REAGAN, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS VOICE SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWS
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- President Reagan declared Thursday that Soviet citizens who have been denied exit visas will be the "unseen guests" at his summit meeting next week with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I know that sitting next to me will be unseen guests -- men and women whose only hope is that they are not forgotten here in the West," Reagan said. He said they included Soviet Jews and other ethnic "groups who have applied to emigrate (and) have endured incredible hardships as a result."

Reagan made his comments before the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and other human rights groups at the White House for a pre-summit warmup. He later met with five divided spouses.

He told a joke about a Soviet dissident who complained that his sentence in a Siberian prison was too light. The dissident told the judge that "if America is so bad, why don't you send me there."

Reagan noted that human rights issues will be treated "on a par" with arms control and other issues at the summit. He recalled that the Soviets used to refuse to discuss human rights with U.S. officials, claiming that it was an internal matter.

Now, such topics are "accepted as integral components of our bilateral discussions," the president said.

The president spoke a day after members of Congress spoke out strongly against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's comment that American support for emigration from the USSR is an attempt to create a "brain drain."

Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.) termed as "nonsense" the Gorbachev claim made during an interview on NBC-TV Monday night.

Porter was among some 20 members of the House and Senate who spoke at the annual congressional fast and vigil for Soviet Jewry on the steps of the Capitol. He asserted that "the opening (glasspot) that started six, seven or eight months ago is closing down," culminating with Gorbachev's dismissal of a high party official who said Soviet reforms were moving too slowly.

Close to 200 lawmakers either fasted, participated in the vigil or spoke this week on the House and Senate floors in support of Soviet Jewry, said Rep. Robert Mrazek (D-N.Y). The members of Congress at the vigil were joined by Soviet Jews seeking reunification with immediate family left behind.

Rep. James Scheuer (D-N.Y.) said he found it "depressing" that Gorbachev would imply that many Soviet Jews did not really want to leave and that they were being organized by the United States to create a brain drain.

Scheuer also termed as "baloney" the "state secrets" basis reiterated by Gorbachev in his NBC interview. He called it "further evidence of the unrelenting rigidity of the Soviet Union."

Sen. Christopher Bond (R-Mo.) said: "we think we have leaks in this country. But to have 400,000 people wanting to get out (of the Soviet Union) -- all of whom have classified information -- is a bit unbelievable."

On Tuesday, Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) sponsored a news conference with five refusenik family members that focused on the need for parents of Soviet emigrants who have not yet obtained visas to receive medical treatment abroad. Anna Charny plead for the release of her father, Benjamin, who has cancer.

Galina Khutuskay spoke about her father, Yuri, who may have a brain tumor or aneurysm, and Irina Dashevsky cited her father, Vladimir, who is suffering from heart disease.

SEVERAL HIGH-PROFILE REFUSENIKS RECEIVE PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- On Wednesday, Feliks Abramovich, son of the Soviet Union's longest-waiting refusenik, Pavel Abramovich, told a news conference at Women's American ORT here, "I don't know if I'll ever see my parents again."

Thursday morning, a little after 5:00, Feliks received a phone call from the National Conference on Soviet Jewry: His parents had received word that they would be getting permission to emigrate.

Abramovich and several long-waiting refuseniks received phone calls indicating they would be getting permission to leave the Soviet Union. Among the others were Aleksander, Rosa and Anna Iloffe, and the extended Biyal family: Leonid Biyal; his wife, Judith Ratner Biyal; their son, Misha; Misha's wife, Miriam; Miriam's parents, Viktor and Maya Fulmakht; and another daughter of the Fulmakhts, 12-year-old Renata.

The way was also cleared Thursday for the emigration of the family of Aleksander Kolmiantsky, whose wife, Anna, received a waiver of financial obligation from her father only last month.

Although the Moscow OVIR emigration office has not yet officially confirmed the permissions, Soviet authorities in Moscow have already informed visiting Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke that Abramovich and Iloffe are being permitted to emigrate.

Hawke, who met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as well as the refuseniks during his Moscow visit, informed the families they would be allowed to leave before the end of the year. Hawke made the announcement publicly when he arrived in Tokyo later in the day.

Abramovich and Iloffe were recently told by OVIR that their security classifications would bar them from receiving exit visas for an indeterminate number of years. The NCSJ informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the refuseniks were going to the OVIR office to formalize their permissions.

Iloffe's son, Dimitry, was permitted to immigrate to Israel earlier this year after Aleksander Iloffe staged a hunger strike and drew widespread media attention.

Aleksander Iloffe was a professor of mathematics who left his job in order to avoid viss
refusal because of exposure to classified documents. He is internationally prominent in the field of calculus variations and control theories. Rosa Ioffe is a physicist, and a member of the Women’s Liberation Group in Moscow.

Aleksander Ioffe was an active participant in the scientific seminars that Viktor Brailovsky held in Moscow. Brailovsky received permission to emigrate in September and is now in Israel. His wife, Irina, and daughter, Dahlia, were present at the same moment of his departure where Feliks Abramovich spoke Wednesday about the issue of state secrets. Dahlia will be celebrating her bat mitzvah Saturday with her American “twin,” Jill Goldsmith.

Pavel Abramovich, 48, a radio electronics engineer, was first refused permission to emigrate in 1971 on grounds of “state secrecy.” He is the author of two journals of articles on the issue of “state secrets.” Abramovich organized a seminar on “secrecy” last month that attracted over 100 refuseniks and international journalists. His son, Feliks, received permission to emigrate recently and is now living in Tel Aviv, with plans to enter the Haifa Technion in March.

On Tuesday, Soviet emigres testified at a hearing of Senators for Soviet Jewry about the three-generation Biyal family, who a week and a half ago had received their 14th refusal. The speakers — Leon Charny and his niece Anna Charny Blank, brother and daughter of ailing refusenik Benjamin Charny, and Vladimir Braive, widower of cancer victim Rimma Braive — purposefully chose the Biyal family to focus on because of its juxtaposition of the Biyal’s most recent refusal and next week’s summit meeting between Gorbachev and President Reagan.

Commenting on the wave of refusals, an NCSJ spokesperson noted that “While welcome, such individual gestures, even to the Australian prime minister, do not satisfy the need for a radical improvement in emigration procedures. This continuing violation of the rights of Soviet Jews is one of the primary reasons why we are demonstrating in Washington, D.C. on Summit Sunday, Dec. 6.”

LABOR PARTY SELECTS DINITZ TO RUN FOR TOP WZO-JEWISH AGENCY POST

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) — Simcha Dinitz was nominated by a narrow margin Thursday night to be the Labor Party’s candidate for the office of chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executive.

It is the highest of several posts to be elected at the World Zionist Congress, which opens in Jerusalem Sunday.

The nomination, by the party’s central committee, came two days after diaspora philanthropists on the Jewish Agency Board of Governors gave Dinitz their unanimous endorsement. Only 1,077 of the central committee’s 1,250 members cast ballots. Dinitz won the nomination by a vote of 654 to 322, a plurality of 51 votes.

Despite the fact that his only challenger, Nissim Zvilli, head of the WZO’s settlement department, was considered the weakest candidate. A more formidable opponent, former Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, dropped out of the race Wednesday, furious over the nod given Dinitz by the overseas philanthropists.

The diaspora leaders’ decision was announced in a letter sent Tuesday by Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Board of Governors, to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party. Kaplan urged Peres to “take this into account in order to avoid the indignities of the recent past.”

Follows Rejection Of Lewinsky

He was apparently referring to the bitter reaction in the Labor Party and the Labor Zionist movement over the diaspora philanthropists’ unanimous rejection in October of Akiva Lewinsky, the man whom Labor had already chosen as its candidate for the WZO-Jewish Agency chairmanship. Lewinsky withdrew last week amid protests against the “interference” of the overseas Jewish leaders.

Dinitz, 58, a Labor member of the Knesset, served as Israel’s ambassador to the United States from 1973-78 and was a close confidant and political adviser to the late Premier Golda Meir. He is well known and well liked by the American Jewish community.

Yitzhak Modai, head of Likud’s Liberal Party wing, had predicted earlier that Likud’s choice for the WZO-Jewish Agency chairmanship, Minister of Science and Technology Gideon Patt, would have an easy win over Zvilli, were he to be nominated by Labor, but a hard fight against Dinitz.

Now, in light of Dinitz’s victory, the Likud leadership may decide at its meeting Friday to drop Patt, a Likud-Liberal, in favor of former Defense Minister Moshe Arens, a tough-talking veteran of the party’s Herut wing. Arens also served as Israel’s ambassador to Washington from 1982-83, before he became defense minister, and was well liked by American Jews.

IDF SAYS COURT-MARTIALS POSSIBLE IN AFTERMATH OF HANG-GLIDER ATTACK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) — Disciplinary action, including possible court-martial proceedings, may be taken against Israel Defense Force personnel for dereliction of duty when a lone terrorist infiltrated Israel by hang-glider on the night of Nov. 25. The attack killed six IDF soldiers and wounded seven at a military base in upper Galilee.

IDF Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron spoke of the possible disciplinary action Wednesday night upon the completion of a series of inquiries into the incident by the IDF. The investigation apparently found evidence of negligence on the part of the chief operations officer at the camp and a sentry who allegedly deserted his post.

Shomron and other senior IDF officers met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin Thursday to brief him on the results of the investigation. Shomron reportedly decided to transfer the commander of the Nahal brigade to which the unit that came under attack belonged.

Nahal is the Hebrew acronym for “Pioneer Fighting Youth,” soldiers who combine agricultural work with military training. Some members have already complained that publicity surrounding the incident has unjustly tarnished Nahal’s reputation.

But the ability of a single terrorist to inflict serious casualties on a heavily armed IDF unit has severely shaken Israelis’ confidence in the IDF’s defense capabilities. The public and the military are all-the-more astonished because the unit had
at least 20 to 30 minutes' advance warning of a terrorist infiltration by air.

**Sentry Left Post**

The IDF inquiries reportedly revealed that the operations officer -- the senior officer at the camp -- failed to respond adequately to the alert and did not take proper security measures. The sentry raised no alarm when the terrorist approached the camp and, instead of confronting him, left his post, the IDF found.

The soldiers at the base did not respond to the early alert. In fact, only one soldier actually opened fire on the intruder ---and killed him--- after he himself was wounded in the leg.

All of these factors have resulted in severe criticism, both inside the IDF and among the civilian population. The military high command is pondering the lessons learned from the incident.

Maj. Zorea, a former IDF general and Defense Ministry ombudsman, told Voice of Israel radio Thursday that the fault lies in the failure to instill a proper sense of discipline in all ranks.

Zorea said that while the army displayed a high level of discipline in combat, it did not maintain the same standards in its daily routine. According to Zorea, several generations of IDF officers have "not been brought up in the right way" and failed to observe the proper disciplinary norms.

The incident was a blow to the image of Nahal, which has long been regarded as one of the IDF's superior fighting units. Most of its soldiers come from kibbutzim and other agricultural settlements.

One group of Nahal trainees, not yet incorporated into the army, wrote this week to Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin complaining about the "lynch atmosphere directed at the Nahal corps."

**ISRAEL WON'T ASK FOR EXTRADITION OF TERRORIST WHO PLANNED LOD MASSACRE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Thursday that Israel was not contemplating asking Japan for the extradition of Osamu Maruoka, reportedly the No. 2 man in the Japanese Red Army who helped plot the massacre at Lod Airport in 1972.

Japanese police arrested the 37-year-old Maruoka Nov. 21 as he entered Japan from Hong Kong. Twenty-seven people were killed in the bloodbath at the Israeli airport, now named Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Japanese authorities, who waited several days before announcing Maruoka's apprehension, did not explain how they had tracked and captured the terrorist leader. They said, however, that when caught he had about $37,000 on him and a passport in the name of someone living in Okinawa. They believe Maruoka may have been planning an attack on the Seoul Olympics to be held next September.

The Israeli airport attack was perpetuated by three terrorists, one of whom died in the shoot-out with Israeli police. The third, Kojo Okamoto, who was released by Israel in a 1985 prisoner exchange involving 1,150 terrorists incarcerated in Israel, went to Libya. Okamoto had been sentenced to multiple life terms for his part in the massacre.

The Japanese Red Army surfaced in the 1960s, supporting Palestinian groups. Since the Lod massacre, it has mounted several attacks, including the hijacking of a Japan Air Lines flight from Amsterdam to Tokyo in 1973, a 1975 attack on the Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and another hijacking of a Japan Air Lines plane from Bombay to Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1977.

The current Red Army leader is believed to be a woman, Fusako Shigenobu, 42, thought to be living in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Japanese police said about 40 members of the terrorist organization remain active, many in the Middle East.

**DEPORTATION ORDERED FOR WEST BANKER, BUT NOT CARRIED OUT FOR MUBARAK AWD**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- A deportation order was issued Wednesday against Jamal Shatti Hindi, a resident of the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, who served a four-year prison term for planting bombs and for membership in a terrorist organization.

The order was issued by Brig. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the Israeli Defense Force's central sector. According to security sources, Hindi was a major activist for Al Fatah, the terrorist wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at Najah University in Nablus.

He may appeal against the deportation to a military appeals board and, if overruled, can take his plea to Israeli Supreme Court. In most previous cases, appellants have either lost their cases or dropped their appeals before a decision was handed down.

The authorities, meanwhile, have delayed enforcement of a deportation order issued last month against Mubarak Awd, an advocate of non-violent resistance to Israeli's presence in the administered territories.

Awd, a Jerusalem-born Palestinian who is a naturalized American citizen, was to have been expelled from the country on Nov. 20. But the U.S. State Department intervened on his behalf.

The matter is reportedly in the hands of Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who must make the final decision. The Foreign Ministry has asked that Awd's deportation be delayed.

**VISITING GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER PREDICTS FULL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The establishment of full diplomatic relations between Greece and Israel is expected in the next few months, as a result of the three-day visit here by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, which ended Thursday.

That impression was reinforced by Papoulias at his meetings with Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He also told Palestinian leaders from the West Bank Thursday that ties would be improved between Greece and Israel, though not at the expense of traditional Greek support of the Palestinian cause, the leaders who met with him said.

Papoulias is the first senior member of the Greek Cabinet to come to Israel. He arrived Monday at the invitation of Peres. He reportedly told Shamir at their private meeting Tuesday that the time has come for Greece to extend de jure recognition to Israel and the matter will be discussed by his government shortly.

At present, Israel enjoys only de facto recognition by Greece.
WORLD SEPHARDI FEDERATION ADOPTS NEW STRUCTURE AND NEW DIRECTIONS
By Andrew Muchin

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Much of the discussion at a three-day gathering of the World Sephardi Federation here this week focused on a controversial plan to restructure the hierarchy of the international organization.

The plan nearly prompted a walkout by the Israeli delegation to the federation's third international congress. But that was averted in the wee hours of Wednesday morning, when the federation agreed to amend the reorganization plan to include more Israeli representation in the policymaking echelons of the world organization.

World Sephardi Federation President Nessim Gaon of Geneva considers the restructuring to be a cornerstone of the congress, held Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Lorraine Hotel here. But it appears far more public enthusiasm was generated by an offer Gaon made at the official opening of the congress Monday night.

Speaking to 400 delegates from 18 countries, Gaon declared that the federation is prepared to send an Arabic-speaking delegation to Amman, Jordan; Rabat, Morocco; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; or anywhere else to seek common understanding as the basis for diplomatic negotiations between Israel and the Arab world.

Understanding Of Arab Cultures

In his view, the common language, the experience of living among Arabs and the understanding that Sephardim have of Arab cultures can help not only in the eventual peace negotiations, but also in the vital talk of building acceptance of Israel.

He added that the federation has no desire to circumvent Israeli government, but he noted, too, that no one has made a serious effort to make peace since the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat came here, almost exactly 10 years ago, in 1977.

On Wednesday night, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres responded favorably to Gaon's offer to utilize delegations of Jews of Mideast origin to open channels of dialogue with Israel's Arab neighbors. The Sephardim can serve as a gesher (bridge) and as a shofar for peace, Peres told the federation delegates.

His reaction, coming at the closing of the congress, was in marked contrast to that of Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who said nothing of the idea during his remarks to the congress Monday night, which immediately followed Gaon's opening speech. In fact, a federation leader seated near Shamir during Gaon's speech said the premier was stewing.

Mention Of London Meeting

In his remarks, delivered in rhythmic English, Peres expressed hope for peace, pointing to three windows of opportunity created by an agreement reached with Jordan's King Hussein in London earlier this year, the recent Arab summit meeting in Amman and the two superpowers' declared intention to focus on regional issues during the summit meetings next week between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

It was the foreign minister's first public acknowledgement of his secret meeting in London with Hussein. That is the meeting at which the two leaders reportedly agreed to seek an interna-

tional peace conference that would lead to direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Shamir has consistently opposed the idea of Israeli participation in an international conference, fearing that Israel would be outnumbered in such a forum and forced to make compromises against its best interests.

Praise For Sephardi Advances

The prime minister chose to focus on other issues in his speech to the Sephardi delegates Monday night. He praised the Sephardim for their socioeconomic and political advances in Israel.

Shamir also praised Jewish unity as a guarantor of Israeli success and noted, on the other hand, that Arab unity, such as that displayed at the Arab summit meeting in Amman last month, spelled trouble for Israel.

Gaon expressed concern about Jewish disunity at a news conference preceding the congress at Ben-Gurion airport Sunday night. He said the federation would take strong action to prevent Sephardic children from falling prey to religious fanaticism.

Non-Sephardic, ultra-Orthodox yeshivas in Israel, he and other leaders charged, have been luring impoverished Sephardic boys with promises of education, room and board, and in effect are turning them against their families.

Sephardim are religiously observant, yet tolerant, making them an easy mark for extremists, Gaon said. Of the world's estimated 13 million Jews, about 3 million are Sephardim, and about half of them live in Israel.

Nevertheless, he lamented, Sephardic culture has waned in Israel in the last generation because the recent Sephardic immigrants came without their teachers. They could not have continuity or culture.

New Directions

Renewal of pride in Sephardic culture was one of several new directions urged by Gaon and other leaders during the congress. Others were increased assistance to Sephardim in Israel, promotion of religious moderation and improved Sephardic education in the diaspora.

The congress ratified only one major resolution: the reconstitution of the federation presidium, the top policy-making board, to include more diaspora members and fewer Israelis -- but that only after a protracted battle. The Israeli Sephardi Federation had threatened to pull out of the world body if Israeli representation on the reconstituted presidium was not increased from 10 of 31 seats. They finally got 14 of 35 seats.

At Gaon's suggestion, the congress agreed to allow the presidium to take action Thursday on the other resolutions.

These included the opening and eventual construction of Sephardi House here, which will coordinate federation programming in Israel; expansion of current scholarship and bar mitzvah programs; and creation of a council of mayors from Israel's development towns, which are heavily Sephardi.

On Tuesday, the world federation announced the establishment of scholarship funds in the names of former Premier Menachem Begin and the late Pinchas Sapir, former Israeli finance minister.

Begin was premier in 1978, when Project Renewal, the diaspora-Israel effort to improve Israel's development towns, was established. Sapir was honored for his compassionate partnership.