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JAN 29 1988

**RATZINGER STRIKES CONCILIATORY
NOTE ON CATHOLIC-JEWISH TIES**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the controversial head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, struck a conciliatory note on Jewish-Catholic relations Thursday morning when asked at a news conference here to give his perception of the Catholic view on Judaism.

Ratzinger, in New York for a biblical scholarship conference, said Catholics should "respect the point of view of our Jewish brothers," who do not see the New Testament "as a fulfillment."

His remark appeared to be a reversal of the position he expressed last October in a highly contentious interview with an Italian magazine. In it, he was quoted as saying that Catholic-Jewish dialogue should be based on the notion that "the faith of Abraham" finds its "fulfillment" in Jesus Christ.

But Thursday, Ratzinger, whose thinking is considered to be very close to that of Pope John Paul II, seemed to balance his previous comments with admiring reflections on Jews and Judaism.

"We must be able to read the Old Testament the way the Jews read the Old Testament, rather than always looking at it from a Christian perspective," he said.

The New Testament is, for Christians, "the key to understanding the Old Testament," he said. "I think especially that the argument of our theology is we should see it (the New Testament) as a partial fulfillment of the Old Testament." He added, "On this part I think we can really have a dialogue."

Ratzinger emphasized that Christians should respect the Jewish viewpoint on the Old Testament "just as I am sure they respect our position."

The cardinal was in New York for a two-day conference on modern biblical scholarship as the guest of a prominent Lutheran minister, Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, director of the Center on Religion and Society.

Met With Jewish Leaders

On Wednesday, Ratzinger met with some Jewish representatives as private guests of Cardinal John O'Connor, the archbishop of New York. Invitations were extended to some members of the International Jewish Committee on Interfaith Consultations.

But several members of the umbrella group declined to participate in the meeting, apparently objecting to the way in which it was arranged.

On Wednesday morning, members of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, a member organization of IJCIC, met in special session and at that time decided to urge their members not to attend the meeting.

But those who declined to attend rejected the notion that they were "boycotting" the

meeting, as reported Thursday in The New York Times.

Among those who declined the invitation were Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, former chairman of IJCIC; Seymour Reich, president of B'nai Brith International; Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly; and Rabbi Henry Michelman, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America, which is the American secretariat of IJCIC.

Wanted To Convey 'Distress'

Kelman said the Jewish leaders "wanted to convey their distress that the cardinal did not go through the normal channels which had been established throughout the last 20 years," particularly on "such a sensitive issue. . . . Instead, he took it upon himself to choose the Jews who would be invited."

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, current IJCIC chairman and international affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, was out of the country and did not attend the meeting.

Reached after his return to New York, Tannenbaum said he had "some concern that confusion developed about the channels," through which such dialogue should occur.

He said that normally, such contacts are arranged by "Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, and IJCIC, which together have been working on these kinds of problems for about 20 years."

Michelman said that "as much as I deeply appreciated the invitation from O'Connor, and as much as I feel he was very sincere in his desire to bring Cardinal Ratzinger and Jews together, I felt that personally it was inappropriate for me to attend," because "meetings and consultations with Vatican officials are to be engaged with the consensus of IJCIC and the cooperation of the Vatican."

Rabbi A. James Rudin, AJCommittee director of interreligious affairs, who attended both the private meeting with Ratzinger and the news conference, declined to provide his assessment of the meeting.

Another IJCIC member who attended the private meeting, Judith Banki, associate director of interreligious affairs for the AJCommittee, said, "The decision to accept a private invitation graciously offered by Cardinal O'Connor didn't imply a total agreement with sentiments attributed to Cardinal Ratzinger."

Calling the exchange "helpful and constructive," Banki said she was satisfied that Ratzinger "did clarify his position on the Jews." She did not elaborate.

EGYPT SEEKS IMPROVED ARAB-ISRAEL COMMUNICATIONS, MUBARAK SAYS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told President Reagan Thursday that Egypt has refused to concede to Arab pressure to recall its ambassador to Israel because "that would not solve the problem" of unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a senior administration official said.

At the Reagan-Mubarak meeting, which lasted more than an hour, Mubarak "spoke of the need for channels of communication between the Arab world and Israel," the official said. The talks focused on the Arab-Israeli peace process and the Iran-Iraq war.

The two leaders discussed Mubarak's five ideas to encourage peace in administered territories that he unveiled last week. The official said Mubarak described the five points to U.S. officials as:

- Terminating violence in the territories for six months.
- Ceasing construction of new Jewish settlements in the territories for six months.
- Respect for fundamental and political rights of Palestinians.
- Respect for international treaties that protect Palestinian rights.
- Movement toward convening an international peace conference.

Mubarak told Secretary of State George Shultz on Wednesday that the five points are not an "integrated plan," but simply areas in which Mubarak felt progress should be made.

Reagan responded most specifically on welcoming the idea of the six-month moratorium on violence in the territories, the official said.

Reagan also mentioned that he would like to move "faster" in the peace process, but did not refer to Mubarak's other three points, the official said.

In discussing the role that an international conference might play, the presidents agreed to be "flexible" in considering issues of procedure and substance. The official said the United States is receptive to "a properly structured conference."

They did not discuss who would represent the Palestinian people at peace talks, but the official said Egypt has been calling on "the PLO to take certain moves to pull itself together." As an example, he said, "Egypt would like to see the PLO back in much better understanding with Jordan."

Aid Not Mentioned

The official said Mubarak did not suggest any cut in U.S. aid to Israel as a way of prodding it to the peace table, and said "in no sense is that what the Administration would contemplate."

He also said that Israel and Jordan are being briefed on the Reagan-Mubarak talks and emphasized that the United States and Egypt could not make great strides toward peace without the consent of other key nations in the region. He said the Reagan-Mubarak talks were not a "breakthrough."

Mubarak also invited Reagan to make a state visit to Egypt, the official said.

In the White House ceremony before their meeting, Reagan said the recent resumption of relations between various Arab countries and Israel "was a recognition that Egypt is again exerting the leadership role it has traditionally played in Arab councils."

He said "the danger of allowing the Palestinian problem to fester is evident and reinforces the urgency of moving toward negotiations."

Mubarak responded that "the continuation of occupation and oppression will bring lost hope and inflict damage on all the parties without exception. It will badly hurt American interests in the Middle East" as well frustrate peace efforts "at a time when we are looking for a breakthrough,"

he said.

He mentioned that "many governments are preoccupied this year with domestic matters and national events," an apparent reference to both U.S. and Israel elections this year that could distract attention from the peace process.

EBAN SPEAKS OUT AGAINST BEATINGS, THE OCCUPATION AND 'UGLY IDEAS'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, in a slashing attack on the government's policies in the administered territories, warned Wednesday night that the continued occupation, not external threats, pose the greatest danger to Israel in its 40th year.

"Israel has never been stronger, more secure against external assault. The major peril that faces us comes from within ourselves," from the "folly" of trying to control the territories, Eban declared in an address to an emergency conference of the New Israel Fund at the YMCA in Jerusalem.

The New Israel Fund is an umbrella organization of some 40 Jewish and Arab groups promoting peace, coexistence and religious pluralism in Israel.

Eban, a Labor Party member who chairs the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said, "I cannot disguise the grief with which I have followed events. We have come to a very low point when the image of Israel -- albeit not totally accurate -- is that of a club being wielded by an Israeli soldier, face-to-face with a Palestinian civilian."

The occupation can only be maintained through force and a belief in the superiority of one people over another, ideas alien to Jewish tradition, Eban said. "If we want to maintain our rule, we have to give up prospects of peace, of a majority Jewish state, of normal international relations and of psychological health."

Won't Say He Wants Rabin To Quit

Eban, regarded by some as the nation's "elder statesman," did not call outright for the resignation of fellow Laborite Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, author of the Israel Defense Force's "iron fist" policy in the territories.

But asked if he thought Rabin should quit, Eban told reporters after the meeting, "If I was going to ask him to resign, I would not say it in the YMCA." Nevertheless, "there must be a change in policy and rhetoric," he said.

In a statement to the Jerusalem Post last Sunday, Eban denounced the defense minister's "angry rhetoric and the wretched baton he waves."

He blasted Rabin's policy of curfews and beatings for Palestinian demonstrators. "It is an insult to intellect and morality alike to create the illusion that the beating of rioters will restore calm," Eban told the Post.

In his YMCA speech, Eban warned that "The air of Israel is alive today with ugly ideas which once were marginal, on the outward lunatic fringe, and which are now creeping more and more toward the center."

"The occupation now weighs more heavily on Israel than it does upon the Palestinians," Eban said. "Deadlock, occupation hang around our necks like a millstone. We should liberate ourselves from them within conditions compatible to our security. It would be a service to Israel."

AMIRAV SAYS HE IS RELIEVED TO BE OUT OF HERUT PARTY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Two days after Moshe Amirav quit the Herut Party, he felt relieved.

"It's like after a divorce," he said. "I have just ended a chapter in my life. Age is advancing. The bride is no longer as pretty. She complains that the bridegroom is too leftist, and he complains that she leans too far to the right."

Amirav, 42, tore up his Herut membership card Tuesday night, following 20 years in the movement. He did so after the party's High Court decided 3-2 to strip him of his seat in the Central Committee and to bar him from any other posts.

The court, chaired by Eliahu Lankin, former ambassador to South Africa, deliberated for four hours before reaching its decision. It rejected a sentence advocated by two of the judges to expel Amirav from the party altogether.

According to the charge sheet, Amirav met with people who have close ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization. It was referring to his talks last summer with Feisal Hussein, head of the Jerusalem Arab Studies Society, considered the senior PLO activist in the territories, and Dr. Sari Nusseibeh of Bir Zeit University.

Amirav also was charged with criticism of Premier Yitzhak Shamir's policies toward the peace process and with protesting outside the residence of Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon in the Old City in Jerusalem.

Amirav has never denied the charges, but he said that he met with the Palestinian personalities to advocate his own peace plan, which he argued was an extension of the autonomy plan by Menachem Begin, then the Herut leader.

Amirav charged that Shamir has led the party into "an ideological bunker with Geula Cohen and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement." Cohen is the charismatic leader of the ultranationalist settlers' movement Gush Emunim.

When reports of Amirav's contacts were first published last summer, Amirav was considered a maverick. But the picture has changed somewhat. He was recently joined by a number of people, among them the national chairman of Betar, the youth movement of Herut.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, who only recently returned to the party, took an even more extreme step earlier this month. He announced in a radio interview that he was ready to give up the territories in a final settlement. Although party leaders reacted angrily, no measures were taken against Lahat.

Amirav decided to quit the party, because he regarded the decision to strip him of his seat as a virtual expulsion. Interviewed Thursday in Yediot Achronot, he complained that others who think like him sit with their mouths shut and let Shamir be the "national stopper."

He mentioned specifically Labor and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katzav, and Knesset members Dan Meridor, Ehud Olmert, Meir Shitrit and Micha Reisser.

"I am surprised not that they did not come out in my defense, but that all think like me that Shamir is the national stopper and they just sit there quietly and don't send him home."

"Let them take anyone. Everybody else is better than Shamir," he said. "Let them take (Ariel) Sharon, (David) Levy, (Moshe) Arens, Dan

Meridor. This is a young movement. Rather than shake it, they prefer to sit quietly and soon they will make Shamir once again run for the premiership."

NEW INTERRELIGIOUS GROUP TO BACK U.S. SUPPORT OF PEACE CONFERENCE By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The formation of an American interreligious organization to advocate a greater U.S. effort toward convening an international Mideast peace conference was announced here Wednesday.

The newly created U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East includes among its officers Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, vice president of the World Jewish Congress.

"There is a growing opinion -- moderate, middle-of-the-road opinion -- in the United States which feels that the Jewish-Arab conflict has to be settled by some form of partition," Hertzberg explained in an interview. "I am here because I don't want this stream of opinion to be taken over in an anti-Israel direction."

The rabbi said his role in the group will be to "keep it on track."

The organization had been in the works for more than a year, and held its founding meeting last June in Arlington, Va.

Its executive director, Ronald Young, was Middle East representative of the American Friends Service Committee, the Quakers, from 1982 to 1985.

Besides the international conference issue, Young said the group's other basic tenets include the rights of Israel to live in peace and of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Young said the committee has held meetings in 15 cities, and that members of Congress have said the group filled a "moral vacuum."

Hertzberg, professor of religion at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., said the group will not judge past Israeli or Palestinian actions. "Otherwise the group would fall apart," he said.

The rabbi noted that the group's several hundred supporters include Imam W. Deen Muhammad, the son of Malcolm X, whom Hertzberg called the "legitimate heir to the Black Muslims" now headed by Louis Farrakhan. Hertzberg said "it's terribly important that a Black Muslim says 'I'm here' -- to be among the moderates."

Rabbi Eugene Lipman, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinic organization, is on the committee's board of directors.

Endorsing the organization are a number of prominent rabbis including Balfour Brickner and Marshall Meyer of New York and Harold Kushner of Natick, Mass.

Other endorsers are Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative rabbinic organization, and Rabbi Alexander Schindler and Albert Vorspan, president and senior vice president, respectively, of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Reform congregational organization.

'General Terms'

In an interview Wednesday, Vorspan said that for the group to remain together, it must continue: "talking in very general terms and not getting in the blame business."

Vorspan stated that the group decided early not to define certain issues specifically, such as

who should represent the Palestinian people at a peace conference.

"The Palestinians are people, too. They've got to be dealt with," Vorspan said. "I'm giving it a shot because of a terrible sense that something different has to be done."

Hertzberg, in his JTA interview, discussed his current thinking on Middle East peace formulas.

He said he supports the concept of Palestinian self-determination in the territories. "I've said since the Six-Day War (in 1967) that if we hang on to the territories they will ultimately destroy either the democratic or the Jewish character of the State of Israel."

He said he has always favored an international peace conference and emphasized that the Camp David accords were achieved not bilaterally, but as a result of a "massive amount of American cajoling" of Israel.

Hertzberg said that on the issue of an international conference, "I have every right and obligation in the world to support the views of (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres and not those of (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir."

The rabbi contended that should the PLO recognize Israel's existence and renounce the use of terror, it would have the right to belong to the peace process.

SPANISH-ISRAELI RELATIONS SUFFER FROM MEDIA BASHING By David Kantor

MADRID, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Fears are growing here that the recent improvement in Israeli-Spanish relations will fall victim to what observers see as one of the strongest anti-Israeli campaigns ever in the Spanish media.

The negative portrayal of Israel seen lately in most Western capitals goes far beyond harsh criticism in Spain. Even the most respected, mass circulation newspapers such as *El Pais* and *Diario 16* routinely equate Israelis and Nazis.

According to observers here, the situation in the administered territories seems to confirm some negative traditional Spanish stereotypes of the Jews. The Israelis, though still respected, are presented as the children of Hitler.

Spanish writers and leaders feel free to condemn Israel as a state that, in addition to its present ugly behavior, was built on expulsion and killing of Arabs in the first place. A Spanish paper recently published a cartoon showing a Hasidic Jew with two Arab children hanging in his locks of hair.

And trade union leaders who organized anti-Israel demonstrations referred to the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a new Holocaust perpetuated by the Israelis.

Bucks A Trend

All this came in the middle of a dramatic resurgence of Spanish solidarity with the Jews. Spaniards have been giving increasing attention to the history of close Spanish-Jewish cultural ties. However, Spain still is planning major events to perpetuate the memory of the old Jewish community in this country.

Friends of Israel in this country are keeping a low profile for now. "It is hardly possible to defend Israel's handling of the Gaza and West Bank riots anywhere in the world," one of them said, "and there is certainly no way you can do it here."

"We can just sit down and wait for better times."

The Israeli ambassador here, Shlomo Ben-Ami, went twice on television to try to put things in a somewhat more balanced perspective. His appearance drew a wave of protests from Arab organizations, whose supporters have easy access to television.

Israel's minister of energy, Moshe Shahal, was shown a cold shoulder during his recent visit to the national convention of the ruling Socialist Party.

The party adopted a sharp condemnation of Israel, which Shahal described as "not even-handed."

'Not The Right Time'

Not that Shahal's efforts were expected to yield immediate results. "Spaniards are certainly interested in energy projects in Israel," one official said privately, "but this is certainly not the right time to go public with any kind of cooperation with Israel."

Spain is eager to draw on the Israeli experience in using solar energy for heating and other purposes. But politically, an observer added, Spain would be wise to avoid any announcements on starting or advancing projects in Israel.

The Israelis who are competing with the French here for a \$200 million deal to modernize Spanish fighter planes display the same kind of attitude.

They have not raised the matter publicly since the unrest in the territories began last month, and they certainly hope Spain will postpone making its decision.

WOODY ALLEN SAYS HE'S 'APPALLED' BY TREATMENT OF RIOTERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Film director Woody Allen sharply criticized Israel on Thursday for the harsh measures it is using to quell the unrest in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

He called on all those who care about Israel and its future "to speak out and use every method of pressure -- moral, financial and political -- to bring this wrongheaded approach to a halt."

Writing in an op-ed piece published Thursday in *The New York Times*, the famed director said: "As a supporter of Israel, and as one who has always been outraged at the horrors inflicted on this little nation by hostile neighbors, vile terrorists and much of the world at large, I am appalled beyond measures by the treatment of the rioting Palestinians by the Jews."

Continuing, Allen ironically asked: "I mean, fellas, are you kidding? Beatings of people by soldiers to make examples of them? Breaking the hands of men and women so they can't throw stones? Dragging civilians out of their houses at random to smash them with sticks in an effort to terrorize a population into quiet?"

Allen said he has "no sympathy for the way the Arabs have treated the Israelis. Indeed, sometimes you get the feeling you want to belt them -- but only certain ones and for very specific acts."

The film director said that he "can't believe" Israel's actions. "Are these the people whose money I used to steal from those little blue-and-white cans after collecting funds for a Jewish homeland?" he asked, adding "I don't know exactly what is to be done, but I am sure pulling out my movies is again not the answer."

**U.S., ISRAEL SAID TO SEEK
END TO POLLARD SPY AFFAIR**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The United States has proposed a "package deal" to Israel that would close the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard, the American convicted of spying for Israel, Maariv reported Thursday.

A U.S. federal prosecutor secretly visited Israel recently to try to arrange a deal, which is said to involve ranking Israelis associated with Pollard.

The 33-year-old former civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy was sentenced to life imprisonment on March 4, 1987. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, is serving two concurrent five year sentences as an accomplice.

Sources close to the Pollard case say U.S. officials are willing to "close the books" in return for certain Israeli actions. According to Maariv, the Americans want Israel to fire Rafi Eitan, executive director of Israel Chemicals, one of the largest and most prestigious government-owned corporations.

U.S. officials were outraged when Eitan, the former head of the Lekem secret spy ring that employed Pollard, was appointed to the chemicals post.

At the same time, Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, indicted in absentia as a co-conspirator in the Pollard case, was promoted to command Israel's largest air base in the Negev. Sella was forced to resign when the Americans announced they would have nothing to do with the U.S.-financed base while Sella was in command.

According to Maariv, the United States also wants the extradition law altered so that Israelis who allegedly break the law in the United States can be returned to the United States from Israel to stand trial. However, the United States is said to be willing to accept an understanding whereby Israelis convicted in the United States can serve their sentences in Israeli prisons.

Israel for its part, is asking the Americans not to revoke the immunity they granted Eitan and Yossi Yagur and Irit Erb, Israel Embassy employees who fled after Pollard was arrested in 1986. In addition, Israel insists that former Chief of Staff Moshe Levy and Air Force Commander Amos Lapidot be allowed to enter the United States without fear of arrest or investigation.

The officials apparently did not discuss the fate of the Pollards, although many Israelis and Americans have joined forces in their support, contending their sentences were too harsh.

Pollard's sister, Carol Pollard, 38, is visiting Israel this week seeking support for her brother and sister-in-law. Anne Pollard has been hospitalized with complaints of a painful digestive disorder, biliary dyskinesia.

Carol Pollard met Wednesday with Justice Minister Avraham Sharir, who told her he would make every effort to alleviate the Pollards' suffering. But he stressed he could not intervene in the American judicial process.

She visited the Knesset Monday, hosted by Geula Cohen of the Tehiya Party and 20 other members who resolved to establish an informal pro-Pollard lobby. She met briefly with Speaker Shlomo Hillel.

Sources close to Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon of Herut reported that he believes Eitan's resignation from Israel Chemicals might lead to a reduction in the Pollards' sen-

tences. Sharon was instrumental in securing the high-paying job for Eitan.

Maariv reported that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Attorney General Edwin Meese III always sought to play down the Pollard affair and are now involved in efforts to bring it to a close.

The paper also suggested that the resignation last year of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger may soften Washington's determination to punish Israel. Weinberger's testimony that Pollard's espionage activities gravely compromised U.S. security was considered partly responsible for his life sentence.

**B'NAI B'RITH TO EXAMINE
SETTING UP SHOP IN THE USSR**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith International decided Thursday to take the first steps toward establishing its presence in the Soviet Union.

At the same time, a letter was released from President Reagan to Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, pledging to "continue to press the human rights question," which for him "will always be a front-burner issue."

The B'nai B'rith board of governors, meeting at its headquarters here, made the decision based on the sense that a large majority of the estimated two million Soviet Jews would likely remain there because of Soviet emigration policy.

It is believed that no Jewish organization from abroad currently has an office in the Soviet Union.

The board voted that Seymour Reich, international president, "appoint a select committee to work with its European districts and its international council towards the goal of testing glasnost and establishing B'nai B'rith's presence in Moscow."

The board resolved to call upon the Soviet Union to live up to its international responsibilities under the United Nations human rights covenants and the Helsinki Final Act and eliminate all forms of intolerance.

It further appealed for international support of efforts to win the legitimate rights of Jews from Arab states, including compensation for property and assets and emigration.

**EX-REFUSENIK LERNER ARRIVES
IN ISRAEL, AFTER 16-YEAR WAIT**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Professor Alexander Lerner, a world renowned cybernetics expert who waited 16 years for permission to leave the Soviet Union, arrived Wednesday night in Israel, intent on resuming the scientific work from which he had been barred for almost two decades.

The 74-year-old widower was accompanied by his son, Vladimir; his daughter-in-law, Tanya; and his grandchild, Julia. Also with him was his daughter, Sonya, who has lived in Israel for the past 14 years. She flew to Vienna to meet her father and accompany him home.

Lerner's two other daughters were killed during World War II when the Nazis occupied Vinnitsa, the town where they lived.

"You can understand this is a great day for me," the famous scientist told well-wishers at a reception in the Avia Hotel near Ben-Gurion

Airport.

He said that "of course" he planned to continue his work in cybernetics "in Israel and for the good of Israel." He said he has several ideas that could be put to use for the benefit of the Jewish state.

Lerner is the author of 15 scientific books which have been translated into many languages, including Chinese and Japanese. Ostracized by the Soviet scientific community, he has turned in recent years to painting.

Lerner first applied for an emigration visa in 1971, but was repeatedly refused on grounds that he possessed state secrets.

As recently as last February, Lerner and eight other refuseniks were attacked in a Moscow newspaper article. The writer said he would never be permitted to leave because he was "a bearer of state and military secrets." But a month ago, the Soviet visa office notified Lerner that he had been granted an exit permit.

He is the third prominent refusenik to arrive in Israel within a week. On Jan. 20, throngs at Ben-Gurion Airport welcomed Iosif Begun and his family, who had also waited nearly 17 years for an exit visa. Begun, 55, an electrical engineer had been refused permission on grounds that he possessed "secrets."

On Sunday, Professor Alexander Ioffe, a mathematician who first applied to emigrate 12 years ago, arrived in Israel.

In New York, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry welcomed the news of Lerner's arrival, saying it was "gratified that Professor Lerner will at last be reunited with his daughter."

However, in a prepared statement, the group went on to say: "We must bear in mind that in granting his visa, the Soviet authorities are merely living up to their human rights obligations under the Helsinki accords and other international agreements. They must now demonstrate that they have created a consistent emigration policy, without artificial barriers, such as 'security' cases, if they are to develop normal relationships with other nations of the world."

AUTHOR JERZY KOSINSKI FINALLY COMES TO ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Jerzy Kosinski, the well-known, Polish-born, Jewish author who has lived in the United States since 1957, explained here Thursday why he has never visited Israel until now.

"You don't come to Israel the way you go to any other country, for a trip," said the 55-year-old writer. "You go with the very specific notion that you are going there to encounter, not the country, really, but a part of yourself which the country may wake up in you."

Kosinski, who lost his entire family in the Holocaust, came here to address a congress on the traditions of Polish-Jewish culture.

"I kept thinking one had to select the moment for coming to Israel when technically and spiritually one should be free to remain if one would choose so," he said.

In any event, he observed, he had not really waited so long to visit the Jewish state. "In terms of our history, it is a very short time actually -- 30 years."

Kosinski said that on the plane bound for Israel, "I kept thinking that I am only 55. How

sad it is that I cannot call my parents, or my uncles or other members of my family who may be in Warsaw or in Lodz or in Krakow and say, 'Hey, guess where I am. I'm following in the footsteps of (Yehuda) Halevy. I'm in Israel.' "

'REVISIONIST' BOOKSTORES RANSACKED

PARIS, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- A group calling itself the "Jewish Organization of Combat" took credit Wednesday for ransacking two Paris bookshops, one specializing in "revisionist" texts that deny the Holocaust occurred and the other in right-wing extremist literature.

The group said it hit the shops to protest the scheduled appearance of Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far right-wing National Front Party, on a major political program to be broadcast on French television Wednesday night, the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

Many Jewish groups and organizations of former deportees and resistance fighters have protested Le Pen's appearance on the program, particularly on this anniversary.

Le Pen, in a Radio Luxembourg interview last October, dismissed the Holocaust as a mere "historic detail," but he denies he is anti-Semitic. He recently announced he will be a candidate in April's French presidential elections.

THREE TEL AVIV JUDGES CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION, BREACH OF TRUST

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Three Tel Aviv judges will stand trial before a disciplinary court for charges of corruption and breach of trust, Attorney General Yosef Harish announced Tuesday night.

The judges are Ben-Shahar Harafai and Asher Arbel of the Tel Aviv district traffic court and Aharon Cohen of the magistrates court. Their names were made public at the insistence of other judges who feared all judges would be under a cloud if the trio was not identified.

The three have taken indefinite leave after consultation with top aides and senior police officers.

Details of the cases against the judges were given Tuesday night to Justice Minister Avraham Sharir and Justice Meir Shamgar, president of the Supreme Court. The specific charges were not disclosed, but the judges apparently are not accused of taking bribes or other monetary considerations.

It was disclosed at the same time that a veteran Tel Aviv traffic court clerk, Avraham Peli, was arrested six weeks ago on charges of accepting bribes, forgery and breach of trust.

Peli, who is in custody, is awaiting trial on eight counts, Israel Radio reported Wednesday. He is accused of accepting money and other favors from defendants in exchange for giving their cases "special attention."

According to the Israel Radio report, he arranged the court calendar to ensure that certain cases would be heard by judges known for lenient sentencing policies, helped defendants draft appeals and directly and indirectly approached judges on behalf of certain defendants.

Peli and a partner, identified as Yehuda Frankel, pocketed between \$500 and \$1,000 and sometimes "even more" for their services, Israel Radio said.