

WAITING FOR ANSWERS FROM THE POPE

By Margie Olster

MIAMI, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders are still waiting for answers. Both local and national Jewish leaders participating in Friday's meeting here between Pope John Paul II and 196 Jewish representatives said they hope and expect answers from the Pope to questions and unresolved issues raised at a Jewish delegation's meetings at the Vatican August 31 and with the Pope on September 1.

The Jews are still waiting for an explanation for the Pope's audience with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, accused of Nazi war crimes. They are still waiting for the Vatican to move closer to formal recognition of Israel. And they are still waiting for the Vatican to clarify its understanding of what the Holocaust means for Jews, according to Rabbi Solomon Schiff, director of the chaplaincy for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, one local organizer of the meeting with the Pope.

"We are hoping that the Pope will use his influence to include teachings about the Holocaust in Catholic curriculum and to push back the tides of anti-Semitism," Schiff said.

"In Rome, the Pope listened carefully and expressed the view that he could not answer all points at this time but would respond in time. We hope he will respond to these issues in Miami," Schiff said. Many of the Jewish participants see Miami as the second part of the Rome meeting, he said.

Mark Freedman, American Jewish Congress executive director of the Southeast region, said the pessimistic view of Friday's meeting is that the ceremonial nature of the meeting will remain intact. The optimistic view, said Freedman, is the Pope will elaborate on specific issues.

"We would want a statement on the Waldheim visit, but I don't think he'll do that. The residual is pomp and circumstance," Freedman said.

Schiff said the agenda for the meeting will look a lot like the agenda for the meeting in Rome. Recognition for the State of Israel, an explanation for the Waldheim audience and the Vatican's ambivalent attitude toward the uniqueness of the Holocaust for the Jews will likely be raised in the meeting with the Pope.

The Pope will meet the Jewish leaders Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the Miami Fine Arts Center, where he will first tour and bless an exhibit of Judaica from the Vatican Library. Then in a nearby auditorium, the Pope will first hear an address from the Jewish delegation now set to be delivered by Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC).

Originally, the organizers of the meeting had designated Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, the president of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA), as the speaker for the Jewish delegation. But intern-

al dissent within the SCA prompted Klaperman to step aside. The six groups comprising the SCA, a rabbinical and lay organization from each of the three major streams of Judaism, each decided individually whether to participate in the Miami meeting. The two Orthodox organizations, the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) and the Union of American Orthodox Synagogues, decided not to send representatives to Miami but decided against vetoing the other SCA member groups' participation. Each organization has the power to veto the SCA's participation. But one condition the Orthodox groups insisted on in a meeting last week was that Klaperman, an Orthodox rabbi, would not speak to the Pope.

Gunther Lawrence, SCA spokesman, said the Orthodox felt Klaperman was their representative in the SCA and they did not want him speaking to the Pope. Klaperman took the decision badly and felt hurt and disappointed, Lawrence said.

The Orthodox decided to boycott the Miami meeting because they said the meetings at the Vatican earlier this month were not substantive enough and made no significant progress. The groups did not think the Miami meeting would accomplish anything more substantive, said Schiff, who was present at the meetings when the Orthodox withdrew from the Miami meeting.

Waxman, who is a Conservative Jew, participated in the Rome meetings as did Klaperman.

Local Jewish officials have planned a dinner for their national counterparts who will be in town for the Pope's visit on Thursday evening. About 500 people including some American Catholic representatives are expected at the dinner where the keynote speaker will be Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, President of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Willebrands is expected to give an overview of Catholic-Jewish relations, and participants said they hope he, too, will respond to many of the concerns raised in Rome.

Several Jewish organizations plan to demonstrate in Miami in protest of Vatican attitudes toward Jews. The groups are opposed to Jews meeting with the Vatican in light of what they claim were unsatisfactory responses to Jewish concerns at the meetings in Rome.

Thursday night, Rabbi Avi Weiss of Riverdale, N.Y., will lead a teach-in at the Young Israel synagogue in North Miami focusing on the historic role of Catholic Church anti-Semitism and the Pope's record on Jewish issues. Weiss said he would demonstrate how the Church's anti-Semitism played a decisive role in the Holocaust.

Thursday morning, Weiss lead a group of local rabbis in a "pray-in" at Miami International Airport Friday morning, Weiss and supporters will lead a sunrise protest at the Fine Arts Center.

Herut Zionists will also mount a demonstration with Weiss' group at the Fine Arts Center Friday. The Union of Orthodox Rabbis has called on all Orthodox Jews to boycott the Miami meeting.

**SHARANSKY URGES JEWS TO PARTICIPATE
IN A MARCH ON WASHINGTON DURING
REAGAN-GORBACHEV SUMMIT MEETING**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Natan Sharansky urged American Jews Wednesday not to forget, in their joy at the emigration of well-known refuseniks, like himself, that nearly 400,000 Jews are still being denied the right to leave the Soviet Union.

Speaking to the Washington Board of Rabbis at a luncheon meeting, the former Soviet Prisoner of Conscience urged Jews to participate in "historic" numbers in a march on Washington when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev comes to Washington for a summit meeting with President Reagan as expected this fall.

Every Jew must be made to understand that "this moment is historical" in that every Jew by "acting himself can change the fate of the Jews of the Soviet Union," Sharansky said.

He explained that by a massive turnout, the Jewish community will demonstrate to Gorbachev that to achieve his goals he must improve human rights conditions in the USSR and allow massive Jewish emigration.

Sharansky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his current tour of the United States is to urge Jews to participate in the Washington march.

The Illusion Of Glasnost

While Gorbachev is perceived as more "liberal" than his predecessors, it is his regime that passed a new immigration law that makes it "much more difficult, if not impossible" for most Jews to emigrate, Sharansky said. He added it is also under Gorbachev that for the first time in Soviet history grassroots anti-Semitic groups have been allowed to appear in the Soviet Union.

At the same time, Sharansky stressed Gorbachev understands the necessity to improve the Soviet economy, and that in order to achieve this he must achieve agreements with the West that will lead to the acquiring from the West technology and credit.

Gorbachev is trying to achieve this through a "public relations" campaign in which he gives up little, Sharansky said. He said that a massive turn-out by Jews and others will convince him that he must do more.

As an illustration, Sharansky said he was speaking to the editorial board of the Baltimore Sun Monday and told the editors that they should expect some well-known refuseniks to be released because of the meeting next week between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the upcoming summit. He added that no sooner did he finish, almost on cue, he received a telephone call that several refuseniks, including Iosif Begun and Viktor Brailovsky, had been granted exit visas.

Sharansky said that the "Jew on the street" knows only the well-known activists, and when they are allowed to emigrate he tends to believe that the struggle is over, forgetting the thousands of others still refused permission. Asked if there is not a danger that some will use the rally to oppose the summit and detente, Sharansky replied that the purpose is to demonstrate that no agreement can be made in a "vacuum," that human

rights and Jewish emigration are an "integral part of detente."

When a rabbi suggested that the demonstration should include the arrest of rabbis in front of the Soviet Embassy, Sharansky quipped that as an Israeli he cannot advise Americans to break their country's laws.

Turning serious, he argued that arrests will not have any influence on Gorbachev, only a massive turnout of people would show him the power of the Jewish community.

Sharansky indicated little faith that Jewish culture and religion would be allowed to flourish in the Soviet Union. He said the announced plans to open a kosher restaurant in Moscow or to allow a few young Jews to study at yeshivas abroad in order to become rabbis were mere public relations gimmicks. While not opposed to this, Sharansky said the Soviets cannot allow Judaism to flourish because they do not allow the Christian religion to thrive.

"Those (Jews) who are really interested in Jewish culture, Jewish literature and Jewish religion, they are people who have, in fact, decided they and their children should leave this country (USSR)," he said. He said Soviet Jews who have decided to assimilate are not interested in Judaism. He said while the Soviet government wants assimilation, Jews must still carry identity cards that they are Jews, since the Kremlin does not trust them.

Sharansky's two days' stay in Washington, in which he will meet several members of Congress and address University of Maryland students, among others, was arranged by Chris Gersten, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition. Gersten told the JTA he was acting as an individual and that Sharansky did not want to be sponsored by any organization.

Sharansky confirmed this when he told a reporter, "I am sponsoring myself." He was introduced at the meeting by Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt of Temple Solel in Bowie, Md., president of the Board of Rabbis.

**ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC TO PLAY
IN HUNGARY AND POLAND**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is scheduled to play in Hungary and Poland in November, solidifying recently re-formed diplomatic ties between the Jewish State and these countries. The performances will be the first for the IPO in Eastern bloc nations since all but Rumania broke off relations with Israel following the 1967 Six-Day War. IDF spokeswoman Michal Oren said the IPO would give one concert in Budapest and five in Poland, at the invitation of both these countries' governments. She said the orchestra will be led by conductor Zubin Mehta, with violinist Itzhak Perlman performing with them.

Hungary and Poland are expected to resume diplomatic relations imminently. The two countries have agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives, but will not be exchanging Ambassadors. The agreement will resemble that between Israel and Poland, which have exchanged consular officers. The IPO recently returned from a concert tour of Spain, which established diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986 for the first time ever.

A YEAR OF DEBATE; 5747 IN REVIEW

By Andrew Muchin

February 1987

JERUSALEM -- The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee accepted the government's explanation that Israel acted only as a loyal ally of the U.S., at the Reagan Administration's request, in the Iran-Contra affair.

PARIS -- Jewish organizations lodged formal protests against a new version of the anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" on sale here in several bookshops.

LONDON -- Jewish groups were upset at an attempt to stage a play in Dublin depicting Zionists as Nazi collaborators. Jim Allen's "Perdition" was already cancelled in London.

NEW YORK -- The Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative) announced it would grant cantorial diplomas to women at its 1987 commencement. Traditionalists contested this move along similar lines to their opposition to the seminary's 1983 decision to ordain women as rabbis.

JERUSALEM -- The Supreme Court ordered the Interior Ministry to show cause within 45 days why it refused in violation of a court order to accord Jewish status to persons converted to Judaism by Reform rabbis.

CHICAGO -- A new coalition of Jewish, Christian and rural groups agreed at a conference here to launch a multi-faceted effort to eliminate the financial crisis faced by family farms, promote agricultural ecology and reject religious and racial bigotry.

JERUSALEM -- Israeli women were outraged by a ban imposed by the rabbis of Migdal Ha'emek against women attending funerals because they might be "unclean" and thus responsible for the abnormally high number of deaths in the town. The rabbis later said their statement was misinterpreted.

WASHINGTON -- The recently announced Soviet "glasnost" (openness) policy was met by some skepticism. Both the Reagan Administration and Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, noted that despite reported domestic liberalization, Jewish emigration was still low.

LOS ANGELES -- A new city ordinance relaxed parking rules on major holidays, including Jewish ones.

TORONTO -- Leah Maryasin, a Soviet Jew with cancer, arrived here with her husband Alexander and daughter Faina. Doctors expected her to enjoy several years of good health. Meanwhile, former refusenik Inna Meiman died of cancer in Washington, D.C.

JERUSALEM -- A Knesset vote on the compromise \$23.8 billion budget broke down at the last minute over a partisan disagreement on funding of West Bank settlements.

MONTREAL -- The government censored portions of the Deschenes Commission report on Nazi war criminals in Canada in order, it said, to protect the privacy and civil rights of the persons under investigation.

NEW YORK -- Lawyer Mohammed Massarwa became the first Israeli Moslem to be appointed Consul General. He would begin his assignment in Atlanta, Ga., in August.

WASHINGTON -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir basked in Israel's status as a "major non-NATO ally" of the U.S. during a visit here, but faced U.S. pressure to agree to an international conference with the Arab states and the UN Security Council permanent members leading to direct Mideast peace negotiations. He said his continued disagreement on that issue with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could bring down the government.

JERUSALEM -- The John Demjanjuk trial began with the defense counsel challenging the ability of witnesses to identify the defendant as Treblinka guard "Ivan the Terrible."

NEW YORK -- Soviet Jewish dissident Iosif Begun was unconditionally pardoned and left Chistopol prison for his Moscow home.

WASHINGTON -- The Tower Commission investigating the Iran-Contra affair said that while Israel was heavily involved, the U.S. bore responsibility for selling arms to Iran. The presidential commission headed by former Sen. John Tower wasn't sure who initiated the arms sale idea.

JERUSALEM -- Leon Dulzin said he would not seek reelection as chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives in December. His decision was thought to have been influenced by pressure from heavyweight Diaspora Jewish leaders.

GENEVA -- Jewish and Catholic leaders agreed that a Carmelite convent at the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland would be removed within two years. Poland also okayed the removal.

JERUSALEM -- Meir Yaari, co-founder of the Mapam Party and Hashomer Hatzair youth and kibbutz movement, died at age 90.

WASHINGTON -- A trial that in some eyes shook U.S.-Israel ties ended with former U.S. Navy civilian analyst Jonathan Pollard receiving a life term for selling U.S. secrets to Israel, and his wife receiving five years as an accessory. A federal grand jury indicted Israeli Col. Aviem Sella on three charges of espionage for conspiring with Pollard.

LONDON -- Home Secretary Douglas Hurd refused to authorize a police inquiry into 17 alleged Nazi war criminals living in Britain on the grounds that the evidence presented by the Simon Wiesenthal Center was "too sketchy" and that the alleged crimes were committed outside Britain.

NEW YORK -- Advocates of Soviet Jews gathered in 53 college campus, 104 cities and 43 countries to read aloud the names of 11,000 Jewish refuseniks. Soviet Jewish emigration totalled 146 in February.

March

JERUSALEM -- A Knesset subcommittee chaired by Abba Eban and a two-man commission headed by lawyer Yehoshua Rotenstreich and appointed by the Inner Cabinet began probes into the government's role in the Pollard affair. Israeli and U.S. Jewish leaders alternately held their breath and opined on its effect on U.S.-Israel relations.

JERUSALEM -- A group of private individuals set up a fund to raise \$200,000 to pay for the Pollards' defense. Meanwhile, Canada's Ukrainian community began a similar fund for Demjanjuk.

NEW YORK -- The New York Supreme Court Appellate Division ruled that an agreement in which a spouse threatens to withhold or indeed withhold a Jewish religious divorce in order to pressure a partner into financial concessions is subject to review and revision in court.

BUENOS AIRES -- The Jewish and general communities were shocked at the anti-Semitic statements made by Msgr. Antonio Plaza in criticism of the Alfonsin government. He said "the government is full of Jews" who "made us squander three years' discussion of those issues (human rights) and mistreating the people." Meanwhile in Austria, seven of every 100 people polled declared they were anti-Semites.

LONDON -- Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa praised the contribution of some compatriot Jews to the struggle against apartheid, but said he could not "understand how a people with your history would have a state that would collaborate in military matters with South Africa..."

TEL AVIV -- About 2,500 Hadassah members celebrated in Israel the 75th anniversary of the women's Zionist organization in America.

NEW YORK -- The U.S. Navy launched an educational program including a resource packet designed to help its chaplains learn and teach others about the Holocaust.

OTTAWA -- The Canadian government said it would amend its Criminal Code to allow suspected Nazi war criminals to be tried in the country for crimes committed elsewhere, as recommended by the Deschênes Commission probing that issue.

WASHINGTON -- ADL officials protested to Japanese Amb. Nobuo Matsunaga about the rise of anti-Semitic books in Japan. Books by Masami Uno, claiming a conspiracy by "international Jewish capital" harmed Japan, and other titles became increasingly popular.

JERUSALEM -- A 40-member delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations came to Israel to warn Israeli leaders of the U.S. discomfort with Israeli handling of the Pollard affair. But the U.S. leaders left saying they had gained a deeper understanding of Israel's action and motives.

JERUSALEM -- Following a survey that indicated that 10,000-20,000 adults and 10 percent of young people regularly use drugs, the Al-Sam Association launched a national drug abuse educational campaign.

HONG KONG -- As the result of informal contacts, a group of Australian Jews proposed a foundation to help Chinese academics to study Hebrew and Zionism in Western universities.

NEW YORK -- Three U.S. Jewish leaders said they had negotiated with the Soviets to allow Soviet Jews to fly to Israel directly via Rumania and a general easing of restrictions of Jewish religious and cultural activities. Israeli officials and Soviet Jewish activists were cautiously optimistic.

MANCHESTER, England -- British Chief Rabbi Sir Immanuel Jakobovits said the British government's advocacy of the condom to stem a possible AIDS epidemic was immoral.

UNITED NATIONS -- An Israeli spokesman confirmed that Israeli Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir met here with Li Luyue, permanent UN representative of the People's Republic of China. The talks had "a UN context."

TEL AVIV -- Sella relinquished his coveted command of the Tel Nof air base "for the good of the country" in the wake of the Pollard affair.

WASHINGTON -- The Reagan Administration reported that Israel had been regularly selling weapons and providing technical assistance to South Africa despite a UN arms embargo imposed in 1977, risking a loss of U.S. foreign aid. Israel had announced in anticipation of the report that it would make no new sales to South Africa.

NEW YORK -- JDC reported providing kosher food, wine or financial assistance for Passover to many of the 34 national Jewish communities it regularly helps.

(Next Week: Part Four)

HEART TRANSPLANT PATIENT DOING WELL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Israel's third heart transplant patient, Ovadia Matzri, is doing well at Hadassah Hospital where the surgery was performed two weeks ago by a team headed by Dr. Joseph Borman, chief of cardiac and thoracic surgery.

He was fit enough on Wednesday to talk to reporters. Matzri, 50, a former security guard, said he was determined to undergo the operation in Israel. "I wanted a blue-and-white operation, I wanted to hear Hebrew when I awoke from the anesthetic," he said.

Although the first two heart transplants were performed in Israel nearly 20 years ago, it was only last year that the Health Ministry gave official permission to Hadassah Hospital to do the delicate surgery.

The rabbinate had objected on halachic grounds and it was only after prolonged discussions between medical and religious authorities that a 12-point guideline was approved. The rabbi, who held that life ceases only when the heart stops beating, accepted the medical definition of brain death.

In the interim, Israelis who needed heart transplants had to go abroad. Now Hadassah Hospital expects to perform about 60 transplant operations a year. Meanwhile, Matzri will spend another few weeks in the hospital and may be able to return to work in three months.

He thanked the family of the heart donor. "I am a new man and so happy to be alive," he told reporters. "I want to help others as I have been helped."

IAI WORKERS THREATEN ACTION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Employees of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), acknowledging that they cannot reverse the government's decision to cancel the Lavi fighterplane project, are threatening to shut down the plant if management goes ahead with plans to dismiss 3,000 of them.

The IAI management is now preparing lists of workers to be laid off. Most will be able to find jobs elsewhere, but not in the center of the country and at lower wages. The IAI workers council held a stormy meeting this week. They demanded that management cease compiling its list of dismissals. Management blamed the government for the situation. The Cabinet decided to abandon the Lavi because of its excessive costs.