

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
EFFORT TO OPEN WAR CRIMES FILE  
FAILS; ANOTHER EFFORT NOW UNDER WAY  
By Yitzhak Rabi**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The 17 former member-states of the United Nations War Crimes Commission are scheduled to meet here on October 14 for another attempt to reach agreement on opening the defunct Commission's files on Nazi war criminals and their collaborators to the public.

Their meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on September 22-23 ended without agreement. The new meeting was set for nearly a month later to allow representatives of the countries time for consultations and to receive new directives from their respective governments.

The issue is whether to allow access to the files to scholars, historians and researchers. The files, kept at the United Nations archives in a Manhattan building, reportedly contain the records of more than 40,000 accused Nazi war criminals. They are presently accessible only to the governments of UN member-states.

The former member-states of the War Crimes Commission are Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Greece, India, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Britain, United States and Yugoslavia.

**France And India Remain Holdouts**

It was announced before last week's meeting that at least 15 of them had informed the Secretary General they agreed to grant wider access to the files. Only France and India did not inform him of their positions. According to reliable sources, the files contain more accusations of war crimes committed in France than in any other country.

Some diplomats here said this might explain why France continues to oppose wider access to the archives. One source said the French suggested at last week's meeting that scholars and historians be allowed to view the files but be forbidden to publish or announce their findings.

This would be in sharp contradiction to the intentions of Israel which originally demanded the opening of the files. For all practical purposes, the reported French proposal would still leave them sealed.

It was discovered last year that the archives contained the files of former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, now President of Austria, who has been accused of complicity in Nazi atrocities in Greece and Yugoslavia when he served as an intelligence officer in the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

When Israel first demanded that the archives be opened, it was supported by only one former member of the War Crimes Commission -- Australia. The joining of 14 other former member states, since then, including the United States, represents a major diplomatic victory for Israel.

Diplomats here expressed optimism Monday that the files will soon be opened and that some

formula will be agreed to by the 17 former member nations for public access.

**NETANYAHU LEAVING HIS UN POST  
By Yitzhak Rabi**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Bin-yamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations since July 1984, confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Monday that he will leave that post when his term expires in June 1988.

He said he does not intend to renew his contract with the Israel Foreign Ministry and would probably leave the foreign service. He stressed, however, that contrary to various reports he is not interested in the dual chairmanship of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, to be vacated by Leon Dulzin, and will not be a candidate at the next World Zionist Congress.

According to close associates, the charismatic 38-year-old diplomat may enter Israeli politics. He is widely admired in Israel and is close to the Likud party. He seems virtually assured of a safe spot on the Likud list in next year's Knesset elections. But Netanyahu himself refused to comment on speculation that he will choose a career in politics.

The JTA learned, meanwhile, that Nimrod Novik, an advisor to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, is the most likely candidate to replace Netanyahu at the United Nations.

**62 SENATORS SIGN LETTER OPPOSING  
ANY ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA  
By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Congressional opposition to any sale of arms to Saudi Arabia has been stressed again in a letter to President Reagan signed by 62 Senators.

"A new, and we believe, unwarranted Saudi arms request would force an unnecessary and unproductive confrontation between the Congress and the White House," the Senators warned in the letter which was hand-delivered to the White House Friday.

Sens. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) and Bob Packwood (R. Ore.), who initiated the letter, said Monday they expected the Reagan Administration to formally notify Congress of the sale this week.

However, the Administration continued to deny Monday that any decision has yet been made. "We are continuing to discuss and consult with Congress on the matter and no decisions have been made," Phyllis Oakley, a State Department spokesperson, said.

The letter, signed by 16 Republicans and 46 Democrats, is similar to one sent to Reagan two weeks ago by Cranston, Packwood and Sens. Dennis DeConcini (D. Ariz.), Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) and Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ).

Since 62 Senators have signed the latest letter the Administration is put on notice that there are enough votes to defeat any proposed arms sale. While it would then take 67 votes to override a Presidential veto, a spokesman for

Cranston said the Senator has been assured by enough other Senators, who did not want to sign the letter, that they oppose the sale.

The focus is on the Senate because the House usually overwhelmingly rejects any arms sales to the Saudis. The decision over whether any sale will be approved or rejected is thus usually decided in the Senate.

Cranston and Packwood led the effort which caused the Administration to withdraw last June a proposal to sell 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles to the Saudis.

The Administration had been reported as planning a \$1 billion arms sale to the Saudis which would include the missiles and the F-15E, the latest model of the jet fighter, as well as other equipment.

However, there was a report last week that in order to get Congressional approval the Administration would drop the Mavericks from the arms package and sell the Saudis 12 F-15C and F-15D jets instead of the more advanced F-15Es. These would be delivered to the Saudis as the current F-15s wear out or crash, maintaining the Saudi F-15 fleet at 60.

But Capitol Hill sources deny that any such proposal has yet been made.

The letter given the White House Friday noted the "previous" opposition to any arms sale to the Saudis. "We do not believe it wise to reward Saudi behavior, which has so frequently harmed U.S. national security interests, with another sale of sophisticated arms," the letter said. "The Saudis have not made substantial efforts to achieve progress in the Middle East peace process, and they continue to fund terrorist organizations like the PLO."

#### ABBA KOVNER DEAD AT 69

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held at Kibbutz Ein HaHoresh Monday for Abba Kovner, 69, commander of the partisans of the Vilna Ghetto uprising against the Nazis, and a noted author and poet in Israel during the past four decades. Kovner died Rosh Hashanah of cancer at the kibbutz, where he had lived for over 40 years.

Prior to his funeral, Kovner's body lay in state at the entrance to the Bet Hatefutot Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, for which he had been one of the initiators and driving forces. Brief eulogies were delivered at the museum on the Tel Aviv University campus by the museum director, Jewish Agency chairman Leon Dulzin, and by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, Kovner's former colleague in the Israel Defense Force.

Kovner recounted his experiences in the ghetto in the documentary film, "The Partisans of Vilna," describing the heroic resistance of the young Jews. In the ghetto on New Year's Eve, 1941, the young poet Kovner read aloud a manifesto, "Let Us Not Be Led Like Sheep to the Slaughter." It was this call to resist the Nazis that led to the formation of the United Partisans Organization, which brought together Jews of different political parties into one underground group.

The Red Army liberated the Vilna Ghetto in 1944; 600 Jews remained of the original 87,000. During the time of the ghetto, Kovner frequently found sanctuary in a Benedictine nunnery along

with seven nuns from Cracow, hidden by the mother superior. He came to Palestine in 1945.

Kovner was one of the organizers of HaAfula, the clandestine immigration movement of the Hagana to Palestine during and after World War II. Beginning in his youth in Vilna, Kovner was a member of the Hashomer Hatzair Zionist youth movement. During the War of Independence, Kovner was a news correspondent for the Israeli army.

Kovner was the author of several works, including five volumes of poetry ("Ad Lo Or," "Prida MeHadaram," "Admat HaHol," "Mikol Ha-Ahavot" and "Ahhoti Ketana") and two prose works, "Panim el Panim," "She'at Haefess" and "Hatzometh." He was the recipient of the Israel Prize, the Shlonsky Prize for Foreign Literature and the Cultural Prize of the World Jewish Congress.

Prior to his death, Kovner was completing the plans for a memorial to the youth movement in Europe prior to and during the war, which will be established at Givat Haviva in Israel.

#### YOSEF TABENKIN DEAD AT 66

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Yosef Tabenkin, commander of the Palmach-Harel Brigade which broke the siege of Jerusalem during the War of Independence, died at his kibbutz, Ein Harod-Meuhad, on Rosh Hashanah. He was 66. Tabenkin was buried at the kibbutz Sunday.

Known as "Yosef," Tabenkin was the son of Yitzhak Tabenkin, a contemporary of David Ben-Gurion and founder and long-time leader of the Kibbutz HaMeuhad Federation and of the Ahdut HaAvoda Party.

Yosef Tabenkin was also in the central committee of Shlemit HaAretz, which believed in the concept of a "whole Israel." After his army career, Tabenkin studied engineering at the Haifa Technion and in recent years had headed various kibbutz industrial firms.

#### SHULTZ TO VISIT THE MIDEAST NEXT MONTH

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The U.S. State Department announced here Monday that Secretary of State George Shultz will visit the Middle East next month before going to Moscow for arms control talks. It will be his first trip to the region since 1983.

Department spokesman Charles Redman said Shultz will visit Israel and possibly Jordan and Egypt, though his itinerary is not yet firm. Redman said the Secretary was going to the Middle East at the urgings of "a number of leaders." He said the peace process will be on his agenda.

Shultz was in the region for two weeks in 1983 to try to establish an agreement between Israel and Lebanon with respect to the withdrawal of Israeli and other forces from the latter country. The agreement collapsed subsequently.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Nature Preservation Society reported Sunday that some 600,000 migratory birds are flying over Israel this fall on their way to winter roosting sites in Africa. The flocks stretch several miles across the sky. They have been spotted by bird watchers in the Samaria district of the West Bank and in the northern Negev.

# THE JEWS OF ARGENTINA: NOT STRANGERS IN THE LAND

By Aviva Cantor  
(Part Five In A Series)

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- "Half the board of the Hebraica Community Center thinks Argentina is very anti-Semitic. The other half says, 'You've never been to Poland.'"

This comment by Alberto Senderrey, Hebraica's executive director, illustrates but one of the differences of opinion currently being expressed among the Jews of Argentina, a country with a long and fearful record of anti-Semitism.

The debate in the community on "how far to go" in supporting the democratic government of President Raul Alfonsin is directly related to these differences in evaluating the extent of anti-Semitism in Argentina as well as determining how Jews are perceived by non-Jews. It is related, as well, to differences in evaluating the strength of the democratic government given the fact that this is the first time in 30 years that there have been 3,000 uninterrupted days of democracy.

Argentine government leaders, Jewish and non-Jewish, officially claim there is no problem with anti-Semitism at present. Vice President Victor Martinez told a delegation of visiting North American journalists and communal leaders at a meeting in the Parliament building that "you are facing a brand-new Argentina. There is no racial or other discrimination -- anybody can work freely and make investments."

Marcello Stubrin, a young Jewish Deputy whose great-great-grandfather settled in an agricultural colony in the Santa Fe province, said at the meeting that "the government is fighting for human rights and against problems like anti-Semitism, which exist underground in societies like ours, (led) by enemies of the government."

## Anti-Semitism In The Military Forces

It is generally acknowledged, however, that there are deep anti-Semitic sentiments held in the military forces, the Church, and the Peronista movement, whose Justicialista Party has made a comeback in this month's elections. The question is, how much influence do these institutions have today in shaping public opinion in relation to the Jews?

Every month, there's a rightwing ceremony taking place calling for the freeing of the generals convicted of human rights atrocities during the junta's reign of terror. There are shouts of "end the radical synagogue" -- a reference to the Jews Alfonsin appointed to his Cabinet -- Bernardo Grinspun, Minister of Planning; Roberto Scheingart, Undersecretary of State for Information and Development; Manuel Sadovsky, Secretary of State for Science and Technology; and Marcos Aguinis, Secretary of Culture.

But many Argentine Jews feel the vast majority of the population does not harbor anti-Semitic feelings and views.

Screenwriter Aida Bortnik, an active member of the Radical Party who spent several years in exile because of death threats during the junta's reign, believes that "there's no popular anti-Semitism here. But the military and the church use it; they regard Jews as dangerous people. And the influence of Nazism was very strong in the past."

The military, a young leader in B'nai B'rith Argentina told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, learn at their academy that "Jews are ugly, they

all have money, and they rob the poor." Another young Jew told JTA that "there are many streams in the military but all are anti-democratic," adding, "there is an anti-Semitic element in the military" as well. Argentina, he said, has "a 50-year fascist history and deep Catholic sentiments, part of which is anti-Semitism. These are not easy to eradicate."

Herman Schiller, whose newspaper Nueva Presencia fought for human rights during the reign of terror, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the junta tried to popularize anti-Semitism at that time, but did not succeed. Now, he said, anti-Semitism has become "unfashionable" because "the people have a great hatred for the military. They know what the military did to the Jews" -- a reference to the estimated 1,500 Jewish desaparecidos (disappeared persons; presumed murdered). "They know the Jews are not the enemy. Now there is no hatred of the Jews."

A Jewish professional in his 40's believes the military has been "discredited and does not have public backing." There's a general consensus, he said, that "the brutality and the lunacy" of the junta were "unforgivable." However, he does not believe that this feeling constitutes an "immunization" against future military regimes.

## Winds Of Change

Some Jews believe that the Church was also discredited because, with a few exceptions, it supported the junta during the reign of terror. The official tendency during the junta was to stress Catholic values.

Despite the political power of the church even today, many Jews hold with Paul Warsawsky, an attorney active in human rights causes, that Argentina "is a secular country with baptized but not practicing Catholics. There's a strong current of secular thinking in Argentina." Still, the Constitution mandates that the President must be a Catholic.

Even in the Peronista movement, which some describe as "feelings in search of an ideology," and which has been influenced by the military, there are some winds of change blowing. A young Jewish provincial leader said there is a new faction of youth who wish to separate the movement from its fascist basis and initiate a middle-class program.

Schiller, who is president of the Jewish Human Rights Movement, said that a symbol of the changes is that the Peronist CGT (General Confederation of Labor) recently started a human rights group, which invited him to speak.

Bortnik believes that there is "no prejudice" against Jews because "everybody is so mixed." And, indeed, there is a high rate of intermarriage among Jews, estimated (there are no statistics) at between 25 and 50 percent.

The screenwriter, herself married to a non-Jew, believes that most Argentines do not think of the Jews as a religion but "as a people or race." Senderrey holds an opposite view: Jews, he said, "are the only organized minority. Most non-Jews see Jews as being of the Jewish religion. To people with a Catholic background, this is strange."

Jacobo Fiterman, appointed by Alfonsin to head the public works department of the Buenos Aires municipality, feels non-Jews "don't understand why Jewish parents feel so terrible if a child marries a non-Jew, and why Jews, if they don't feel at home here, don't go to Israel." Fiterman, a former president of the Zionist

Federation whose father was active in the (left Zionist) Poale Zion, continued, "We're very far from explaining to people what it means to be a Jew." He believes there is no real understanding of pluralism on the part of the Argentine public.

A meeting of the North American delegation with elected provincial officials in Cordoba, where the Constitution was amended last April to allow a non-Catholic to be elected governor, confirmed the existence of a melting pot (integration) rather than tossed salad (pluralism) approach to ethnic groups.

Cordoba Vice Governor Armando Grosso told the delegation that Argentina is "a cradle of races. There is coexistence between the different nationalities." Cordoba Education Minister Roberto Peyrano added that "because of racial integration, we never say of a prominent person that he is a Jew or a Catholic but an Argentinean."

This, he continued, was the reason that neither the contribution of Jews nor of any other ethnic group is cited in the school textbooks, although he recognized that "the Jewish community has given Argentina great values in culture and politics." Jorge Serejsky, who represents B'nai B'rith on the Pedagogical Congress which is working on educational reform, was asked by this reporter whether he planned to suggest introducing material about Jews into the curriculum.

His answer: "The time is not yet ripe."

(Tomorrow: Part Six)

## YARMULKE RULING APPLAUDED

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- A Jewish leader Sunday hailed Friday's passage of a Senate bill which would allow the wearing of religious headgear by members of the military. Rabbi David Saperstein, co-director and counsel of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, called the passage of the so-called "yarmulke amendment" a "victory for religious liberty and a demonstration of effective cooperation by Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jewish groups."

Saperstein also praised Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ), who introduced the amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill that would permit members of the armed forces to wear yarmulkes, turbans and other religious apparel. The measure was prompted by last year's Supreme Court decision that upheld an Air Force regulation barring a captain from wearing his yarmulke.

In 1986, the high court refused the appeal of Rabbi Simcha Goldman, an Air Force psychologist, to be allowed to wear a yarmulke on duty indoors, where a military hat is not permitted. It was the first time the Supreme Court heard a case involving religious practice in the military.

Goldman left the Air Force at the completion of his active term of duty in 1981, but continued the appeal by suing for damages of two days' emergency leave pay, equalling about \$150.

Prior to the case being taken to court, Goldman tried to work out an agreement with his attorneys to allow him to continue working at his Air Force position. When those negotiations broke down, the local Air Force authorities pressured Goldman to take off the yarmulke or be subject to court martial. At that point, his attorneys decided to take the matter to Federal District Court. Between those two times, when negotiations failed, Goldman was liable to prosecution if on duty with a yarmulke. It was then that he

applied for emergency leave, which removed his obligation to wear a military uniform.

Because of the Supreme Court ruling in the Air Force's favor, Goldman did not win the damages. Goldman, 41, who is now program director of the Chabad House drug program in Los Angeles, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he is not planning to return to the Air Force, although "I enjoyed my years in the Air Force," he said. He did, however, offer interest in getting back to the Air Force reserves.

He had been told that because of his age, he was no longer eligible for reserve duty. But with the law passed, "I may look into it again," Goldman said.

Overall, he said, he is "very pleased" about the Senate vote, although, he added, "I'll be interested in whether the military implements it in the spirit that the Congress ordered them to do so."

## Stipulations Of The Amendment

Friday's 55-42 vote in the Senate on the "yarmulke amendment" stipulates that the apparel must be "neat and conservative" and cannot "interfere with the performance of the member's military duties." The Senate rejected a similar amendment last year by two votes. This year's vote marked the first time the Senate has approved the proposal. The House approved the same legislation, first offered and adopted in 1984 by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY) in its version of legislation drafted by Goldman's attorney, Nathan Lewin, establishing Defense Department programs. The legislation approved Friday was an amendment to the Senate's version of the Defense Appropriations Bill.

The amendment, Lautenberg said, presents "those who are religious from being locked out of the services."

The Senate military programs bill still faces major roadblocks for approval, however, because of division between Democrats and Republicans over two controversial amendments sponsored by Democrats: one of the amendments would require Congressional approval for the administration to continue providing military escorts for Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf; the other would require United States' adherence to the as yet unratified treaty limiting strategic arms, because of other military spending provisions.

Opposition to the amendment was voiced by Sen. John Chafee (R. RI), who argued that wearing of religious apparel could be divisive. He said, "It's a great mistake to permit the accentuation of the differences in our armed forces."

The Reagan Administration, led by the Department of Defense, opposes the amendment, although it may be accepted as part of an overall military bill Reagan would otherwise approve. Reagan has already threatened to veto the Senate and the House versions of the military programs bill because of the arms control provisions.

Lautenberg said that under his proposal, the Defense Department would accept the standards for "neat and conservative" and could decide when the wearing of religious apparel would interfere with military duties. Lautenberg did not say what precise religious apparel he thought would be permitted, although he expressed doubt that "the wearing of robes or daggers would be allowed." He said the main concern for observant Jews was permission to wear the yarmulke indoors when conventional military headgear is not permitted.