Region.

Leibler is an executive member of the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry (known as the Presidium). With an involvement which dates back to the early 1960's, he is recognized as one of the foundation members of the international Soviet Jewry movement.

According to international analysts, the invitation should be seen as a hopeful indicator of a more positive outlook by the pro-glasnost elements in the Soviet leadership. It is also being linked to the visit to the Soviet Union in December by Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

The Prime Ministerial visit by Hawke was originally scheduled for October but was postponed because of the prospects of a superpower summit. Human rights and Soviet Jewry, especially in the light of the visit to Australia earlier this year by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, are expected to be on the agenda.

Analysts believe that the Soviets expect Leibler to be in a good position to convey something of Hawke's thinking on these issues as well as providing insights into recent international developments which may affect attitudes to the Soviet Union on human rights issues.

Although he emphasized that he had no expectations that his talks with Soviet officials would lead to any significant policy changes or breakthroughs for Soviet Jewry, Leibler said his invitation in itself was a hopeful sign that glasnost may offer greater opportunities to conduct a real dialogue with the Soviet leadership.

He said he was completely surprised by the invitation "but I am both excited and moved at

the prospect of being in Moscow to celebrate the new year with Soviet Jews."

This will be Leibler's fourth visit to the Soviet Union but his first since 1980. Despite repeated efforts he was unable to obtain a visa until 1986. At the last minute, however, that visa was revoked without explanation.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE CHILDREN

By Margie Olster

MIAMI, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Arlene Fishbind's sixth-grade class at the Hebrew Academy of Miami got a crash-course in the Vatican and Pope John Paul II's upcoming visit to the United States beginning here Thursday when they visited the exhibit of Judaica from the Vatican Library Tuesday at the Miami Fine Arts Center.

The exhibit coincides with the Papal visit to Miami Thursday and Friday and is located at the site of the Pope's meeting with 196 Jewish officials on Friday morning. The Pope is scheduled to tour and bless the exhibit Friday morning just before his meeting with the Jewish officials.

The exhibit -- shown for the first time outside of Vatican City -- contains 57 of the Vatican Library's 800 Judaic manuscripts, Hebrew translations of four gospels, of Pope Clement XI's sermons and of Aristotle are included in the collection on display.

A tour guide walked Fishbind's class through the exhibit answering an endless stream of students' questions on the Vatican and the Pope. One young boy with a kippa on his head asked "Who is John Paul?" and before the guide could answer another blurted out "Can I go to the library at the Vatican?" but was disappointed to hear it was closed to visitors.

Another classmate informed the group that the Pope's "gonna come to the Orange Bowl (Miami's football stadium)." But the Pope will not be at the Orange Bowl, which the boy probably confused with Tamiami Park, a fairgrounds where the Pope will conduct a giant mass Friday.

The discussion then turned to security and one of the children pointed out that President Reagan will come to meet the Pope in Miami: "Is Reagan Jewish?" another asked. The class moved on to the next glass-enclosed manuscript and the questions continued.

When the tour concluded, Fishbind's class had a few minutes while they waited for the bus to arrive to discuss what they learned about the Vatican and the Pope at the exhibit. Several said they have learned more from the nightly television reports which one complained devote "15 minutes of the half-hour" broadcast to the papal visit.

"I learned that he's the first non-Italian Pope in 435 years," said Chaim Hyman, 10, who, according to his classmates, can recite from memory the names of every U.S. President in order, including their middle initials.

Sherry Solomon claimed "This Pope is good to Jews because he is meeting with Jewish leaders here." But Hyman countered, saying, "The meeting is unimportant because they just want to know why he met with the German guy who helped kill

some Jews (referring to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim)."

On the Pope's side, one boy defended John Paul II saying he is a kind person. Jeremy Wachtel, 10, said the Pope "is trying to make better friends between the two religions." He added that the Pope will wear a bullet-proof vest, sharing another pearl of wisdom from the tour. This could not be verified.

Pamela Schnarch said some people in the class were upset over the exhibit because they felt "some people used the Pope's stuff translated to Hebrew and mixed up our religions." She referred to one manuscript entitled "Homiliae," a collection of major sermons by Pope Clement XI from the 18th century translated to Hebrew and Latin.

Among some of the other Vatican nuggets Fishbind's class walked away with were these facts: the Pope doesn't like women to be heads of churches; some of the color illustrations in the manuscripts were made from crushed stones and gems; some of the books were gifts from Jewish people; and until this exhibit, only scholars saw the books.

Some of the children said they felt left out of all the hoopla over the Pope's visit and that they thought the country wouldn't do the same for the visit of a major "rebbe." Erica Fishman said "Reagan wouldn't come to greet our rebbe." Most agreed that the Pope was receiving too much attention in the news and community.

"All he's trying to do is make peace between Jews and Christians," one girl shouted to the Pope's critics.

Indeed, one of the stated objectives of the exhibit is to demonstrate the consistent relations and contacts between Jews and Christians throughout history and to promote greater understanding between the two faiths.

The manuscripts on display date back to the eighth century up to the eighteenth century. The Vatican established the Library in 1453 during the Renaissance when Hebrew, like Greek and Latin, was considered essential for the educated man.

The exhibit features Latin translations of Kabbala, a Hebrew translation of Aristotle's "De Rhetorica" from the 14th century, biblical commentaries, illustrated Bibles, prayerbooks and even a "riddle book" or collection of quips which the Italian Jewish community coined during yeshiva classes.

An unusual Hebrew translation of four gospels is displayed with the explanation that before the Renaissance, the gospels were translated to Hebrew and studied in order to counter missionary attempts to convert Jews. The gospels recount a version of Jesus' death, which has been discounted by historians, that depicts the Jews lobbying for the death of Jesus.

The translation to Hebrew "shows a combination of scorn and respect for the text and its teachings," the exhibit notes. Also on display are biblical commentaries by the Church Fathers and Christian Hebraists.

A 15th century copy of Maimonides' Mishna Torah is included in the exhibit along with a Mahzor or prayer book in Hebrew for Yom Kippur. Several rare manuscripts featured include a massive compilation in a single volume of the Bible, Massorah, Magna and Pavra (written in the shapes of birds, animals and geometric pattern) Prophets, Writings, the Book of Esther and-Rashi's commentary on Pentateuch, completed in 1294.

The only known Kabbalist to write in Arabic, Joseph ben Abraham ibn Wakar, is displayed in a book of exposition on Kabbala. The only known copy in existence of "Arugat ha-Bosem (Garden of Spice)" by Abraham ben Azriel, only recently recognized as a significant Hebrew work, has been included in the exhibit. Azriel was a 13th century scholar and commentator of the prayer book, post-biblical and medieval Hebrew poetry.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in cooperation with the Vatican, mounted the exhibit of Judaica from the Vatican Library.

RABIN ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO W. GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 9 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin laid a wreath at the Jewish memorial at the former Dachau concentration camp Wednesday and later visited a munitions factory near Munich.

Both events symbolized the dual nature of the first official visit to West Germany by a Defense Minister of Israel — a reminder of the Nazi past and an affirmation of the present cooperation between the two countries in developing and producing armaments.

Rabin said at Dachau that there was no pardon for Nazi crimes against the Jews, but a commitment to remember what happened. At the same time, he added, it is Israel's duty to build military strength which, with other elements, make impossible a recurrence of the past.

Rabin also visited the former Olympic Village in Munich where on September 6, 1972, Palestinian terrorists massacred the Israeli Olympics team. The barracks where the athletes were gunned down is now an apartment building.

Meetings With Government Leaders

Before returning to Bonn, Rabin met with Franz-Josef Strauss, leader of the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU), sister party of the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Strauss, who sits on the boards of several leading German arms manufacturers, favors West German arms sales to both Israel and the Arab countries.

The Israeli defense chief was scheduled to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other leaders and attend a war game at school for armored troops.

Rabin arrived in Bonn Monday where he was greeted by a military honor guard and held talks with the West German Defense Minister, Manfred Woerner. The two Ministers discussed industrial and technological cooperation in the military field. According to Rabin, this has been going on for some time under guidelines provided by the respective governments. He did not say which companies are involved but noted that the cooperation covered "specific, limited fields."

Rabin also said that to the best of his knowledge, West Germany is not supplying arms to any Arab state. Asked if Israel planned to order submarines from West Germany, he declined to discuss Israel's intentions.

He said he was impressed with Woerner's account of West Germany's problems in developing a new jet fighterplane. Rabin said the German leaders felt their country could not afford to build such a weapons system alone and was seeking a joint project with their European allies. Israel has just scrapped its own jet fighter project, the Lavi, because of excessive costs. Rabin explained the reason for that decision to Woerner.

A YEAR OF DEBATE: 5747 IN REVIEW

By Andrew Muchlin
(Part Two In A Series)

December 1986

JERUSALEM -- Israel said it would allow its officials to testify before U.S. Congressional committees inquiring about the sales of U.S. arms to Iran. U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese had said "representatives of Israel" had deposited \$10-\$30 million of Iran arms funds in Swiss bank accounts maintained by the Contras.

TEL AVIV -- The Soviets reportedly continued quiet contacts with Israel begun in October over establishing consular relations.

PARIS -- Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen blamed a proliferation of anti-Semitic articles for creating the climate in which a synagogue was burned in November.

NEW YORK -- Fined financier Ivan Boesky resigned from most of his Jewish community involvements here, including the revocation of several six-figure pledges.

JERUSALEM -- The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Interior Ministry cannot inscribe the word "converted" on the identification card of a convert to Judaism.

JERUSALEM -- The Cabinet ratified an agreement with Egypt to submit to international arbitration the dispute over which country possesses Taba, a resort town on the Sinai border.

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by Nazi war criminal Karl Linnas against deportation to the Soviet Union, where he was sentenced to death in absentia for war crimes.

NEW YORK -- The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America called on all Jewish institutions and congregants to divest from all investments in companies that do business in South Africa without adhering to the Sullivan Principles.

SAN FRANCISCO -- Three Bay Area rabbis of different branches addressed each others' congregations in an unprecedented effort to broaden congregants' understanding of other views of Judaism. A Reform and a Conservative rabbi in South Orange, NJ, did likewise.

JERUSALEM -- A week of violence in the West Bank and Gaza ended with four Palestinian youths dead and scores of Palestinians and Jews injured. The violence began with soldiers fatally shooting two Bir Zeit University students and wounding 11 others during a riot.

JERUSALEM -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Israeli soldiers held prisoner in Lebanon would have been released in the Iran arms deal had the sales not been made public.

WHITE PLAINS, NY -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations announced plans to educate its 1.25 million members about AIDS.

OSLO -- Accepting his Nobel Peace Prize, Elie Wiesel said "more people are oppressed than free."

MONTREAL -- The Bronfman family established the CRB Foundation to counter Jewish polarization and improve relations between Israel and the Diaspora.

UNITED NATIONS -- The U.S. abstained on a Security Council resolution that condemned Israel for the killings of the Bir Zeit students. Israeli diplomats expressed concern that the vote would be misinterpreted as a weakening of U.S.-Israeli ties.

VIENNA -- Austria returned its Ambassador to Israel, Otto Pleinert, as "an expression of the desire, the will and the effort for good and correct relations."

TEL AVIV -- The Soviet Union provided Israel with what the Soviets said was the original Nazi SS identity card issued to John Demjanjuk, on trial here for war crimes.

NEW YORK -- Conservative, Orthodox and Reform leaders agreed at a forum here that Jewish unity could be achieved with civility and the encouragement of pluralism.

NEW YORK -- The Metropolitan Museum of Art apologized for a catalogue reference that described the owl as "a symbol of darkness and hence of the Jewish people who rejected Christ, the light of the world..."

SYDNEY -- Pope John Paul II told Australian Jewish leaders that "no valid theological justification can ever be found for acts of discrimination or persecution against Jews. In fact, such acts must be held sinful."

JERUSALEM -- The Absorption Ministry said 19 percent of Israelis aged 18-29 were likely to emigrate.

JERUSALEM -- Two ad-hoc ministerial committees began examination of the rejected financial plan proposed by the Finance Ministry. Complaints came from all sectors of the economy.

JERUSALEM -- Three Arab youths from Jenin received life sentences for the murder of Eliahu Amdil.

NEW YORK -- Former refusenik cancer patient Rimma Bravve and her husband Vladimir arrived here.

JERUSALEM -- Wiesel said Austrian President Kurt Waldheim would resign if he had "any conscience left."

JERUSALEM -- Heavily guarded Mordechai Vanunu, on trial for allegedly selling Israel's nuclear secrets to a British newspaper, flashed a message written on the palm of his hand that he was kidnapped.

TEL AVIV -- Ten thousand units of flu vaccine arrived from the Netherlands. Asian flu had killed 89 Israelis in November and sickened many others.

JERUSALEM -- The Supreme Court upheld the life sentence of David Ben Shimol, a 21-year-old soldier who fired an anti-tank missile at an Arab bus in 1984 near the Old City, killing one passenger and wounding several others.

TEL AVIV -- A Justice Ministry committee absolved Shamir of any wrongdoing in the Shin Bet Affair -- the 1984 killing of two captured Arab bus-hijackers by Israeli agents and the subsequent cover-up.

NEW YORK -- Only 914 Soviet Jews were permitted to leave in 1986, a 20 percent drop from the 1,140 Jews who were permitted to leave in 1985. This was about 2 percent of the peak year of 1979, when 51,320 emigrated.

JERUSALEM -- Three Lebanese Jews held hostage by a Shiite group -- Youssef Benesti, Henri Menn and Elie Srour -- were executed.

TEL AVIV -- Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz of Shas resigned rather than confirm the Jewish identity of an immigrant converted by a Reform rabbi.

January 1987

TEL AVIV -- Jewish leaders ripped into John Cardinal O'Connor of New York for refusing to meet Israeli leaders in their offices, as he had

promised before a Vatican order changed his tour plans. He and Jewish leadership subsequently made up during a lengthy meeting.

TEL AVIV -- Vanunu staged a hunger strike claiming cruel treatment by his jailers.

JERUSALEM -- Former Jewish refusenik Michael Shirman received a transplant of bone marrow from his sister, Inessa Fleurova, but it was too late to save his life from leukemia. He died in March.

PHILADELPHIA -- Concern about low immigration to Israel and high emigration from the Jewish State dominated the First Zionist Assembly here.

JERUSALEM -- Upon the political advice of Shamir, the religious parties postponed introduction of an amendment to the Law of Return which would recognize conversions to Judaism for the purpose of Israeli citizenship only if performed according to traditional Jewish law.

JERUSALEM -- U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Dov Zakheim left Israel saying that the U.S.-financed Lavi jet fighter was too expensive for continued development by Israel Aircraft Industries.

NEW YORK -- A report by the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services here noted that at any given time 800-1,500 Jews here were homeless.

PARIS -- A Shiite terrorist group in Lebanon executed another Jewish hostage, Yehouda Benesti. He is believed to be the ninth Lebanese Jew murdered by the Mustafadin group.

NEW YORK -- Cuban President Fidel Castro allowed five Cuban Jews to immigrate to Venezuela to be reunited with their families.

JERUSALEM -- The Reagan Administration assured Shamir the U.S. would not scapegoat Israel in the Iran-Contra affair.

JERUSALEM -- The Cabinet approved a new economic program which devalued the Shekel by 10 percent, created minor tax reforms and cut the budget by 400 million Shekels.

SAN FRANCISCO -- The Jewish Family & Children's Service here hired an AIDS project coordinator, Andy Rose, the first full-time AIDS worker in a U.S. Jewish community. An estimated 200 Jews here have AIDS.

PHILADELPHIA -- Lay and rabbinic leaders formed the Task Force on Jewish Intra-communal Understanding in an attempt to prevent a possible terminal rupturing of Jewish community relations due to religious differences.

TEL AVIV -- Israel said it would comply with Western sanctions against South Africa, but not take leadership on the issue.

JERUSALEM -- Military planners were concerned over the reduced effectiveness of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army.

DETROIT -- The States of Michigan and Israel agreed to establish relations in trade, industry, high technology and research and development.

NEW YORK -- Anglican Church hostage negotiator Terry Waite blamed the Lebanon hostage situation on Israel's policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians.

MANCHESTER, England -- Ruling on the complaint of Jewish widow Sarah Worch, the High Court curtailed the power of coroners to perform autopsies not pertaining to official inquests into a death.

JERUSALEM -- Police beefed up security here following the stabbing of two brothers in an Old City bazaar. They were the seventh and

eighth Jews stabbed by Arabs in East Jerusalem since August 1985.

NEW YORK -- Soviet Jewish refusenik cancer patient Inna Meiman arrived in Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, Pravda editor-in-chief Viktor Afanasyev took the unusual step of criticizing delays in Soviet emigration.

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Supreme Court refused to reconsider Linnas' appeal against his deportation to the USSR.

NEW YORK -- The ADL reported 594 acts of anti-Semitic vandalism and bombings in the U.S. in 1986, seven percent less than in '85. Assaults, harassments and threats rose two percent to 312. However, anti-Semitic acts on college campuses rose 60 percent to 19.

TORONTO -- The Ontario Court of Appeals reversed on technical grounds the conviction of Ernst Zundel for "spreading false news" in denying the occurrence of the Holocaust.

NEW YORK -- Jews joined the 15,000-strong interfaith, interracial civil rights march in Cumming, Ga.

JERUSALEM -- An IDF senior officer said the PLO had restored its strength in Lebanon to almost the same level as before the 1982 war there.

BONN -- The neo-Nazi National Democratic Party won 0.6 percent of the popular vote in general elections, qualifying for state funds but not for representation in Parliament.

(Tomorrow: Part Three)

ISRAELI BOOKSTAND AT MOSCOW BOOK FAIR DRAWS LARGEST CROWDS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- The Israeli stand at the Moscow International Book Fair drew the largest crowds when the bi-annual event opened Tuesday, but Israeli publishers complained that a number of their books were confiscated by the authorities at the fair which the Soviets are promoting as "Books for Peace and Progress."

One Israeli, Amos Rolnik, said that about 20 different titles in the Russian language were removed from his planned display. He said they included a guide book and 2,000 copies of a poster providing a simple introduction to the Hebrew language.

But another Israeli publisher, Matalon Yael, said the confiscations were insignificant compared to the 7,000 books on display at the Israeli stand.

Publisher representatives from several other non-Communist countries reported confiscations, but far fewer than in past years. According to Mikhail Nenashv, head of the government's Publishing Committee, who organized the fair, the only books banned were "racist, fascist or pornographic literature."

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Authorities in Leninград and Minsk will permit the establishment of a Jewish culture club in each city, and a Leningrad synagogue has received permission to offer religious lessons, it was reported by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The locations of the culture clubs have not yet been announced, but the designated religion instructor has been identified as an elder of the synagogue. The NCSJ welcomed this announcement and said that along with the granting of exit visas, the Soviets are taking a meaningful step in the right direction.