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'I AM NOT A REFUSENIK ANYMORE': NUDEL SAYS HER VISA DOESN'T SIGNAL NEW KREMLIN POLICY TOWARD SOVIET JEWS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 JTA) -- "I am not a refusenik anymore," a joyous Ida Nudel told reporters in a telephone interview from Moscow Monday. But she does not believe her exit visa signals a new policy of the Kremlin toward Soviet Jews.

Nudel, 56, was told by the Soviet authorities only last Friday that she will be allowed to leave the USSR to join her sister, Elana Fridman, in Israel, whom she has not seen for 16 years. Her name reportedly headed the list of former Prisoners of Conscience which Foreign Minister Shimon Peres gave Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze when they met in New York September 23.

But she feels the Soviets are using her and other prominent refuseniks recently granted exit visas to achieve certain diplomatic goals and improve their image. "In ancient times, the Pharaohs used to please the chiefs of neighboring countries with very exotic things," Nudel said. "I feel that I am a white crocodile. I was used to please Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shultz before a meeting of the superpowers."

Observers here tended to agree. They suggested Nudel was granted her visa on the eve of Yom Kippur because of the added public relations impact. Nudel, an engineer-economist, was in Moscow for a hearing for permission to resume residence there after being forced for five years to live in the Moldavian city of Bendery. Before that she lived in exile in Siberia from 1978-82.

But instead of getting her Moscow residency permit, she was summoned by Rudolf Kutznetsov, head of the Moscow OVIR (emigration bureau) and told to return to Bendery to get her papers in order because she had permission to emigrate.

Nudel told the Israeli reporters that it will take several weeks before she leaves for Israel, due mainly to the volume of paper work. "I will not remain here even one extra moment," she said. "I am so excited I want to cry. I am looking forward to come home, to Israel."

She added, "I am beginning to accept the fact that I am not a refusenik any more. Most of all, I want to be a normal Israeli citizen, and take my place in Israeli society. And I will, of course, work for the release of all my friends who I will be leaving behind."

Meanwhile, another former Prisoner of Conscience, Yosef Bernstein, 50, of Kiev, is expected to arrive in Israel with his wife next Sunday. Bernstein, an industrial engineer, had been seeking an exit visa since June 1975. In 1984 he was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for "resisting police." He was released a year early after a review of his case.

MAJOR AFRICAN COUNTRY TO RESUME LOW LEVEL DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- A major African country which has not had diplomatic relations with Israel since 1973 will resume low level diplomatic ties with the Jewish State in the near future. According to reliable sources, the country, not identified, will establish an interest section in Israel soon.

This was decided at a high level meeting in New York between representatives of Israel and the African country. They agreed between themselves that the decision will remain secret for the time being.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned meanwhile that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met in New York last week with the Foreign Minister of a country whose Jewish community is under duress. Peres requested that the Jews of that country, which has no diplomatic ties with Israel, be allowed to leave. But he received no assurances to that effect, the JTA learned.

SHAMIR TO SIDESTEP PEACE CONFERENCE WHEN HE MEETS WITH SHULTZ IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir intends to sidestep the subject of an international conference on Middle East peace when Secretary of State George Shultz comes to Israel later this month.

He will concentrate instead on interim arrangements with Jordan. In fact, Shamir will be seeking Jordanian support to scuttle an international conference according to media reports here Monday.

Shultz is scheduled to arrive on Oct. 15, a day earlier than originally announced, in order to meet with moderate Palestinian leaders from the administered territories, it was reported Sunday. A senior State Department official indicated that Shultz's visit is intended chiefly to conciliate the moderate Arab states and that he does not intend to raise broader expectations with respect to his visit, Haaretz reported Monday, quoting a report from the Israel Embassy in Washington.

Shultz's planned visit to Jordan, meanwhile, has been called into question because King Hussein will be out of the country at the time. Haaretz said it was possible the Secretary of State would go to Jordan briefly during his stay in Israel to meet with Prime Minister Zaid al-Rifai, and then return to Israel.

Al Hamishmar reported Monday that Shamir met Sunday with a group of pro-Jordanian Palestinians in the West Bank to solicit their support to counter a possible agreement between the U.S., and the Soviet Union to re-form the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in preparation for an international conference.

Shamir Signalling To Hussein

Shamir, said Al Hamishmar, was signalling Hussein to join him to block such a move and to increase Israeli-Jordanian cooperation in the territories against the Palestine Liberation Organization. Stronger cooperation between the two countries would, in Shamir's view, serve to deter an international conference with Soviet participation. His call to Hussein for a face-to-face meeting is intended to institutionalize Israeli-Jordanian

cooperation and to correct the impression that Likud has been feeling out the PLO. That impression gained currency last month when Likud-Herut MK Moshe Amirav was disclosed to have had contacts with several pro-PLO Palestinian nationalists in the West Bank.

Shamir wants to encourage the Jordanian ruler to rebuff any proposals Shultz may make regarding the reconstitution of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for peace talks, Al Hamishmar reported.

Officials here were quoted Sunday as saying Shultz will listen to Shamir's ideas on the subject of an international conference but will tell him that the only path that appears at this stage to have a chance is to check out the possibility of convening one.

State Department officials have cautioned Israel not to expect too much from Shultz's visit. They dismissed the notion that Shultz would offer new ideas that would cause Shamir to reverse his position. In short, they implied the Secretary of State is not about to pressure Shamir on an issue over which the Israeli government is sharply divided.

The upshot is an intensification of the Shamir-Peres dispute. The two disagree, for example, over who is a "moderate" Palestinian. Peres maintains that the moderates are pro-Jordanians and the more pragmatic PLO supporters. In Shamir's view, only the pro-Jordanian Palestinians can be considered moderates and he refuses to accept PLO supporters as negotiating partners.

Shamir also aims to thwart the possible resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and thereby scuttle an international conference for good, Al Hamishmar reported.

PERES HITS BACK AT SHAMIR
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres hit back Sunday at Premier Yitzhak Shamir and other Likud Ministers who accused him of trying to influence American Jews to support an international conference for Middle East peace, an issue that has sharply divided the unity coalition government.

Peres was assailed by Likud for remarks he made at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York last week in favor of an international conference. He was accused of inviting outside intervention into an internal dispute over foreign policy and security.

Peres said at Sunday's Cabinet meeting that the Likud Ministers had not bothered to read the text of his remarks to the American Jewish leaders. He and his Labor Party colleagues insist he did nothing more than urge them to involve themselves in the debate over a peace conference and made clear that the Israeli government was divided and had reached no decisions.

Peres also informed the Cabinet that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had assured him at their meeting in New York September 23 that the USSR has no interest in placing "artificial barriers" before those who want to leave the Soviet Union.

BORDER POLICEMAN WARDS OFF KNIFE ATTACK BY ARAB WOMAN

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- An Israeli border policeman warded off a knife attack by an Arab woman near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem Sunday. The assailant, who was not immediately identified, was taken into custody.

According to police sources, Inspector Eitan Levy, 27, was on patrol duty near the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City when a woman approached and ordered "hands up and drop your rifle." Levy knocked a large kitchen knife from her hand and subdued the woman with the help of another policeman.

Police are checking whether the assailant, who has a record of previous arrests, was on a terrorist mission or is mentally unbalanced.

EXTRADITION OF NAKASH MIRED IN CONFLICT BETWEEN RELIGION AND LAW
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- The extradition of William Nakash, wanted in France to serve a life sentence for murder, may depend on the resolution of a conflict between religious and civil law.

Although the Supreme Court ordered his extradition some time ago, the rabbinical court for the Jerusalem district refused Monday to cancel its restraining order against extradition, requested by the Attorney General.

The rabbinical court maintained that the issue was the status of Nakash's wife who, under religious law, would become an Aguna -- abandoned woman -- if her husband is returned to France, and could never remarry.

The court said it would meet again in two weeks in an effort to persuade Nakash, who is in prison here, to grant his wife a "provisional bill of divorcement" which she could invoke whenever she wanted. In any event, the rabbis ruled the ban on extradition would remain in force for another six months, though the period could be reduced or extended.

Nakash, who is of Algerian origin, fled to Israel several years ago after he was indicted for the murder of an Arab in Besancon, a city in northeastern France. He was tried in absentia and sentenced to life imprisonment. But the French authorities said he would be retried when extradited.

His cause was taken up by religious and rightwing elements in Israel who claimed he killed the Arab in self-defense and therefore it was a political act rather than murder. The French authorities disagreed. Israeli jurists who investigated the case concluded that the murder was the outcome of a quarrel among underworld elements in Besancon. Nakash's accomplice was an Arab, now serving a sentence in France.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Ranking Defense Ministry personnel and senior officers of the Israel Defense Force will go to the U.S. this week to attend the biannual meeting on strategic cooperation between Israel and the U.S. The delegation will be headed by David Ivri, Director General of the Defense Ministry and Maj. Gen. Danny Yotam, head of the IDF's planning branch.

The agenda is expected to include the IDF's needs in the wake of the government's cancellation of the Lavi fighter plane project, U.S. military aid to Israel, Israeli weapons procurement programs and an exchange of appraisals of the Middle East situation.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF WOMEN ORDAINED AS RABBIS
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Four of the nine woman ordained as Reform rabbis last summer have been appointed assistant rabbis and the two women ordained as Reconstructionist rabbis have been placed as solo rabbis, according to the annual Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey of such placements. Solo rabbis is the term used to describe spiritual leaders of congregations which are too small to need or afford more than one rabbi.

Donna Adler of Brookline, Mass. has been named assistant rabbi at Beth Israel Congregation in Hamilton, Ohio; Beth Davidson of Sag Harbor, NY has been appointed assistant rabbi at Congregation Ohabai Sholom in Nashville; Lynn Goldstein of Philadelphia has been appointed assistant rabbi at Temple Beth Am in Miami; and Sue Ann Wasserman of Pound Ridge, NY has been appointed assistant rabbi at the Temple in Atlanta, Ga.

Barbara Penzner of Leawood, Kan. and Amy Levenson of Vineland, NJ are the solo rabbis. Penzner is at the Greater Boston Reconstructionist Havurah and Levenson is at the B'nai Israel Reconstructionist Congregation in South Bend, Ind.

Susan Fletcher of Hermosa Beach, Cal., has been named Hillel director at Los Angeles Valley College; Sarah Messinger of Scarsdale has been named part-time rabbi at Beth Yehuda Synagogue in Lock Haven, Pa. Marjorie Slome of Cincinnati is awaiting placement.

Two of the newly-ordained women Reform rabbis are attending graduate schools, Esther Adler of Tarzana, Cal. at Yale; and Miriam Shapero of Van Nuys, Cal. at Yale.

141 Women Ordained As Rabbis

The total of Reform women rabbis ordained since Sally Preisand becomes the first woman rabbi in American history in 1972 is 111. The number of women ordained as Reconstructionist rabbis is 30, for a total of 141 women rabbis ordained since the process began.

Although two women were ordained as Conservative rabbis, one in 1985 and one in 1986, they were exceptional situations, stemming in part from a decade-long struggle in the Conservative movement over ordaining women. Amy Eilberg of Bloomington, Ind. was ordained as the first woman Conservative rabbi in 1985 and Nina Beiber Feinstein was ordained in 1986.

Women will be returning to the Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist seminaries when studies are resumed for the 1987-88 academic year, indicating that entry of women into the ranks of the American rabbinate can be expected to continue.

LE PEN'S POPULARITY PLUMMETS
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- The popularity of Jean Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme right-wing National Front, plummeted by 60 percent according to a poll published in Le Figaro Saturday, apparently in reaction to his public expression of doubt that the Nazi gas chambers ever existed and his denigration of the Holocaust as a "mere detail" in the history of World War II.

The poll, conducted by the highly reliable Sofres organization for Le Figaro, showed Le Pen's favorable rating at 10 percent, down from 17 percent in the latest previous poll. Another poll, conducted by the weekly USD, found that only eight percent of the population wanted Le Pen to "play a political role in France," compared to 12 percent in an earlier poll.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac strongly condemned Le Pen's remarks, which were broadcast in a Radio Luxembourg interview last month. It was "horrible to listen to such things," said Chirac, the first French leader to speak out publicly on the matter. He urged French schools to continue to teach the history of World War II and the tragedy of the Holocaust.

Chirac's condemnation of Le Pen Saturday indicated he has given up any plans he might have had for a political alliance with the National Front in the Presidential elections next spring. Observers here have speculated in recent weeks that Chirac and his center-right RPR party was undecided on the matter.

Public opinion polls have indicated that Chirac will need the vote of the extreme right if he is to carry the election. The other principal center-right Presidential hopeful, Raymond Barre, has not commented on Le Pen's remarks. But in view of Chirac's highly publicized statement, Barre, it is believed, will be forced to take a public stand.

Le Pen, for his part, shrugged off the poll findings. He accused the poll takers of bias and implied their findings were weighted against him.

Last Friday, the National Front's 33 Deputies boycotted the ceremonial opening of the National Assembly which began with a minute of silence in honor of "all victims of the Nazi Holocaust." The National Front said it acted in protest against accusations of anti-Semitism levelled against it by the Assembly's President, Jacques Chaban Delmas.

The French Jewish community responded to Le Pen by crowding the synagogues for Yom Kippur services. Community spokesmen said every synagogue had standing room only and hundreds of worshippers had to follow the services from the sidewalks outside.

Meanwhile, Israel's Ambassador to France, Ovadia Soffer, commented on reports that Le Pen wants to visit Israel. In an interview with Le Figaro, Soffer said, "Israel is a free and democratic country and if he wants to visit he will not be denied entry but no one, no one in official circles, will agree to meet with him."

THIS HEIFER WASN'T COWED

TEL AVIV, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- A heifer at Kibbutz Magan gave birth to a two-headed calf on Yom Kippur. The bovine infant was suckling with both mouths, leading one wag to liken it to the tax collector.

The heads are joined at the middle. The calf therefore has two ears but four eyes and two noses. The zoological oddity is rare but not unknown. Veterinarians say two-headed animals usually die shortly after birth.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is investigating an incident at a Gaza road block last Thursday in which soldiers fatally shot three Gaza residents who crashed through the barrier and then fled from their vehicle despite orders to halt.

PROPHETS FOR PROFIT
By Rochelle Saidel

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- More than 60 years after its creation by such early American Zionist leaders as Louis Brandeis and Felix Warburg, PEC Israel Economic Corporation continues to benefit both Israel's economy and investors in the holding company.

PEC recently announced substantial increases in earnings for the first half and second quarter of 1987. For the first six months of this year, earnings were $4,721,949, or 64 cents per share--a gain of 113 percent from the same period last year.

(In 1986, earnings for the first six months were $2,177,050, or 30 cents per share; net income for all of that year was 60 cents per share.)

For the quarter ending June 30, 1987, PEC's net income was $2,713,183, or 37 cents per share, up from $1,639,759, or 23 cents per share in the same period during 1986.

An Outstanding Achievement

An American company incorporated in Maine in 1926 (as Palestine Economic Corporation), PEC was founded as a means of fostering economic development in the Yishuv (Jewish community in Palestine). "The philosophy of the founders was that support of Israel should not only be donations, but also making sound economic investments," PEC president Joseph Ciechanover told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"Current results justify our faith in the basic soundness of Israel's economy. It was an outstanding achievement for Israel to reduce its inflation rate from 500 percent in 1985 to less than 16 percent so far this year. PEC's continued rise in profits reflects improvement in the net income of most of the company's affiliates and a substantial increase in net gain on sales of investments.

Traded on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol "IEC," PEC organizes, finances and participates in the management of widely diversified businesses located in Israel or affiliated with Israeli enterprise.

The two largest shareholders are IDB Development Corporation Ltd. (a member of the IDB Bankholding Group in Israel), which owns 80 percent of the shares, and companies controlled by Edmund de Rothschild, which hold 12 percent. The other eight percent is owned by American individuals and institutions.

Diversified Holdings And Subsidiaries

Among PEC's current equity holdings are affiliated companies and wholly-owned subsidiaries in such fields as high technology and scientific research, heavy and light industry, shipping and marketing, finance and banking, and real estate and development.

Some of PEC's affiliations, such as Property and Building Corporation, one of the largest real estate holding companies in Israel, and General Engineers, exclusive distributor and agent in Israel for General Electric Company, predate the State of Israel.

Other PEC affiliates in Israel include Israel Can Company, Klil Industries (aluminum extrusions), Mul-T-Lock (security equipment), Tambour Paints, Elron Electronic Industries, Scitex Corporation (computer imaging), El-Yam Ships, Ofran Drive Yourself (rental cars) and Super-Sol supermarkets.

The only PEC investment outside of Israel is Israel Discount Bank of New York, of which PEC has 18 percent of the shares. The bank, PEC's main affiliate and largest investment, is the 15th largest commercial bank in New York State, in terms of deposits. Assets on June 30, 1987 were $3.8 billion. PEC president Ciechanover is also president of the bank.

"PEC only invests in companies in which it can participate in the management," Ciechanover said. "We have initiated hundreds of companies, helped them get started, brought them to maturity, and then, at the right time, sold our holdings. Our holdings are constantly turning over, as we sell them and acquire new ones. We make sound economic investments, and are so diversified we can show a reasonable profit."

Through its sister company in Israel, Discount Investment Corporation, PEC maintains financial and administrative expertise to supervise the operation of its affiliated companies there. Experience with its diversified affiliates also helps PEC to evaluate new and promising business opportunities in Israel.

The results today reflect both the foresight of Brandeis and Warburg and Ciechanover's current observation: A sound investment in Israel can profit both the country's economy and the investor.

CASSIN INTERRED IN THE PANTHEON
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- The body of Rene Cassin, a French Jew, resistance fighter and 1968 Nobel Peace Laureate, was interred in the Pantheon with full military honors Monday evening, more than 10 years after his death.

His casket joins those of 364 great names in French history, including Louis Pasteur and Jean Jaures, at ceremonies to be attended by President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and the Presidents of the Senate and National Assembly.

Cassin served as Gen. Charles de Gaulle's wartime Minister of Justice and later drew up the International Declaration of the Rights of Man. He also headed the Alliance Israelite Universelle. He died in February 1976 at the age of 89.

Former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing signed the decree for his reinterment at the Pantheon. But it took a decade before it was implemented. The ceremony, broadcast live on French television, was attended by 3,000 guests from all over the world.

Cassin's body was received with full military honors Sunday at the Les Invalides Chapel where Napoleon is buried. It lay in state until noon Monday. The official mourners were headed by Defense Minister Andre Giroud, who paid tribute to his military career.

Cassin volunteered for service in the first World War and fought in the battle of Verdun. During World War II he was one of the first of his countrymen to join de Gaulle's Free French Forces in London.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A huge earthen ware vessel from the period of the First Temple was excavated at Ophel, just below the Temple Mount here by a team of Hebrew University archaeologists headed by Eilat Mazer.