

ISRAELI DELEGATION GRANTED PERMISSION TO VISIT MOSCOW

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli officials seemed elated Tuesday by the announcement in Moscow that an Israeli diplomatic mission will be allowed to visit the Soviet Union.

It will be the first such mission to the USSR in the more than 20 years since the Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War. A Soviet consular mission has been in Israel for the past seven months.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres welcomed the news, according to statements from the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry respectively.

The three-member Soviet consular mission arrived in Israel last June. Shamir was inclined at the time to reject it unless a similar Israeli delegation was invited to Moscow. But the premier subsequently waived that condition.

The Soviets' visas were due to expire Jan. 31. They were extended last week until mid-February. Now, however, they may be extended for a longer period, in light of Moscow's decision. Israeli officials had made it clear in recent days that this time Israel would demand reciprocity.

The announcement in Moscow was made Tuesday morning by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov.

He told a news conference that no date has been set for the Israeli visit, but that a timetable was discussed at an unannounced meeting Tuesday in Helsinki, Finland, between Soviet representatives and an Israeli delegation. He did not elaborate.

According to Gerasimov, the purpose of the Israeli mission would be to acquaint itself with the work of the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, which has been representing Israel's interests in the Soviet Union for more than two decades. He denied, however, that the visit would be a precursor to the re-establishment of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Gerasimov stressed that could come about only after a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Soviet consular delegation, which has offices in Tel Aviv, came here last June to examine Soviet property and review the status of Soviet nationals living in Israel. The property is mainly that of the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem. Most of the Soviet nationals here are monks.

ISRAEL TAKES TOUGH STEPS IN GAZA, BUT RESTRICTS USE OF LETHAL FORCE

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Israel has resorted to tough measures to prevent a renewal of disturbances in the administered territories. But the use of lethal force has been curtailed.

In the Gaza Strip, civil administration officials assisted by Israel Defense Force officers have cut off electricity, water and telephone service for thousands of Palestinian residents of refugee camps that are under tight curfew, Haaretz reported Tuesday.

IDF officers have been ordered to see that no water reaches residents of the camps, which have been the primary trouble spots in recent weeks.

According to a military source quoted by Haaretz, "The objective was to show the residents who is in charge, as it were, in the Gaza Strip, so that they wouldn't think they can rule the area. It is clear we are in charge," the source said, adding that the system has "worked well" since it began several days ago.

In the West Bank, IDF soldiers have received orders to take the offensive against demonstrators and beat them vigorously when they are caught.

Another senior official expressed concern about permitting soldiers to pummel rioters, but said it is the only practical solution that works.

At the same time, the IDF has received explicit instructions limiting the use of live ammunition against demonstrators.

They have been forbidden, for example, to open fire on rioters who hurl gasoline bombs. The previous practice had been to shoot to kill in those circumstances.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, army commander of the central sector, issued orders two days ago that soldiers may use live ammunition only in emergency situations, must aim at the legs of the rioters and may not use expanding bullets, which explode on contact, causing massive injuries.

Soldiers also may fire only with the approval of their unit commander or another senior officer present.

The IDF has been patrolling in larger units in recent days to avoid situations where a single soldier finds himself alone, facing a crowd of demonstrators, and opens fire out of fear. The new orders call for the use of rubber bullets, followed by a charge in force when an IDF unit is surrounded by rioters.

'We Will Act With Force'

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who visited Ramallah and surrounding villages in the West Bank on Tuesday, vowed, "We will act with force, with strength, with blows to stop violent demonstrations."

Although Rabin's entourage, which included reporters, was pelted with stones at one point, the defense minister stressed that the territory has been quiet.

No disturbances were reported Tuesday. No roads were blocked with burning tires. The IDF has succeeded in overcoming violence and keeping the roads open, the defense minister declared.

The only continuing breach of order is a passive one -- the almost total commercial strike by Arab merchants and shopkeepers in East Jerusalem, now in its 10th day.

But ending the strike and getting people back to work is not high on Israel's order of priorities, Rabin said. "If they do not want to market their products, that is their problem. They should not come weeping about shortages later," he said.

He acknowledged, however, that there was a need for a political solution to the Palestinian problem and it can be found only at the negotiating table.

But the basic condition for negotiations must

**WAR CRIMINAL ANDRIJA ARTUKOVIC
DIES IN YUGOSLAV PRISON HOSPITAL**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- Andrija Artukovic, the former Croatian interior minister convicted of murdering 700,000 Jews, Croats, Serbs and Gypsies during World War II, died Saturday in a prison hospital in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Artukovic, 89, was deported there from the United States two years ago, after a 36-year battle with U.S. and Yugoslav authorities.

The Yugoslavian news agency Tanjug said Artukovic died of "an illness," but did not elaborate.

Artukovic was already in frail health in 1986, when U.S. marshalls spirited him from his home in Seal Beach, Calif. to stand trial in Yugoslavia for war crimes that earned him the nicknames "Butcher of the Balkans" and "Himmler of Croatia."

Heinrich Himmler headed Germany's Gestapo and SS extermination units during World War II.

The Yugoslav court sentenced Artukovic to the firing squad, but the sentence had been postponed indefinitely because of his poor health.

Artukovic was the first Nazi war criminal to be extradited from the United States following the establishment of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations in 1979. As a high-ranking official of the fascist Ustashi regime, established as a Nazi puppet state between 1941 to 1945, Artukovic was responsible for the operation of the concentration camps in Croatia.

After the war, Artukovic entered the United States under an assumed name. Yugoslav officials first requested his extradition for trial on 22 counts of murder in 1952, but it was not until 1986 that Artukovic, then an established member of a Croatian community south of Los Angeles, used up the last of his appeals, this time to Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.

The Yugoslavian court found the elderly Artukovic guilty of four specific charges, three of which included mass murder.

Artukovic and his wife Ana-Maria raised five children. According to Tanjug, his body is to be cremated and his ashes disposed of secretly.

**CANADIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER FIRE
FOR ADMITTING PALESTINIAN TERRORIST**
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- The Canadian government faces potentially embarrassing questions in Parliament this week on why a convicted Palestinian terrorist, whose background allegedly was known to the authorities, managed to enter Canada on an immigrant visa a year ago and was given permanent resident status.

According to a report Monday in the Toronto Globe and Mail, Mahmoud Muhammad Issa Muhammad, 46, received the visa from the Canadian Consulate in Madrid in January 1987 and now lives with his wife and three children in Brantford, Ontario.

Issa Muhammad was convicted in Greece for the 1968 bombing of an Israeli airliner at Athens airport, in which one man was killed. In 1970, a Greek court sentenced him to 17 years and five months in prison for manslaughter, arson, illegal possession of firearms and explosives, and obstructing air navigation.

But he was released a year later in a hos-

tage exchange and deported to Lebanon. The Globe and Mail said it has documents which show that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's screening system failed to identify Issa Muhammad as a member of the terrorist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine when he applied for his visa in Madrid.

By the time his identity was confirmed, he was aboard a plane bound for Canada. Although immigration officials in Canada were alerted by the Canadian Embassy in Madrid to intercept him when he landed in Toronto, Issa Muhammad managed to slip through, the Globe and Mail said.

According to the documents the newspaper says it has in its possession, government officials fear that if Issa Muhammad is deported to an "unfriendly country," particularly Israel, "Palestinian terrorists may be tempted to take Canadian hostages abroad."

If he is deported to an Arab country, the Israelis might try to seize or assassinate him, the documents say.

ELIE WIESEL RETURNS TO AUSCHWITZ
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust chronicler, paid a memorial visit to Auschwitz on Sunday, before returning here Monday to open an international conference of Nobel laureates, who will discuss the future of humanity at the turn of the 21st century.

Before leaving for Poland, Wiesel, himself a former inmate at the Nazi death camp, where his father and most of his family perished, said the visit was necessary "to meditate, to say a silent prayer, to close our eyes and pledge to do better."

Several of the 75 Nobel laureates expected to attend the Paris meeting were scheduled to accompany him on his visit to Poland.

The Paris Nobel conference was convened at Wiesel's initiative by French President Francois Mitterrand to study "The 21st Century: It's Threats and Promises." It will be attended by close to 80 Nobel laureates, including 30 from the United States.

In spite of the heavy Jewish participation in the meeting, amounting to more than half of the participants, it is nonetheless feared that a communique critical to Israel might be issued after the final session on Thursday.

ISRAELI INFLATION HITS RECORD LOW
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- Israel's inflation rate for 1987 was 16.1 percent, the lowest figure in 15 years, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

The figures were released after the bureau reported that the cost-of-living index rose 1.3 percent in December.

The comparatively low figure was welcomed by all sectors of the economy -- though Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said he would only be happy when he learned that 1.3 percent was the annual, rather than the monthly, figure.

Beginning this month, the Central Bureau of Statistics will be using a new "representational basket" as the basis of its price comparisons. The new method takes into consideration such items as the purchase of video cassette recorders and the purchase and rental of video cassettes.

**POPE SPEAKS OUT ON HOLOCAUST,
ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II took an opportunity Sunday to personally condemn an Israeli confrontation with Moslem worshipers last Friday, but also to express deep feeling for the victims of the Nazi Holocaust who were killed, he said, just because they were Jews.

In an extraordinary give-and-take session with the press, the pope said both Jews and Palestinians had the right to a homeland and called on both sides in the Middle East conflict to work together for peace.

The pope, however, did not utter the word Israel, but referred only to Jews. The Vatican does not recognize Israel officially.

The pontiff made the remarks during a visit to the offices of the Foreign Press Association, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. During the visit, the pope delivered a brief speech, then took several questions from the floor.

A Tunisian journalist asked the pope for his thoughts on an incident last Friday on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, when police fired tear gas at Moslem worshipers. The pontiff responded, "I think my opinion is clear, even without being explicit."

"Certainly one cannot accept in any way... the attacking of people at their prayers," he added.

Israel has disputed reports that police at the scene fired tear gas into Moslem mosques and only entered a mosque to rescue an officer who had been dragged inside by rioting Palestinians.

The pope also said he was deeply aware of the implications of the Holocaust and noted he spoke of this when he met last September with American Jewish leaders in Miami.

"I profoundly feel the reality that is called the Holocaust, the Shoah. I feel it deeply," he said.

"I come from a country in which this thing took place brutally during the Second World War," the pope continued. "It was genocide, genocide. They were exterminated for the very fact of being Jews, of belonging to this people."

A people that has endured such suffering have a right to a homeland, the pope went on to say. He noted that at his meeting with Jewish leaders in Miami, "I stated clearly that the Holy See supports their (the Jews) right to have their own homeland, but at the same time supports the same right of another people, these Palestinian Arabs, to have their own homeland."

He called for Jews and Arabs to come together and negotiate a peaceful solution to their conflict. "These two sides are morally invited--more than invited -- to take up this problem, to resolve a situation that is so painful."

**GREEK LEADER MEETS WITH ARAFAT,
TAKES TOUGH STAND ON ISRAEL**

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu of Greece played host to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat here Tuesday.

After a two-hour meeting at Arafat's hotel, the two held a news conference at which Papandreu sharply criticized Israel for the way it deals with the Palestinian problem and the recent

disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He referred to Israel's "fascist occupation."

Arafat's visit to Greece was arranged some time ago, but went unannounced for security reasons, according to government spokesman Yiannis Roubatis. The PLO leader landed at the Elefsina military base before noon and was flown by helicopter to the luxurious Astera Hotel in Vouliagmeni, a suburb of Athens.

Papandreu was waiting for him there and they met immediately behind closed doors. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and the minister of police, Giannis Skoularikis. A brief statement issued afterward said Arafat and the Greek officials discussed the situation in the administered territories.

They also discussed the convening of an international Middle East peace conference in light of the fact that Greece will assume the rotating presidency of the European Community Council of Ministers on July 1.

Papandreu spoke briefly at the news conference. He said that "Israel and its supporters thought that after 20 years of occupation they (the Palestinians) would accept their plight. But they were completely wrong."

He noted that this time there are "forces within Israel that are against the fascist occupation and that is to their credit."

He said that even Jewish organizations around the world do not agree with the Israeli government's handling of the disturbances in the occupied territories.

Papandreu pledged that he and the Greek people will support the struggle of the Palestinian people and that the Greek government intends to take the initiative in the European Community and at the United Nations to find a solution to the problem through an international conference.

Arafat said that within the context of an international conference, he would accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which uphold the right of all nations in the Middle East to exist within secure, recognized borders.

HASIDIM HIT BY MORE THAN SNOWBALLS

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Police are investigating complaints of assault and harassment lodged by seven Hasidic Jews following what the police described as "a snowball confrontation" between Jews and blacks in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn early Sunday morning.

According to Officer Joe Gallagher of the New York City Police Public Information Bureau, the incident occurred at about 1:50 a.m. in the vicinity of Eastern Parkway and Kingston Ave.

Gallagher's information, received from the 71st Precinct, which covers the area, stated that approximately 40 blacks coming from a party observed approximately 10 Hasidic Jews. "A snowball confrontation ensued, escalating to rock and bottle-throwing. There were no injuries and no arrest," the police report said.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency also learned of the incident from Rabbi Yakov Lloyd, who identified himself as a leader of the Jewish Defense Group, a splinter group of the Jewish Defense League.

Lloyd claims he was instrumental in organizing armed neighborhood patrols in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, following the fatal stabbing on Dec. 25 of a Hasidic Jew, Eli Wald.

JEWS NOW BELIEVE THE POLLARDS SUFFERED 'INJUSTICE,' FAMILY SAYS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Public opinion in both Israel and the American Jewish community has been shifting in support of Jonathan Pollard and his wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, who are in jail for spying for Israel, members of the couple's family said Monday.

Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, is serving a life term for passing classified documents to a renegade Israeli espionage team, while his wife is serving a five-year prison sentence for being an accessory to her husband's activities.

At a news conference here sponsored by the National Coalition for Justice for the Pollards, Bernard Henderson and Morris Pollard, the fathers of the two convicts, claimed that in recent months there has been a "turnabout" in the feelings of many Jewish leaders, who now realize that "injustice" was done to the couple. They declined, however to name any of the Jewish leaders who had changed their position.

According to Carol Pollard, Jonathan's sister, hundreds of letters are sent every month from Israel to her brother and sister-in-law. But prison authorities will not deliver the letters, she charged.

She announced that she and David Turner, director for the National Coalition for the Justice for the Pollards, are leaving for Israel this week for a three-week visit "to meet with the Israeli public and Israeli officials" to discuss the Pollard affair.

Asked to name the officials they are going to meet in Israel, and whether they requested a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Turner said: "We still don't know with whom we will meet. We will see anyone who is willing to see us."

Morris Pollard said that his son, who is jailed in federal penitentiary in Springfield, Mo., was transferred last week to a hospital room after being held against his will in the psychiatric ward of the prison for the last 10 months.

The father said he does not know why he was transferred to a hospital room, where he is in a solitary confinement, as he has been since his arrest two and a half years ago.

Bernard Henderson charged that his daughter is still denied proper medical care. She claims to be suffering from severe and rare digestive disorders.

'Weak And Hunched Over'

"She is very weak and hunched over with pain most of the time," Henderson said, claiming that she is denied medicine and she has developed recently "internal bleeding." Asked if there is a danger to her life, he replied in the affirmative.

Henderson noted that a federal district court judge on Dec. 6 rejected his daughter's request to be treated by her family doctors. He said that his daughter asked if she could be treated by an Israeli doctor, but "this cannot be done, according to the prison rules, since she is not an Israeli citizen."

Anne Henderson Pollard is serving her prison term in a federal prison in Lexington, Ky.

The National Coalition for Justice for the Pollards demands the immediate release from prison of Anne Pollard, who the groups says "is being held in jail on charges and under conditions

previously expected only from Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia during the Stalin purges."

The group also is seeking "the immediate reduction of Jonathan Pollard's prison sentence to time served, bringing it into conformity with the norms of punishment typically imposed in espionage cases involving an ally, or other non-Communist state."

POLISH GOVERNMENT SAYS CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ WILL BE RELOCATED

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- The Polish government has given written assurances that a Carmelite convent built on the grounds of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp will be removed, in compliance with an agreement reached here last Feb. 22 between high-level delegations representing Jewish organizations and the Catholic Church.

Church officials in Poland apparently stalled on implementing the agreement. Visitors returning from Auschwitz have reported that no steps have been taken to remove the convent and that, in fact, the number of nuns in residence has increased.

The World Jewish Congress, which played a key part in reaching the agreement, was concerned. Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the WJC's governing board, visited the Polish minister of religious affairs, Dr. Wladyslaw Loranc, in Warsaw last November to raise the issue.

On Tuesday, Riegner made public a letter he received from Loranc, promising that the nearly year-old agreement will be implemented without further delay.

Riegner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that church representatives in Poland claimed they could not act as long as they had no permission from the government. Loranc promised to make things move and, in fact, kept his promise, Riegner said.

Jews Were Distressed

The Geneva meeting last year followed longstanding expressions of deep distress by Jewish groups that a convent was located at a place where hundreds of thousands of Jews died in the Holocaust. Many ranking church officials in Europe expressed sympathy with Jewish concern over the issue.

The matter was raised by Edgar Bronfman, president of the WJC, when he met with Polish Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski in Warsaw in December 1985.

At the subsequent meeting in Geneva, it was agreed by all parties that the convent would be relocated and a new building would be erected just outside the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex to serve as a center of information, education, meeting and prayer for all faiths.

Loranc's letter to Riegner affirmed this. He said the archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, has been informed of specific sites outside Auschwitz that are suitable for the projected center.

He stated in his letter, "This center will promote a climate of reflection and deep respect for all victims of the Nazi extermination and for their sufferings, which will forever remain symbolized by Auschwitz."

Riegner said he is now awaiting a decision on where it will be built, as well as the construction plans.