

ISRAELI CONSULAR DELEGATION TO GO TO MOSCOW AFTER SUMMIT

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union will issue visas to a five-member Israeli consular delegation immediately after the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting next week, the Foreign Ministry announced here Tuesday night.

The ministry said this was promised by a ranking Soviet diplomat to an Israeli official at a meeting in Geneva on Tuesday.

The delegation will be the first Israeli diplomatic mission to the Soviet Union since Moscow broke ties with Israel 21 years ago.

A Soviet consular delegation has been in Israel since June 1987, but the Soviet authorities had refused until now to allow a reciprocal visit by Israeli representatives.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir welcomed the breakthrough. "The presence of our delegation (in Moscow) will be of the greatest importance," he said Wednesday.

According to the Foreign Ministry's announcement, the participants in the meeting in Geneva on Tuesday were Nimrod Novick, a close political adviser to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Vladimir Terasov, deputy director of the Middle East department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

A Significant Development

The two had met in Helsinki, Finland, six months ago to work out details of the agreement. As it emerged, the Israeli delegation would be handling only minor matters in Moscow.

Terasov said the visas were held up because Israel had insisted that its delegation be given the right to issue Israeli visas to Russian Jews seeking to emigrate. Apparently, that will not be permitted.

Nevertheless, Shamir considers the development significant.

"We have always wanted friendly relations with the Soviet Union, both because of its superpower status and because millions of our brethren live in the Soviet Union, and we want to talk with Moscow on their fate," he said.

The Likud leader has always been wary of Soviet intentions and opposes any role for them in the Middle East peace process.

Asked whether the decision on the visas indicated a genuine change in Soviet policy, Shamir replied, "Let's wait for the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Maybe the good news will come from it."

Possible Boost For Peres

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will hold their fourth summit meeting in Moscow from May 29 to June 2.

The Soviet move could be a political boost for Peres, Shamir's arch rival in the upcoming Israeli election campaign.

Peres has cautiously welcomed Moscow's new interest in the Middle East peace process and is prepared to accept Soviet participation in an international conference that would serve only to launch direct Israeli-Arab negotiations.

But until now, the Soviets have insisted on a larger role for the international conference.

REAGAN DEPARTS FOR MOSCOW SUMMIT WITH PLEDGE TO PUSH HUMAN RIGHTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- President Reagan left Wednesday for Helsinki en route to Moscow, for his fourth summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, with a pledge to continue pressing for improvements in the human rights policies of the Soviet Union.

Reagan said that since his first meeting with Gorbachev in 1985, he has sought to achieve a working relationship in order to make progress on human rights, as well as arms control, regional issues and bilateral exchanges.

"We have many differences, deep differences, moral differences, but we're still fellow human beings; we can still work together to keep the peace," the president said to some 1,500 persons who gathered on the White House lawn to bid him farewell.

Reagan will be in Helsinki until he goes to Moscow on Sunday for the five-day summit. American Jewish organizations, such as the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, as well as groups from other countries are in the Finnish capital to press the cause of Soviet Jewry while Reagan is there.

Rozanne Ridgway, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, said at briefing on the summit Tuesday that while Reagan is not expected to attend any events sponsored by these groups, she would do so and so may Secretary of State George Shultz.

She did not say exactly which events they would be, but she noted that the NCSJ has various activities scheduled and that the Israeli Embassy in Helsinki plans a reception for human rights groups.

The NCSJ plans to conduct hearings Thursday on Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. It also will participate in the Friday night services at the Helsinki synagogue on May 27 and will hold a silent vigil in the center of the city the next day.

The UCSJ, together with the SSSJ and the London-based Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, will conduct prayer vigils, hold a mock trial of "glasnost" (Gorbachev's policy of openness) and march on the Soviet Embassy.

Soviet Improvements Noted

In his departure statement, Reagan said that some "concrete steps" have been taken by the Soviet Union to improve the human rights situation.

"Levels of emigration have risen, some political and religious prisoners have been released, and a number of divided families have been reunited," Reagan said.

He also noted a Soviet "pledge that some restrictions on the right to worship have been removed."

But the president stressed, "I will press to see that the positive trends I mentioned continue and the reforms are made permanent."

"We certainly welcome the recent signs of Soviet progress toward greater freedom of religion, greater freedom of speech, greater freedom

of movement," he said.

"There have been indications that this progress may be written into Soviet law and regulations so that it can be a more permanent part of Soviet life. We will be doing all we can to encourage just that."

At her briefing, Ridgway said that there was no formal agenda yet for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks.

But she said that she was sure that the first item would be human rights, as it was at Geneva, Reykjavik and Washington, the site of the three previous summits. She also said the issue would come up throughout the talks.

Human Rights First On Agenda

"When the president and the general secretary meet, the first subject the president raises is human rights," Ridgway said.

"And I can just tell you that I have every reason to believe that's going to be the same this time. And indeed, the last time it was also the first subject that the general secretary spoke about."

In his remarks Wednesday, the president mentioned only briefly the hope that the Soviets would support his administration's Middle East peace initiative.

It calls for an international conference that would set the stage for negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The Soviets have proposed that the conference be involved in negotiating a settlement.

"We'll urge the Soviets to help move the Middle East peace process closer to a just and lasting solution," Reagan said.

LAWMAKERS URGE REAGAN TO RAISE WALLENBERG CASE WITH GORBACHEV By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- Seventy-seven members of the U.S. House of Representatives have written to President Reagan, asking him to urge Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the upcoming summit in Moscow to finally reveal what happened to Raoul Wallenberg.

The letter, initiated by Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), called Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who is credited with saving 100,000 Jews in Hungary from the Nazis during World War II, "the last hero of the Holocaust."

Reagan also was urged to ask Gorbachev to allow Wallenberg's family to come to the Soviet Union, in order to investigate his fate.

Wallenberg went to Hungary in July 1944, at the request of the U.S. War Refugees Board to help Hungarian Jews. But after the Red Army moved into Budapest in January 1945, he was arrested.

The Soviets have since claimed that he died in 1947. However, there have been repeated reports that he was seen alive in Soviet labor camps.

"Our nation has a special responsibility to find out what happened to Raoul Wallenberg," the letter said.

"It is American sponsorship which apparently led the Soviets to erroneously believe that Wallenberg was on a spy mission in Budapest."

The lawmakers added that when Reagan signed a congressional resolution in 1981 granting Wallenberg honorary U.S. citizenship, it "committed the U.S. government to ongoing efforts to determine Wallenberg's fate."

ISRAEL, U.S. INK PACT CALLING FOR AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- Israel and the United States signed a \$5.6 million cooperative agreement Wednesday to provide Israeli training and technical assistance to developing countries.

The agreement implements a section of the April 21 Memorandum of Agreement between the two governments, which calls for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the division of international cooperation in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs -- Mashav in Hebrew -- to "meet periodically to coordinate and facilitate, as appropriate, programs of cooperative assistance to developing countries."

Ran Kuriel, a counselor at the Israeli Embassy, said the two countries have held yearly consultations on Third World issues beginning in 1985 at the initiative of then Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Lawrence Eagleburger, and David Kimche, then director general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said that before 1985, there was minimal Third World cooperation, but that in the past three years, \$12 million had been provided to Israel under "ad hoc" agreements to aid countries in the Caribbean, Central America and Africa.

The agreement was signed by Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad and Alan Woods, administrator of the Agency for International Development. Under the agreement, AID will provide \$4.5 million and Israel will provide \$1.1 million this fiscal year for Israel to administer projects in 17 countries.

The projects include food production, natural resources management and rural and community development in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Near East, as well as technical training in Israel.

Recipients of the training include countries that don't have diplomatic relations with Israel. Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) told the 40 people attending the ceremony. They are believed to be African countries that broke diplomatic relations with Israel at the time of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Arad, who started his government career in the Mashav, said that through the program, 60,000 people have received training in developing nations from 10,000 Israelis.

LABOR PLAN FOR SEPARATE MUNICIPAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS IS ADOPTED By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- The Labor Party scored a victory when the Knesset voted 59-45 Wednesday in favor of its proposal to hold separate national and municipal elections.

Israelis have always voted concurrently for Knesset lists and local lists. This year they will cast ballots for the next Knesset on Nov. 1, when the term of the present Knesset expires, but will vote for mayors and town council members six months later.

Labor politicians believe separate elections will be to their party's advantage by allowing voters to concentrate on national issues. Likud opposed the idea, but was unable to get its right-wing allies to oppose Labor's move.

Likud's initiative to advance the date of the Knesset elections also seems to be going nowhere.

**ARMY CHIEF TERMS ISRAELI ROLE
MINIMAL IN CLASH WITH HEZBOLLAH**
By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Dan Shomron minimized the IDF's role Wednesday in the latest clash with Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

Speaking at a Foreign Press Association luncheon here, Shomron also said IDF policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been much less harsh than those employed by Western powers trying to suppress similar uprisings.

The chief of staff said there was no truth to foreign media reports that from 2,000 to 4,000 Israeli troops were involved in a new incursion into Lebanon.

He said the IDF gave only "limited" support to its allied South Lebanon Army, which undertook a search mission Wednesday to oust Hezbollah units from Lueza village, just north of the southern Lebanon security zone.

He said the pro-Iranian Shiite extremist group, whose name means "Party of God," took over Lueza. The SLA moved to clear them out and had "limited" IDF artillery and tank fire from inside the security zone, Shomron said.

He admitted, however, that at one point Israeli air force jets precision-bombed three terrorist targets in the village.

But IDF participation was a far cry from the massive air, ground and naval assaults it undertook two weeks ago against Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorists in southern Lebanon. Three IDF soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in that operation. There were no Israeli casualties in Wednesday's support action.

Shomron noted that Hezbollah is now engaged in a violent struggle with the mainstream Shiite militia, Amal, for control of Moslem West Beirut. The Israelis favor Amal, which has no equivalent to Hezbollah's fanatical terrorist band, known as Islamic Jihad (Holy War).

Harsher Steps More Effective

In his address to the foreign correspondents, Shomron said it would have been possible to restore order in the West Bank and Gaza Strip much more quickly had Israel resorted to measures taken by Western powers.

"Other countries, Western and others, which have experienced in the past this type of violent struggle have acted very decisively and with very harsh, oppressive measures, in order to reduce their level," Shomron said.

"The experience of those countries proves that harsh measures do, indeed, in the short term, reduce the level of violence. But in this type of activity, one sows the seeds of disaster in the long term," the chief of staff said.

He cited as examples the French experiences in Algeria and New Caledonia, and the American and French experiences in Vietnam. Those countries are not the West Bank, "which is in our own backyard, and even inside our own house," the general said.

The IDF adopted less severe measures also, he said, because "we hope to find partners for negotiations among the local leadership in the West Bank and Gaza."

Shomron said the IDF had the feeling that the foreign press coverage of the West Bank uprising has been unfair, because it has concentrated on the scenes and acts of violence, neglecting the far larger areas where quiet prevailed.

NEW DISTURBANCES ERUPT IN WEST BANK
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- Disturbances erupted anew in the West Bank on Wednesday. An Arab resident of the Nur es-Shams refugee camp, near Tulkarm, was wounded by Israel Defense Force soldiers who entered the camp to break up a demonstration.

Military sources said the soldiers were attacked by stones and bottles, and were forced to open fire to extricate themselves. The IDF is investigating the incident.

Curfews were imposed on the Daheishe refugee camp, near Bethlehem, and the Jalazoun camp, near Ramallah, after demonstrations there.

A gasoline bomb set an Israeli taxi afire Wednesday afternoon between the Arab village of Sur Bahir and the Israeli neighborhood East Talpilot in Jerusalem. No one was hurt.

A general strike was observed Wednesday by Arabs throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip to mark the 40th day since the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, the second in command of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He was gunned down April 16 in a commando raid on his villa in suburban Tunis. Israeli agents are widely suspected of the killing. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement.

SETTLER CHARGED IN SHOOTING OF ARAB
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- A West Bank Jewish settler was charged in court Wednesday with unnecessarily shooting an Arab to death and wounding another in a skirmish near Shiloh on May 5.

The victim, a shepherd from Turmus Aiya village, was accosted by the accused, Yisrael Zeev, who ordered him and three other Arabs to leave a field belonging to Shiloh, where they were grazing their sheep.

According to the charge sheet, Zeev fired into the air. One of the shepherds allegedly cried out "Yisrael, don't shoot, we are leaving." But Zeev continued to shoot, killing one shepherd and wounding another.

If convicted, he could face up to 20 years in prison. His lawyer, pointing out that Zeev was sent by the settlement's security officer to oust the Arabs from the field, said the incident might have been a mistake.

If it was, it was "honest and reasonable" because the defendant believed he was protecting women and children when he shot the shepherds, the lawyer told the court.

ISRAELI EXPORTS BEING SOLD IN LEBANON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA) -- An enterprising Lebanese living in Israel is operating a regular oceangoing cargo service between Haifa and the Beirut area, Davar reported Wednesday.

The three small vessels owned by Amin Haj, a Shiite merchant who makes his home in Nahariya, carry Israeli agricultural products to Lebanon. From there, some of them reach other Arab countries that officially boycott Israel, Davar said.

About 90 percent of the cargo carried originates in Israel and has an estimated value of several million dollars annually. Lebanese produce accounts for 10 percent of the freight.

GERMAN EMBEZZLEMENT CASE FOCUSES ON SECRETARY OF JEWISH COUNCIL

By David Kantor

BONN, May 25 (JTA) -- Alexander Ginsburg, the suspended secretary of the Central Council of Jews in West Germany, has become the focal point of investigations into the apparent embezzlement of some \$12 million of funds intended for Nazi victims.

The theft has been charged to the late Werner Nachmann, who for 22 years was president of the Central Council, the umbrella organization of West German Jewry, until his death at age 62 on Jan. 21.

Ginsburg was the only community officer apart from Nachmann who had access to the reparations account.

A lawyer handling Nachmann's estate said he wrote a letter to Ginsburg in January about Nachmann's theft and provided further information at a long meeting with him later.

But Ginsburg did not pass the information on to members of the Central Council or to the Finance Ministry in Bonn, which paid monies into the reparations accounts controlled by Nachmann and Ginsburg.

Money Transferred To Wife

The estate lawyer also confirmed Tuesday that before his death, Nachmann transferred 30,000 marks (some \$17,500) in reparations money to the account of Ginsburg's wife.

Ginsburg has denied any knowledge of Nachmann's alleged wrongdoing or complicity.

The embezzled money was the interest earned on some \$238 million provided by the Bonn government from 1980 to 1987. It was to be used to compensate Jewish victims of Nazism from Eastern Europe who arrived in West Germany after the 1965 deadline for filing reparations claims.

Upon approval of their applications by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the persecutees would receive a one-time payment of 5,000 marks, about \$3,000.

The Bundestag's budget committee has opened its own investigation into the scandal.

Bundestag Member Critical

Klaus Rose of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, who is deputy chairman of the committee, charged Tuesday that the Bonn Finance Ministry apparently had "blind confidence" in Nachmann's management of the reparations account.

Investigators have questioned why the Finance Ministry deposited money into the account before it was ready for disbursement.

Seven payments were made between 1980 and 1987 to the Central Council's account in the Bank fuer Gemeinwirtschaft in Karlsruhe, Rose reported.

From there, Nachmann transferred it to another of the council's accounts in the Karlsruhe branch of a French bank, Societe Generale Alsacienne.

The reparations money allocated up to last year was insufficient to provide payments to all of the 100,000 Jewish persecutees who had applied.

While the government was considering an additional allocation, it asked Nachmann for a full accounting of how the original sum was used. He failed to offer a satisfactory response.

KOSINSKI, OTHERS BACK ISRAEL AT WRITERS AND ARTISTS FORUM

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- Novelist Jerzy Kosinski abandoned his role as moderator of a Middle East peace debate to make an uncharacteristically strong statement of identification with Israel, based on his Jewish roots and his experience as a Holocaust survivor.

As a result, Kosinski swung a panel of writers who were meeting to discuss the unrest in the administered territories firmly to the right.

"When it comes to being a Jew or Israeli, I can't be reasonable," Kosinski told audience members at a public forum sponsored by Writers & Artists for Peace in the Middle East, at New York's Park Avenue Armory.

"I have seen in four years of my life one-third of all those who I could feasibly call on gone. So it was with all but two of my family members."

Kosinski said that Israel had demonstrated "an extraordinary state of restraint" in controlling the rioting by Palestinian Arabs. He described the riots as "a continuation of riots that took place in 1920 and 1929 -- basically old hat."

Among the three principle speakers, only Letty Pogrebin, a leading feminist writer and editor of Ms. magazine, advanced a position sympathetic to Israelis who favor a "territory for peace" solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Pogrebin's views backing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and an independent Palestinian state were contrary to those of both William Phillips, a professor of English at Boston University and editor of Partisan Review, and Dr. David Sidorsky, professor of philosophy at Columbia University.

A Continuation Of War

According to Phillips, the unrest "is not an uprising by a minority group fighting or protesting for its rights," but rather a "war, a continuation of a long war between Israel and its Arab neighbors."

In addition, he said, the war "is not really being fought on the West Bank, but American television."

Sidorsky said the Palestinian unrest was only one aspect of the larger Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is a painful but realistic choice" to deemphasize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in favor of seeking peace with neighboring Arab countries, said Sidorsky.

Pogrebin's address took the form of a denial of a series of "can'ts," starting with an assertion that "Israel has no one to talk to" and ending with "we need the territories for security."

These "can't" statements, said Pogrebin, are "calcified barriers to the truth" and have become "loyalty statements" in the Jewish community.

According to participants, Pogrebin was disappointed that Kosinski failed in his role as moderator to insure a fair debate. She could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Novelist and essayist Cynthia Ozick, who chaired the event, acknowledged in an interview Wednesday that Kosinski took "a rather weak position as a moderator," but said his remarks were otherwise a "landmark, milestone event."

It seems "very, very important that he, after finding it too difficult for a long while, found it necessary to make a declaration of the importance of Israel after the Holocaust," she said.