

SHULTZ WINDS UP MIDEAST VISIT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz is winding up his visit to Israel in a mood more contemplative than confident of a breakthrough toward Middle East peace in the near future.

While he conceded at a news conference here Sunday that he could point to no "big sign of progress" following a series of talks with Israeli leaders on ways to advance the peace process, he expressed hope that "we gradually (will) get somewhere" and observed that "there has been considerable progress" in the past.

The main issue confronting Shultz is Premier Yitzhak Shamir's apparently unbending opposition to an international conference for Middle East peace. His carefully formulated news conference remarks seemed to underscore his oft-repeated insistence that he would not press the Premier on this matter.

But some observers detected a note of annoyance with the Israeli leader's adamancy. Together with Israel, he told reporters, he would try "to find some avenues" with which Shamir could be "more comfortable than he obviously is with the international conference."

'Obligation To Offer Something Different'

His words were more pointed when he spoke at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and at Tel Aviv University after receiving honorary doctorates from both institutions earlier Sunday. "Those who are reluctant to explore new ideas, or even revisit old ones, have an obligation to offer something different as an alternative to the status quo," Shultz said.

The Secretary arrived in Israel Friday afternoon and was greeted at Ben-Gurion Airport by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Later he met for his first working session with Shamir and later with Peres.

On Saturday, he flew to Saudi Arabia, returning to Jerusalem by evening for further talks with Shamir and Peres. Shultz had a final round with Shamir scheduled for Sunday night. He was to fly to Egypt Monday morning. According to American sources, Shultz focussed his attention on the Persian Gulf situation during his brief stay in Saudi Arabia.

Shultz is visiting the region before going to Moscow for nuclear arms limitation talks and some observers attached significance to his timetable. But Shultz himself asked Israelis to view his visit in the context of the "continuing discussions going on all the time." He referred to Shamir's forthcoming visit to the United States and to the state visit by President Chaim Herzog next month.

Shultz said his talks here were "thorough, intense . . . constructive and beneficial." He noted that "We all believe that the way to get to peace is through direct negotiations. Now, how do you bring that about?" he asked. "We continue to scratch our heads about that . . ."

Shultz's visit to Israel, his first since 1985, has been overshadowed by other events. Tension is escalating in the Persian Gulf following damage

inflicted on an American reflagged Kuwaiti tanker, presumably by Iranian-fired Silkworm missiles Friday.

Almost lost in the news was Shultz's announcement of a \$10,000 personal donation, the first toward a \$1 million scholarship fund to be established in his name by Tel Aviv University for doctoral students in political science, economics and business management.

EX-REFUSENIKS PRESS SHULTZ ON FREEDOM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Four prominent former refuseniks, now living in Israel, urged Secretary of State George Shultz Sunday to make the issue of freedom for Soviet Jewry "one of the central topics" at the summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev expected to be held, in Washington later this year.

An open letter to Shultz on this matter was announced at a news conference by Yuli Edelstein, Viktor Brailovsky, Yosef Mendelevich and Natan Sharansky. They declared they would "neither rest nor be silent until every Jew in the Soviet Union who asks to return to Zion is granted his request."

The letter to the Secretary of State, who is presently visiting Israel, welcomed him as a "friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel." They observed that "this is a fateful moment and that decisions made now will have a crucial effect on the future of Soviet Jewry."

The four, all former Prisoners of Conscience, stressed that the problem was not the personal plight of individuals, family reunifications or refuseniks, but "a general problem of the repatriation of a people."

They told Shultz that "Throughout their history, the Jewish people have remembered leaders of other nations who helped them attain their national aspirations. For years to come, our people will cherish a President of the United States, a leader of the Free World, who succeeds in achieving the return to Zion of Soviet Jewry."

They concluded with an appeal to Shultz, saying they relied on him to convey their message to President Reagan.

GRUELING FIRST WEEKEND FOR NUDEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Ida Nudel, who proclaimed, "I am a free person among my own people" when she arrived from Moscow Thursday night, spent a grueling first weekend in Israel after being reunited with her sister, Elana Fridman, whom she had not seen for 16 years.

The seemingly endless round of official visits and media interviews was physically and emotionally exhausting for the diminutive 56-year-old former refusenik and Prisoner of Conscience. She let it all out on her first visit to the Western Wall Friday where, comforted by her sister, she pressed her face to the massive stones and wept.

Every step of her way has been dogged by reporters and television camera crews since she landed at Ben-Gurion Airport board the private

jet provided by American industrialist Armand Hammer. On Friday she called on Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and former Premier Menachem Begin. On Sunday she was to meet with President Chaim Herzog and Secretary of State George Shultz whom she telephoned earlier in Washington.

Shultz said on his own arrival in Israel Friday that Nudel's first words to him were "I'm home." Shultz added, "It was a most moving moment."

Nudel spent her first night in Israel at the Tel Aviv Hilton. She told reporters the next morning she was amazed by the color of the sky -- Mediterranean blue, not Moscow grey -- and the masses of food available.

Asked what she had brought with her from the Soviet Union, Nudel replied, "My faithful dog, Pizer, who has been my constant companion since she was brought to me in Siberia as a five week-old puppy; my books, and the very warm blanket which I cannot do without."

She said her immediate plans were to learn Hebrew and continue working for the freedom of other Jews seeking to leave the USSR.

'A Slave In Moscow'

Nudel's most moving words were spoken when she descended from her plane and set foot for the first time on Israeli soil. "A few hours ago I was almost a slave in Moscow. Now I'm a free woman in my own country. It is the moment of my life. I am home at the soul of the Jewish people. I am a free person among my own people."

On hand to embrace her were Elana; her husband and son; Shamir; Peres; and Hollywood screen star Jane Fonda, who has worked hard for the cause of Soviet Jewry in recent years, especially in behalf of Nudel.

Also on hand was Hammer, the head of Continental Petroleum, who told of his part in effecting Nudel's release.

Hammer said he had met Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York in September "at the same time Shimon Peres was meeting him" and had been asked by the Soviet official to fly to Afghanistan in a bid to settle the problem there by negotiating with both sides.

Hammer, who has been friendly with all Soviet leaders since and including Lenin, told the audience: "I said I'd go, but you must give me Ida Nudel in return. He (Shevardnadze) immediately replied: I promise to."

Two receptions awaited Nudel at the airport, and the emotional proceedings stretched for three hours, despite appeals for short speeches due to the late hour and Nudel's fatigue.

The first was an official welcome, including the presentation of an Immigrant Certificate and Israeli Identity Card by Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur. He said: "Welcome home to Israel. Your years of loneliness are over."

Shamir and Peres both stressed that the nation's joy at seeing Nudel step onto Israeli soil was coupled with anguish at the plight of Soviet Jews wishing to leave for Israel. The Premier said that the fight for freedom was not just a fight for the rights of individuals, but a Jewish struggle for the return to their homeland.

Peres noted that Nudel's struggle had united Israelis of all walks of life and in all generations.

Fonda, who came with her husband Tom Hayden, from Los Angeles especially to welcome Nudel, explained how and why "a Protestant like

me" had become involved in the struggle to effect Nudel's exit from the Soviet Union. She learned of Nudel's case during a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem some eight years ago, when she had met Elana Fridman.

"I took material home, read up extensively, and went to Russia to meet with her. Her courage and boundless hope inspired me. Ida Nudel has become a role model for me," Fonda said. "I always hoped, but never believed, she would ever be allowed to leave and come to Israel. She was most hated by the KGB. She was a woman fighting not just for herself but for all Jews in the Soviet Union who want to leave," the actress added.

"She would not stop despite ill health and terrible difficulties. Ida is little, but she is beautiful," Fonda said as the two women held each other in a lengthy embrace.

Messages of welcome were read from British Premier Margaret Thatcher and French Premier Jacques Chirac.

On the airport dais, Nudel sat flanked by her sister and Shamir, a broad smile on her spectacled face showing a number of typical Soviet style metal teeth. She looked tired, but did not show signs of the 16 years of hardship she had undergone. Her greying hair was tied in a ponytail.

Speaking in halting English, and apologizing for not speaking in Hebrew "Which I promise to learn quickly," she said that only the night before, at a farewell party in Moscow, her friends were happy for me, but they were also a little sad about my leaving because they were a bit disappointed that it wasn't their turn. I promised them that their moment will come, and I will put all my strength into winning their freedom. I will try in every way I can."

Hundreds of local and foreign reporters were present at what had been described as an "official reception and press conference," but the late hour and Nudel's fatigue allowed for only a few questions.

To the first, about how she had found her sister after a 16-year parting, she replied: "My little sister has grown up, but it's the same eyes and face."

A Second Reception

From the official reception in the airport's VIP lounge, Nudel and some of the official hosts went to the nearby parking lot of Israel Aircraft Industries, where a mass "Reception and Salute to Ida Nudel" had been organized by the Israel Women's Committee for Ida Nudel and the Public Committee for Soviet Jewry.

Despite appeals by Avraham Harman, president of the Soviet Jewry Committee, for brevity because of the late hour, spokespersons for a number of organizations made speeches intermingled with folk singing by the largely religious crowd.

An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 people turned out for the "public reception-- far less than the up to 100,000 who had been hoped for by the organizers.

The proceedings were broadcast live by Israel Army Radio, which is not affected by the on-going strike of the Israel Broadcasting Authority radio and TV journalists.

Nudel told IDF Radio Friday morning that she did not remember much of the proceedings Thursday night. "But I slept better last night than I have for a long time," she remarked.

REFUSENIKS LEARN OF PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE ON US-SOVIET TV PROGRAM

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish emigre living in the United States learned on television Wednesday night that his grandparents have received permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Leonid Fridman of Boston heard the good news during "Capital to Capital," an unusual program allowing American and Soviet journalists and government officials to exchange views via satellite.

The live discussion, broadcast by ABC News in the time slot usually reserved for "Nightline," began with prerecorded news clips, including one of Fridman describing the plight of his grandparents, Natan and Etya Tkach, who for 10 years had been refused permission to emigrate for reasons of "secrecy."

Leonid Zolotarovsky speaking from the Kremlin itself, informed ABC host Peter Jennings, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, that the clip was "outdated" because "they have left." "Are you sure they can leave?" asked Jennings. "Because if you are, I assure you this is the first he has heard of it or anyone has heard of it," Jennings replied, the "he" referring to Fridman.

The telecast was the second such program between members of Congress and the Kremlin, although unprecedented in frankness. The Soviets, who saw the over-one-hour broadcast Thursday morning beginning at 6:30 a.m., got the entire telecast, including the American commercials.

Press reports from Moscow indicate the Soviets were rather startled to awaken to an unexpected, uncensored American condemnation of their human rights record, emanating from the floor of the U.S. Senate, and being responded to in precise detail by members of their own government.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), seated adjacent to Jennings, slammed into the Soviet human rights record with marked directness. "We all know perfectly well that for most of this century the Soviet Union has been a hell for human rights," he said.

Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, said refuseniks Lev Elbert in Kiev, Vladimir Slepak in Moscow and Aba Taratuta in Leningrad were "very impressed" by the program, especially by Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), chairman of the Helsinki Commission, who enumerated individual cases of refuseniks who were not yet permitted to leave.

Hoyer asked why the Soviets wouldn't let refuseniks "like Leon Charny" leave, mistaking the younger brother living in Needham, Mass., for Benjamin Charny of Moscow, who suffers from cancer and heart disease, among several ailments.

Several relatives of refuseniks were present in Congress for the television program, including Galina Welishina, a Soviet emigre whose husband, Pietris Belphin, has been denied permission to emigrate 17 times on the basis of "state secrets."

A deputy minister from Lithuania said he was familiar with this case and said "it is a case of state secrets."

Rep. Clay Shaw (R-Fla.) referred to the five-year limit on "secrecy," which Gorbachev himself attested to in 1985. The Lithuanian's response was that "Gorbachev said five, 10 years, sometimes even more. I was there when he said it. I remember it well."

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) enumerated cases of Jews who have over the years applied to leave the USSR. "Since 1968, we have 670,000 affidavits from Israel and 200,000 from the United States. I have a list of 383,000 who have requested emigration visas." Gilman also referred to the "tightening up of restriction to only blood relatives." During the live telecast, Deputy Minister Vladimir Zagladin said that 10,499 cases of Jewish refuseniks were "being examined" as of Oct. 1, and "everyone who has the right to will leave, although everyone will not want to exit."

In Moscow, meanwhile, a demonstration by 69 persons, including Iosif Begun, in front of the Soviet television offices was broken up and 21 were taken away, some badly beaten, Singer reported. The group included Alia Zonis, 21, whose nose was reported broken in the melee.

Singer also reported that more permissions to emigrate were granted to long-term refuseniks late last week, including two Leningrad Jews, Joseph Radomizilsky and Boris Fridman, who was on a hunger strike, and Slava Schiffrin and Lev Yusefovitch.

SWASTIKAS STRIKE PROVIDENCE

By Allison Kaplan

PROVIDENCE, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here has been the target of extensive anti-Semitic graffiti over the past week.

Fluorescent orange swastikas were discovered over the Columbus Day weekend. The swastikas had been spraypainted onto the walls of two synagogues and two Jewish-owned businesses. Last Friday, another swastika was chalked onto the entrance to Providence's Jewish Community Center. All of these incidents took place in the heavily Jewish East Side neighborhood, in the environs of Brown University.

The anti-terrorism division of the Providence Police Department is investigating the incidents. The major clue as to the identity of the perpetrators is the fact that alongside the swastikas painted on the CVS Pharmacy on Thayer Street, was the phrase "Skins Rule." This has led some to believe that there may be some association between the graffiti and a local version of the type of gang known as "skinheads."

Jewish leaders here expressed concern about the extensive coverage that the anti-Semitic incidents have received in the local news media. Samuel Shlevin, chairman of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said he suspects the chalking of the swastika on the Jewish Community Center on Friday was a direct result of the news attention that the earlier graffiti received.

Concern mounted after the Boston Chapter of the Jewish Defense League announced plans to stage a demonstration here Sunday protesting the appearance of the swastikas. Some Providence Jews fear that the appearance of the JDL would heighten the tension in the neighborhood rather than alleviate it.

Spokespersons for the JDL have announced that they plan to form neighborhood watch patrols in the East Side neighborhood, in order to prevent further incidents.

The JDL demonstration was scheduled to take place outside of the Conservative synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, one of the sites of the recent graffiti. The other targets were the Orthodox Temple Beth Shalom, the CVS Pharmacy and the East Side Prescription Center.

IDAHO HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON PREJUDICE IN AMERICA

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Attempts by rightwing racist vigilantes within the past several years to make the Pacific Northwest an all-white bastion through violence and the proliferation of racial hatred appear to have boomeranged.

On Friday, hundreds of representatives of religious and racial civil rights organizations, including the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, will convene for a three-day convention on human rights in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, site last year of several bombings of federal buildings and the home of a Roman Catholic priest.

The overall theme of the conference will be prejudice in America today, and its impact on the Northwest.

It is no accident that Coeur d'Alene was chosen for the conference, the first assembled by the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, which was formalized in April in response to the bombings.

This small tourist town in the heart of the Coeur d'Alene Mountains was the focus of the Aryan Nations-Church of Jesus Christ-Christian, a violently racist, anti-Semitic group that adheres to the tenets of the Christian Identity movement, claiming that the Jews are the children of Satan. The group is equally hateful of Blacks, Orientals, American Indians and Roman Catholics.

Members Facing Charges

Two members of the group, David Dorr and Edward Hawley, are currently facing charges for their part in the Coeur d'Alene bombings, and have already been convicted of counterfeiting. Other members of this and related hate groups have this year been convicted of crimes ranging from counterfeiting to murder.

The goals of the hate-filled Aryan Nations, however, appear to have turned upon themselves. Coeur d'Alene has instead become known for its involvement in the cause of human rights, manifested through the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, and its outgrowth, the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

The Coalition pushed for, and won in July, the most powerful anti-terrorist legislation in the United States, as well as additional pieces of legislation: on anti-domestic terrorism, observance of Martin Luther King Day in Idaho and an amendment to previously enacted malicious harassment legislation that enables civil lawsuits to be filed by victims of racist or terrorist attacks.

Father Bill Wassmuth, whose rectory was firebombed by members of the Aryan Nations and who barely escaped with his life, chairs the Task Force.

Sending A 'Clear Message'

Wassmuth credited Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones for the turnaround in events in that region. Wassmuth said that by enabling the passage of the Terrorist Training Act, Jones "sent a clear message to the Aryan Nations that terrorists will not be tolerated in Idaho."

Next weekend's three-day human rights conference is expected to reinforce that message. Among those scheduled to speak at the conference is Bethine Church, widow of Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) who has long been involved in human-

rights causes, including that of Raoul Wallenberg, the Righteous Gentile who some believe is languishing in a Soviet prison.

Also present will be a host of representatives of groups of Blacks, native Americans (American Indians), Hispanics, and Japanese Americans and other Orientals.

Harold Applebaum, assistant to the executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee in New York, also will address the conference. Applebaum oversees program development in the area of anti-Semitism and extremism for the AJCommittee.

Three Discussion Topics

There will be three overall areas discussed at the conference, all under the umbrella topic of the state of prejudice in America. They are the rise in violence against minority groups, the need for corrective legislation and the need for "active responses from society's institutions and communities."

The convention will include two workshops. Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Center for Democratic Renewal in Atlanta, will speak on "The Current Status of Hate Groups: A National Perspective." Marjorie Biller-Green, Western states education director of the ADL in Los Angeles, will discuss "Prejudice-Reduction Education: An Action Response to Bigotry."

Conference coordinator is Tony Stewart, who is head of the political science department at North Idaho College. Stewart said that "As far as I know, this has not been done before, to gather such people together, both public and private groups concerned about civil rights."

Wassmuth said, "We're hoping that the mingling and elbow-rubbing of people from all these organizations will build some real energy and some real strength in terms of the human rights effort in the Northwest. Many groups and organizations have done their own thing and have done it well, but we hope that bringing them together into the coalition will strengthen the movement even more."

HEAVENS UNLEASH STORM OVER ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel was battered by its first storm of the season during the weekend, with fierce thunderstorms dumping from one to three inches of rain in various parts of the country.

Two Arab farmers here killed by lightning near Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip Sunday morning, and two others were treated for shock. They had been harvesting peppers in fields in the Gaza Strip.

Eilat was isolated from the rest of the country when nearly an inch of rain -- the annual average -- was dumped on the town in a few hours on Saturday.

Tourists trying to return north after spending the Succoth holiday in the Red Sea vacation center were marooned when the main roadway north was cut by flash floods rushing down what had been dry valleys.

The southern town was shaken Sunday morning by an earthquake, centered some miles south in the Red Sea off Nueba, which registered 4.7 on the Richter scale. There were no casualties or damage. Elsewhere in the south, hailstones as big as golf balls fell.