

LAST POC RELEASED FROM LABOR CAMP By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Alexei Magarik, the last Prisoner of Conscience, has been released from a Siberian labor camp after serving little more than a year of a three-year sentence and is now on the two-day rail journey with his wife to their home in Moscow, according to reports received here Tuesday.

The 28-year-old Jewish activist was sentenced last year on claims by the police that they found drugs in a cigarette package he was carrying when he was searched at the Tbilisi airport in the Georgian Republic. He began serving his term in June 1986.

Magarik was quoted as telling friends after his release that he hoped he would soon be allowed to leave the Soviet Union for Israel. Release from prison does not automatically guarantee an exit visa. Several prominent former POCs, including Ida Nudel and Vladimir Slepak, are still waiting for exit permits though they have been out of prison for some time.

Magarik, a cellist and clandestine teacher of Hebrew, was first denied permission to emigrate in 1984. His early release has been attributed to pressure from the West.

BULGARIA MAY BE NEXT SOVIET BLOC NATION TO FORM TIES WITH ISRAEL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- The agreement signed by Israel and Hungary in Bern, Switzerland, Monday to establish interest sections in their respective countries follows a pattern established by Poland earlier this year which may extend to other Communist bloc states that severed diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, according to observers here.

Some are suggesting that Bulgaria may be the next Eastern bloc country to emulate Poland and Hungary. It is widely assumed here that the Kremlin is privy to and approves of the discreet negotiations that have led to progress toward restoring relations between Israel and the Eastern European countries.

Although both Israel and Hungary made it clear their agreement is only a first step, it could "lead to full normalization," according to Yeshayahu Anug, the Israeli diplomat who signed the accord with the Hungarians.

Anug, who is Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry, said in a radio interview from Bern Monday that each side would send field missions to the other country to find suitable premises and make logistic arrangements for their interest offices.

NEO-NAZI ELECTED TO BREMEN PARLIAMENT By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- A candidate of a neo-Nazi party won a seat in the Parliament of the federal state of Bremen in northern Germany Sunday, to the surprise and consternation of liberals and conservatives alike. Hans Alterman, a rightwing extremist, represented the Deutsche

Volksunion (DVU), a party headed by neo-Nazi Gerhard Frey. Frey publishes the Munich-based weekly *Nationalzeitung* which claims to have "scientific" proof that the Holocaust was a fiction and the gas chambers "Zionist propaganda."

Immediately after Sunday's election, representatives of all factions in the *Buergererschaft* (State Parliament) held a joint press conference at which they vowed to stand firm against Alterman's ideas. Bremen Prime Minister Klaus Wedemeier of the Social Democratic Party banned Alterman from entering municipal headquarters, though he will have access to Parliament in a separate building.

The DVU won 3.5 percent of the vote Sunday, 1.5 percent short of the minimum needed for representation in the State Parliament. But the Bremen constitution states it is sufficient for a party to obtain five percent of the popular vote in just one of the two municipalities comprising the State. The neo-Nazis drew a striking 8.5 percent of the popular vote in Bremerhaven, Bremen's deep-water seaport at the mouth of the Weser.

Franz-Josef Strauss, the conservative Bavarian leader, said in Munich Monday that the liberal policies of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) allowed rightwing extremists to score gains with conservative voters. Strauss heads the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian sister party of the CDU. But of late he has been at odds with Kohl on a number of issues.

PERES: ISRAEL WINDING DOWN MILITARY AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stressed to a visiting group of Black leaders from the U.S. that Israel's military and trade relations with South Africa were winding down.

Peres denied vehemently that there is nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa and that media reports to the contrary over the years were unfounded. Peres made that statement to the Black leaders Monday and on Tuesday to a group from the British College of National Defense.

The Black delegation is led by Martin Luther King III, son of the late American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Peres assured them that Israel is falling in line with other Western states in restricting contacts with South Africa. He cited the Cabinet decision earlier this year not to enter into any new defense contracts with the South African government, though existing contracts will be fulfilled, and that Israel may apply further sanctions against South Africa soon.

Peres referred to his Political Director General of the Foreign Ministry, Yossi Beilin, a long-time anti-apartheid activist, as the architect of Israel's policy toward South Africa. Beilin himself addressed the group.

He said the extent of Israel's trade with South Africa was greatly exaggerated by the media. Last year, Israel sold \$80 million worth of

exports to South Africa and imported \$160 million, mostly coal.

King told reporters afterwards that he was impressed by Peres' "sincerity." He said it was made clear, however, that implementation of Israel's sanctions would take time.

Meanwhile, the Israeli media reported this week that many aeronautical engineers and technicians say they will seek employment in South Africa as a consequence of the government's decision to cancel the Lavi fighterplane project.

Dozens of skilled Israel Aviation Industries personnel claim to have been approached by the South African aeronautics industry with job offers, the media reported.

According to Yediot Achronot, the South Africans are offering much higher pay than IAI and would pay part of the Israelis' salaries into Swiss bank accounts.

ARAFAT SEEKING TO ADDRESS THE UN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Diplomatic sources said at the opening of the 42nd session of the General Assembly Tuesday that they do not rule out an invitation to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat to address the world body.

The sources said the PLO will request that the UN Secretariat invite Arafat, but noted that in the last two years, similar requests by the PLO were rejected. Arafat addressed the General Assembly only once, in 1975.

Meanwhile, the delegates from the 159 United Nations member-states gathered for the opening session, elected a ranking East German diplomat, Peter Florin, President of the 42nd General Assembly. He succeeded Humayun Choudhury of Bangladesh, President of the 41st Assembly which formally ended Monday.

Florin, Deputy Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, referred only briefly to the Middle East in his opening statement. He said proposals for a Middle East peace conference were "realistic" because they take "due account of the interests of the parties involved." He added that the conference "would not be a tribunal to pass judgement on a state or people."

There are more than 150 items on the agenda of the opening session of the Assembly which will last about 13 weeks. More than 30 of them deal with Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

SHULTZ OPTIMISTIC THAT PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE MADE IN HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz indicated Tuesday that he believes some progress on human rights can be made during his three days of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"I think that it's possible that we'll make some progress if both sides will think it's in their interest," Shultz told reporters after his three hours of talks with Shevardnadze at the State Department followed by two hours at the White House in which President Reagan participated. "I am rather encouraged."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said human rights was the main topic discussed in

the opening session, although all issues were discussed.

Shultz called the discussion on human rights "interesting," but he did not go into details. He did note that he and Shevardnadze continued the talks begun by American and Soviet officials in Moscow two weeks ago on the "desirability of a more systematic way of examining the various issues" dealing with human rights. He said a working committee was set up to discuss the issue during the three days of talks.

'Vanguard' Stages A Rally

While Shevardnadze was in the White House, more than 100 persons participated in a rally, organized by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), in a park one block from the State Department.

This is the "vanguard" of the thousands who will come to Washington for "Summit Mobilization Day," when the expected summit is held here later this year between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, declared Jacqueline Levine, co-chairperson of the mobilization.

Shultz said Tuesday that a summit had not yet been discussed, but reiterated his position that it would be held only if an arms control treaty is agreed upon. Arms control is the major topic of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks.

Speakers at the rally stood before a banner containing a quotation from President Kennedy: "And is not peace a matter of human rights?" Levine and others stressed while more Jews have been allowed to leave, emigration restrictions have become tougher.

Three former refuseniks participated in the rally -- Leonid Slepak, Daniel Peysen and Vladimir Magarik, whose son, Alexei Magarik, was released from a Soviet prison camp just Monday.

Jews in the USSR "are unable to live as Jews and at the same time not permitted to leave," Peysen said.

NCSJ chairman Morris Abram said that the NCSJ has been asked how many Jews it wanted to see emigrate from the USSR. "We would like to see leave the Soviet Union for their homeland in Israel everyone of Jewish nationality who they would like to have sent to Birobidjan as their false homeland," he said. This was in reference to the republic that was set up for Jews by Stalin in the 1930s.

The rally ended with the lighting of a "freedom torch" and the presentation of a "letter of redress" to the State Department for Shevardnadze, which noted that "glasnost" is still "an aspiration, not a reality" for Soviet Jews.

The letter demanded exit visas immediately for those waiting ten or more years and for all former prisoners of conscience; exit visas within a year for those waiting five to ten years; that those refused visas on "security" grounds be allowed to leave no more than five years after leaving a classified job; and exit visas for all other applicants, with flights going directly to Israel.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Habima, the national theater company of Israel, has announced that it would perform this month in Yugoslavia, which recently said it might restore relations with Israel which were severed in 1967. The official Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, announced in July that it would be setting up an Israel bureau.

A YEAR OF DEBATE: 5747 IN REVIEW

By Andrew Muchin
(Part Four In A Series)

April 1987

JERUSALEM -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres visited Spanish officials and drummed up support for his international peace conference proposal. Premier Yitzhak Shamir had hoped Peres would fail. Peres also met Soviet officials in Rome, reportedly to discuss resumption of diplomatic relations.

BONN -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in his strongest public statement on the Nazi era, called the Holocaust a crime "unprecedented in history" which cannot be forgotten. The comments came during a luncheon for Israeli President Chaim Herzog, the first Israeli head of state to visit Germany.

PARIS -- French counter-intelligence arrested eight men believed to be terrorists planning to blow up El Al and TWA airliners.

TEL AVIV -- About 1,500 university students staged a rowdy demonstration outside the Premier's office to protest the government's failure to discuss students' grievances over plans to raise tuition.

BALTIMORE -- Milton Bartz, a Jew who retired from the Baltimore Fire Department because of medical difficulties he said were related to religious harassment, was awarded \$30,533 in back pay by the state Human Rights Commission.

DENVER -- The City and County of Denver were seeking proposals to redevelop and manage the house here in which the late Israeli Premier Golda Meir lived from 1913-14 with her sister and brother-in-law. The dilapidated house still sits on steel beams in a city park.

NEW YORK -- The World Jewish Congress accused Attorney General Edwin Meese of protecting Nazi war criminals and impeding justice for Karl Linnas, who came within hours of receiving political asylum in Panama. He would thus have escaped deportation to the USSR. But a week later he was deported. He would die in prison in July.

WASHINGTON -- After much resistance, Meese added Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's name to a "Watch List" of people barred from entry into the U.S.

JERUSALEM -- West Bank riots were halted, but tension ran high after Jewish settlers rampaged through Arab villages destroying property and burning fields in retaliation for the fire-bombing of a car that killed a woman and burned five others.

ATHENS -- The centennial of the birth of Israeli founding Premier David Ben-Gurion was celebrated here, reflecting an about-face in the Greek attitude toward Israel. The anniversary was celebrated internationally throughout the year, often with the renaming of streets in his memory.

WASHINGTON -- The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization announced it would include eighth graders as full members for the first time.

JERUSALEM -- The Palestine National Council, meeting in Algiers, was the site of PLO reunification and condemnation of the Camp David accords, yet Peres continued to hope for the international conference.

DALLAS -- Annette Strauss was the first Jewish woman to be elected mayor of a Texas city with her poll victory here.

WASHINGTON -- More than 100 members of the House signed a letter urging the Soviets to free Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis.

May

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) introduced legislation to close the PLO's two offices in the U.S. and to make it a felony to aid the organization.

WASHINGTON -- The long-awaited Iran-Contra hearings began before a joint congressional committee with retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord saying Iran was furious at the quality of the first 18 of 80 I-Hawk missiles delivered by Israel on behalf of the U.S. He added that some U.S. officials wanted to blame Israel.

BOSTON -- Jozef Mlot-Mroz, an accused anti-Semite, resigned as president of the Holy Name Society affiliated with the St. John the Baptist Church in Salem, Mass., following protests by Catholic and Jewish leaders.

BUDAPEST -- WJC held an enlarged Executive meeting in the Hungarian capital, the first major Jewish conference in a Communist country. Delegates paid tribute to Wallenberg and congratulated Meese for barring Waldheim from entering the U.S.

JERUSALEM -- The Inner Cabinet rejected Peres' bid for the international Mideast peace conference while it became clear Peres' Labor party didn't have the votes to dissolve the Knesset and call new elections. Peres soon after visited the U.S. to make his confab case, where he had an unscheduled meeting with another Soviet official, Amb. Yuri Dubinin.

CHICAGO -- Former Chicago policewoman Arlene Gold received \$140,000 from the city in settlement of her lawsuit saying the department violated her rights by refusing to adjust her work shift off Saturdays. She became a practicing Orthodox Jew after 10 years on the force.

LYON -- The Klaus Barbie trial began with "the Butcher of Lyon" declaring he was "illegally kidnapped and illegally brought to France." He was allowed to be absent from the proceedings.

NEW YORK -- The JDC said it would publish the first siddur since World War II in Hungary.

BOSTON -- "Certain conditions in Boston"-- apparently Orthodox pressure -- convinced the president of the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbi Milton Polin, to withdraw from a program on Jewish unity here that would have included his Reform and Conservative peers.

VIENNA -- Waldheim blamed "a lobby on the East Coast of America" for influencing the U.S. Justice Department to bar his entry into the U.S.

JERUSALEM -- Shamir pledged in writing to the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party to seek to change the law within 60 days to give the Israeli Chief Rabbinate the power to approve all conversions to Judaism for those seeking Israeli citizenship. This in exchange for Shas support in blocking early Knesset elections. Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of Shas was appointed Minister-Without-Portfolio. He resigned as Minister of the Interior last year rather than comply with a Supreme Court order to register U.S. immigrant Shoshana Miller, converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi, as Jewish.

GENEVA -- The Israeli Ambassador to the UN here, Pinchas Eliav, protested the inclusion of books denying the Holocaust at the International Book Fair here.

WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court ruled that Jews and Arabs are protected against discrimination by federal civil rights legislation adopted in 1886. The ruling allowed Shaare Tefila Congregation of Silver Spring, Md., to sue vandals for damages under the civil rights law.

NEW YORK -- The New York Board of Rabbis called on its members representing every branch in Judaism in the U.S. to encourage their congregants to obtain, in the event of a civil divorce, a Jewish divorce ("get") as well.

JERUSALEM -- The two official probes into the Pollard affair found Israel's top political leaders and the intelligence community responsible for grave mishandling of the episode, but no one was urged to resign.

TEL AVIV -- The Shin Bet internal security service was found to have fabricated evidence that sent IDF Lt. Azat Nafsu to prison for treason.

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Commission of Fine Arts rejected designs for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here, saying part of it would protrude too far into the street.

WALTHAM, Mass. -- Brandeis University voted to divest of all stock in companies doing business in South Africa except those providing medical goods, humanitarian services or reporting the news.

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Committee named retired executive director Bertram Gold temporarily to his old post following the firing in April of Dr. David Gordis.

JERUSALEM -- Police and border police fought street battles with hundreds of Arab youths late in the month in the worst anti-Israel rioting in the Old City in years.

JERUSALEM -- A judicial commission was appointed to investigate alleged Shin Bet misconduct.

(Tomorrow: Part Five)

JABOTINSKY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish refusenik Ida Nudel, Israeli diplomat Shlomo Argov, Israeli scholar and writer Dr. Israel Eldad and the late American civil rights leader Bayard Rustin are the recipients of the 1987 Jabotinsky Award, it was announced here Tuesday.

The \$100,000 award, also referred to as Defender of Jerusalem Award, will be conferred at a ceremony Oct. 28 at the Museum of Modern Art, Eryk Spektor, chairman of the Jabotinsky Foundation said in a press conference at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

Spektor said the prize will be divided equally among the four winners. He said that the portion of the prize that was to be given to Rustin--\$25,000 -- who passed away last month at the age of 75, will be used for establishing a scholarship that will provide Black students in America with the opportunity to study in Israel.

"We hope this will continue Mr. Rustin's work and dreams," Spektor said, noting that the late Black leader "was a strong and consistent supporter of Israel and an advocate of greater Black-Jewish harmony."

Nudel was selected for the prize for "her selfless and tireless work on behalf of the Jewish Prisoners of Conscience in the Soviet Spektor

said, adding: "In selecting her for the award, we pay tribute to the faith, courage and spirit of this remarkable woman who is the standard bearer for all Jewish dissidents and a symbol of the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union."

Argov, Israel's former Ambassador to Britain who was seriously wounded in London by Arab terrorists in 1982, received the award because, Spektor asserted, "he is a symbol of the danger and perils to which Israeli Foreign Service officers are exposed in a hostile world."

The fourth recipient of the prize, Eldad, is regarded as "the foremost spiritual follower of Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky," Spektor observed. He said that Eldad is "a leading advocate of national Zionism."

The award, presented annually since 1983, honors men and women who "stand up in defense of the rights of the Jewish people."

MOVE TO CLOSE PLO OFFICE By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Speculation has arisen that the Reagan Administration has decided to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's information office here in a move that would preempt congressional action.

The State Department has denied a Washington Times story which reported last week that a decision to close the office had been made by Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead. "That's an action that is under consideration, but no decision has been made," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

Congressional legislation to close the PLO office here along with its United Nations Observer Mission has attracted strong bipartisan support. A total of 49 Senators are co-sponsoring the bill introduced by Sens. Robert Dole (R. Kans.), Charles Grassley (R. Iowa), Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ) and Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio). An identical House version has been introduced by Reps. Jack Kemp (R. NY) and Dan Mica (D. Fla.).

The Administration has been divided on the issue. In testimony before a House subcommittee on July 29, Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said "the Administration has strong reservations" about closing both offices. He said closing the information center "raises constitutional questions" while the closing of the New York office "raises issues of international law and foreign policy."

But in a letter to Kemp only two days later, Secretary of State George Shultz wrote that the Administration was considering closing the Washington office, but not the New York office.

Some Hill staffers say the Administration might use the decision to close the Washington office as "a bargaining chip" to satisfy supporters of the closing and prevent congressional action on the New York office.

In a response to Shultz, Kemp stressed "his determination to persist with legislation until both offices were closed. However, another Capitol Hill staffer speculated that a move to close the Washington office might satisfy some co-sponsors.

News of the possible closing of the office prompted a press conference by The League of Arab States urging the Administration not to respond to the Congress' "instant and mechanical" response to the Israeli lobby.