

## HALT IN ISSUING VISAS IN MOSCOW MAY BE TRAGIC, SAY JEWISH GROUPS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA) -- Calling the move "potentially tragic," three American Jewish groups active in Soviet Jewish emigration reacted with surprise and dismay Friday to the decision by the American Embassy in Moscow to temporarily stop issuing refugee visas to Soviet citizens.

The three groups -- the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, HIAS and the Council of Jewish Federations -- issued a strongly worded joint statement that said the suspension must stop at once.

"The U.S. government must immediately find the funds to reinstate the activities of its Moscow Embassy," the statement read. "This can be done either by a transfer of unused funds from other sources, or by a supplemental appropriation by Congress."

Phil Saperia, assistant executive vice president of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, said Friday that between 150 and 180 Soviet Jews will be affected by the short-term policy, which went into effect Monday and will last until Sept. 30, the end of the 1988 fiscal year.

Those affected, he said, are already in the "pipeline," having made their requests for U.S. invitations.

Saperia said it is difficult to pinpoint how many it will impact in the future, since "we don't know in advance how many people will go to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow."

The majority of Soviet Jews, Saperia said, will not be affected by the visa stoppage, since those who enter the United States each year are processed in Rome, not in the Soviet Union.

Those emigrants use Israeli visas to leave the Soviet Union, and then change course in Vienna.

### 150 Used U.S. Visas This Year

Saperia said that of the 3,630 Soviet Jews who entered the United States in 1987 with assistance from HIAS, 84 of them left the Soviet Union on U.S. letters of invitation.

About 150 Jews have left the Soviet Union on U.S. invitations so far this year. In 1986, 28 Soviet Jews left on U.S. letters of invitation, Saperia said.

HIAS assists virtually all Soviet Jews entering this country.

The joint statement issued Friday said that the U.S. position on human rights and Soviet emigration "has been inspirational to people who yearn for freedom throughout the world," and that the U.S. government must therefore "not do anything which could compromise this position, even as a temporary measure."

The statement was issued after leaders of the three groups met in New York on Friday morning to discuss the new development. Participants in the meeting included Myrna Shinbaum, acting executive director of NCSJ; Ben Zion Leuchter, president of HIAS; and Carmi Schwartz, executive vice president of CJF.

The new State Department visa policy stems from a surge in requests by Soviet citizens, primarily Armenians.

At the State Department Friday, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow could no longer meet the demand for letters of invitation. She said that under a budget agreement with Congress, the department could not ask for additional funds for the program this fiscal year.

### Upsurge In Refugees

Congress had allocated \$119.5 million to the State Department this fiscal year to help bring refugees worldwide to the United States.

"The United States government (is) sympathetic to the families who have been affected by this delay in refugee processing at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow," Oakley said.

This fiscal year, the State Department had planned to issue invitations to about 68,500 refugees worldwide, Oakley said. But that number was increased to 83,500, because of the surge in applications from Soviet refugees, particularly Armenians.

About 9,500 Soviet refugees were invited this fiscal year, which Oakley noted was "substantially larger" than the 1,800 Soviet refugees receiving U.S. letters of invitation in 1987.

(JTA reporter Yitzhak Rabi in New York contributed to this story.)

## ISRAEL ORDERS 10 MORE DEPORTED; THREE DIE IN WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities on Friday afternoon ordered the expulsion of 10 Palestinian activists -- six from the West Bank and four from the Gaza Strip -- who they described as key figures in the Arab uprising.

Announcement of the deportation orders was followed by a stormy weekend of violence that left three Palestinians dead and 31 wounded in confrontations with Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Both territories were paralyzed over the weekend by a two-day general strike marking the end of the seventh month of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising that began last Dec. 9.

The Israel Defense Force clamped curfews on several towns and refugee camps after bloody rioting. A Palestinian was fatally wounded Sunday at the Askar refugee camp, near Nablus.

An IDF patrol came under a hail of stones by a mob of Palestinian youths in the camp and opened fire on them. Two other Palestinians were killed in similar incidents, one in the West Bank village of Tubas, near Nablus, and the other in the Jabalya refugee camp, in the Gaza Strip.

The general strike, called for last week in "Communique No. 21" issued by the Palestinian underground leadership, was fully observed. Commerce, schools and public transportation in the territories were shut down completely Saturday and Sunday.

The Palestinians facing deportation have the right to appeal to a military review board and if that fails, to the Supreme Court. Several recent deportees waived that right on grounds that the military tribunals and the high court rarely, if ever, reverse deportation orders. But according to some reports, all 10 have decided to appeal.

The Israeli authorities maintain that expulsion is "the most effective sanction against trouble-makers" and have made clear they will continue to use it.

The 10 deportees, accused by military sources of membership in terrorist organizations active in the uprising, were identified Sunday.

They are Luai Abdo, 33, of Nablus, a journalist; Fathi Shakaki, 35, of Rafah, a pharmacist; Radwan Siadeh, 31, of Hebron, a union activist; Samir Sbeihat, 34, of El-Birch, a journalist; Mursi Awciiah, 21, and Jamal Abu Latifa, 31, both of the Kalandiya refugee camp, near Jerusalem, and both local leaders of Shabiba, the Palestinian youth movement; Mohammad Labadi, 33, of El-Birch, a union activist; and Ahmad Abu Mailak, 29, of Gaza, Mohammad Jarabli, 45, and Yusri al-Hamas, 36, all identified as members of Al Fatah, the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

#### **SHAMIR RUMORED TO HAVE RECEIVED AND REJECTED PEACE OFFER FROM PLO** By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir refused to confide to the Cabinet on Sunday the contents of a message he received from President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania.

His silence on the matter raised speculation that the message was a proposal for peace talks from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

It was conveyed privately to Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Friday by Ceausescu's personal envoy, Konstantin Metea.

Responding to queries from other ministers Sunday, Shamir said he was not at liberty to divulge information because the Romanian president had asked that the message be treated discreetly.

Israeli sources said it was an offer for direct peace talks from the Palestine Liberation Organization, aimed at an autonomy-style interim arrangement in the administered territories.

The sources said both ministers rejected it, Shamir politely but emphatically.

Peres was reported to have said that Israel will talk to the inhabitants of the territories but would not negotiate with "terror organizations."

The sources said that Ceausescu, having recently hosted PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Bucharest, wanted to assure Shamir and Peres that the PLO was ready for talks with Israel on interim arrangements before an international peace conference.

The PLO proposal was said to be similar to the document written last month by PLO spokesman Bassam Abu-Sharif suggesting direct negotiations with Israel. While Arafat has never publicly endorsed that document, after it gained worldwide attention he was quoted as saying that the United States "ought now to make a gesture toward the PLO."

#### **ALLIANCE TIRE FACTORY WORKERS STAGE RAUCOUS DEMONSTRATIONS** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA) -- Security guards, bolstered by a large police force, took up positions around the bankrupt Alliance tire factory in Hadera on Sunday to prevent violence between striking workers encamped outside and some 200 managers and supervisors in the plant.

Sunday was the deadline set by a Tel Aviv

district court for the official receiver, Amram Blum, to liquidate the ailing business, unless the strikers returned to their jobs.

The 1,100 employees have refused to work under Blum, who has proposed to dismiss 20 percent of the work force and cut the wages of those remaining by 15 percent.

The strikers staged raucous demonstrations all over the country last week to protest the receiver's plans. Hundreds of them, with their families, set up camp outside the factory over the weekend.

Police unrolled barbed wire around the perimeter fence to keep the strikers away from the plant, while about 200 managerial staff and foremen were bused in under heavy guard to try to start the production line.

They proved to be too few for the job. By noon, police were attempting to extricate them from the factory, while the strikers outside demanded that the "scabs" be forced to remain in the besieged building.

The confrontation has an ironic twist. The striking workers are members of Histadrut, Israel's trade union federation. The Alliance Tire Co. is owned by Koor Industries, a giant holding company owned by Histadrut.

Koor, which last week reported a \$250 million loss for 1987, put the money-losing Alliance factory into receivership. It is trying to sell off or liquidate those of its nearly 300 enterprises that consistently fail to pay their way and must be bailed out by the profitable members of the conglomerate.

The Alliance factory has had severe operating losses because of labor strife and a falling off of orders. But liquidation will mean a loss of more than 1,000 jobs, most of them in Hadera. The town's economy has depended to a large extent on the tire factory.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar met Sunday with the heads of Koor and Hevrat Haovdim, Histadrut's economic and financial holding company, to try to find a way out of the impasse.

During the past month, Koor has divested itself of two other troubled companies in which it held controlling interest. It sold 70 percent of its shares in Yuval Gad, which manufactures prefabricated homes, and 50 percent of its holdings in the Tambour paint factory.

#### **ISRAEL IDENTIFIES 'GIFTED' CHILDREN**

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA) -- One percent of all school children in Israel have been identified as "gifted" and are enrolled in special classes to make the most of their talents, the Education Ministry reported Sunday.

The youngsters especially proficient in the sciences or arts were discovered as a result of tests administered by the Szold Institute, which the Education Ministry commissioned for the purpose.

#### **ALIYAH VIA THE HIGH SEAS**

TEL AVIV, (JTA) -- Alexander and Luba Berman, a Soviet Jewish couple who received exit visas, are not taking the plane or train to Israel. They plan to sail there in an 18-foot yacht, due to leave Riga, on the Baltic Sea, on or about July 25. The Bermans plan a leisurely cruise around the Mediterranean by way of Gibraltar before docking in Haifa a few months from now.

**BRITISH ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDIS  
TRIGGERS DEEP CONCERN IN ISRAEL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA) -- Israeli officials are deeply concerned over a multibillion-dollar arms deal between Britain and Saudi Arabia, announced Friday in London.

The deal, estimated to be worth between \$34 billion and \$36 billion, was discussed at the Cabinet meeting Sunday. Premier Yitzhak Shamir promised a more extensive, secret review by the 10-member Inner Cabinet later this week.

The high-technology weaponry that the deal will put in Saudi hands is one cause of anxiety. Another is adverse repercussions in the United States.

The activities of the powerful Israel lobby in Washington are blamed for Congress' veto of administration proposals to sell similar weapons systems to Saudi Arabia, thereby depriving American arms manufacturers of lucrative sales.

The Israeli government issued a low-key statement before the Cabinet met saying the arms sale would "not contribute to stability" in the Middle East.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said in a Sunday morning radio interview that Israel learned of the Anglo-Saudi deal only when it was announced.

He noted that it was a follow-up to arms package contracts the British signed with the Saudis in 1986.

The latest package includes 50 Tornado fighter planes -- in addition to 72 sold the Saudis earlier -- dozens of Hawk jet training aircraft, Black Hawk helicopters, minesweepers and the construction of two air bases by British engineers in Saudi Arabia.

**Cabinet Members Disagree**

Two aviation experts in the Cabinet clashed during the meeting over the capabilities of the Tornado aircraft and whether it poses a threat to Israel.

Moshe Arens of Likud, an aeronautical engineer by training, said it was the best warplane of its kind for low-level operations.

Laborite Ezer Weizman, a former Air Force commander, called the plane a "flying piano." Both men are former defense ministers and now serve as ministers without portfolio.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a military expert in his own right, said the Tornado was a superb bomber, but not so good for interception.

Rabin took sharp issue with Arens for saying that the British arms deal with the Saudis should prompt Israel to reconsider its own Lavi jet fighter project, which was scrapped last year at Washington's insistence because of excessive costs.

Rabin said Israel should not pour its resources into one aircraft when it should be trying to develop or acquire a variety of sophisticated weapons systems.

**A Blow To U.S. Influence**

But it was Weizman who expressed the worries of many Israelis when he suggested that it might have been counterproductive for Israel to have pressured the U.S. Congress to prevent the sale of American arms to the Saudis.

Ben-Aharon defended Israel's lobbying activities. He said an American-Saudi arms deal of such proportions would involve ongoing service,

political commitment and sharing of military strategies, relationships Israel does not want to see growing between Washington and Saudi Arabia.

But Reagan administration officials view the British deal as a blow to American diplomatic and economic influence in the Middle East. Britain will be replacing the United States as the Saudis' principal arms supplier.

In Washington, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "When we deem it as appropriate and necessary to provide weapons to our allies and friends in the world, we need to be very careful before we reject them too easily."

He added, "This is a \$30 billion loss that American companies might well be slightly upset about."

At the State Department, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said "We think it does hurt our American interests. We think our interests are better served when we can sell legitimate self-defense items to friendly Arab countries."

**SENATE BLOCKS SALE OF MISSILES  
TO KUWAIT, SABOTAGING ARMS DEAL**  
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA) -- In an effort to block the Reagan administration's proposed \$1.9 billion arms sale of F/A-18 fighter planes and missiles to Kuwait, the Senate voted Thursday to bar the administration from following through on one component of that package, the sale of 300 Maverick "G" air-to-ground missiles.

The measure, attached to the 1989 Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill and co-sponsored by Sens. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), is retroactive to July 6 and would be in effect until Sept. 30, 1989, the end of the 1989 fiscal year.

The House version of the foreign aid bill, which was approved May 25, does not contain a similar provision, so a House-Senate conference committee will have to negotiate on whether to retain the ban.

Reacting to the move, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said, "This action overlooks the consequences of this ban, which denies the sale of F-18 aircraft, because the plane will not be effective without the missile."

Oakley added that it creates confusion about U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf.

Rep. Larry Smith (D-Fla.), who plans to introduce a resolution in the House of Representatives July 13 to block the entire sale, circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter Thursday asking for co-sponsors.

As of Friday afternoon, it had been signed by 82 lawmakers, including Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Calif.), the House majority whip.

A Capitol Hill source said the Mavericks are the most objectionable component of the \$1.9 billion package, because the Maverick "G" missiles are more advanced than the 1,600 Maverick "D" missiles that the administration proposed to sell to Saudi Arabia in 1987.

That proposal was withdrawn because of widespread congressional opposition.

Bahrain, another Persian Gulf state, has received about \$14 million worth of Maverick "D" missiles. That deal went through without opposition, since all military sales of \$14 million or less do not require the consent of Congress.

**ISRAELI COUPLE INDICTED IN U.S.  
IN MAIL-BOMB CASE LINKED TO JDL**  
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, July 10 (JTA) -- An American couple living in Israel have been indicted by a federal grand jury in a case linked to the mail-bomb deaths of an Arab activist and a suspected Nazi war criminal.

The couple, Robert and Rochelle Manning, who both hold dual American and Israeli citizenship, have been charged with mailing an explosive device with intent to kill.

Rochelle Manning, 48, was arrested last month as she arrived with her two children at Los Angeles International Airport, while Robert Manning, 36, remained in the family home at Kiryat Arba. The Jewish settlement near Hebron is known as one of the most militant in the West Bank.

According to federal officials, the Mannings conspired in 1980 to mail a bomb, disguised as a "new invention," to the head of the Prowest Computer Corp. in Los Angeles. When the "invention" was plugged into an electric outlet, it exploded, killing Patricia Wilkerson, a secretary at the company. No motive has been given for the alleged crime.

At the same time, six present and former members of the Jewish Defense League have been subpoenaed by the grand jury in the case, JDL officials told reporters.

Several of the subpoenaed JDL officials charged that the grand jury was on a "fishing expedition" to smoke out evidence linking the Mannings to three other bomb cases in the United States, all dating back to 1985.

**Arab Activist And Suspected Nazis**

Victims in the three, so far unsolved cases were:

- \* Alex Odeh, regional director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, who died when a bomb exploded in his office in Santa Ana, Calif., on Oct. 11, 1985. The Los Angeles Times quoted FBI officials as saying that the Manning couple and three other persons living in Israel are suspects in the Odeh slaying.

- \* Tschirim Soobzokov, an alleged wartime member of the Waffen SS, who was killed in August 1985 by a bomb planted in his home in Patterson, N.J.

- \* Elmars Sprogis, an alleged wartime police chief in Latvia, who escaped injury when a bomb exploded in September 1985 outside his house in Brentwood, N.Y.

The Mannings, as well as other suspects living in Kiryat Arba, were described by federal officials as former JDL members and currently ardent followers of Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the extremist right-wing Kach Party in Israel.

In New York, the Village Voice reported that former JDL members Andy Green and Keith Fuchs are also suspects in the Odeh slaying.

Former JDL officials summoned to testify before the grand jury are Barry Krugel and Steve Samson. Four others have been subpoenaed to supply photographs, fingerprints and palm prints. They are Louise Solomon, Leah Krugel, Earl Krugel and Bruce Derflinger.

Rochelle Manning is being held without bail. Robert Manning has gone into seclusion at his Kiryat Arba home, the Los Angeles Times reported. U.S. authorities have not asked for his extradition from Israel.

**POLLARD GOES ON HUNGER STRIKE  
PROTESTING JAIL CONDITIONS**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, July 10 (JTA) -- Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, went on a hunger strike at the federal penitentiary in Marion, Ill., Thursday night, members of his family told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Friday.

Carol Pollard said that her brother called her Thursday night and informed her of his hunger strike. "This is the only means I have to call attention to my situation," she quoted her brother as saying.

Jonathan Pollard's father-in-law, Bernard Henderson, said Pollard went on strike to call attention to his deteriorating conditions in prison and to the precarious situation of the health of his wife, Anne Pollard, who is serving a five-year sentence as an accessory to her husband.

Anne Pollard, who is imprisoned in a correctional institution in Rochester, Minn., suffers from a rare gastrointestinal disorder, which causes her a great deal of pain and, according to her family, endangers her life. She does not receive proper medical care, her father charged.

According to Henderson and Carol Pollard, Jonathan Pollard wants to protest the fact that his lawyer has not been able to represent him, and the fact that all his outgoing mail has been recently confiscated and not sent out.

Henderson said that the government prevents attorney Alan Dershowitz from representing Pollard by requesting the lawyer sign a document that bars him from disclosing any information he obtains in Pollard's defense.

Carol Pollard said her brother will only drink water during his hunger strike. Asked for how long he intends to strike, she said he told her he will go "until the end" until both he and his wife "get some relief."

**EAST GERMAN COURT IMPOSES STIFF  
SENTENCES ON CEMETERY VANDALS**  
By David Kantor

BONN, July 10 (JTA) -- An East Berlin court has imposed stiff sentences on young, anti-Semitic vandals, further fueling the belief that East Germany is trying to demonstrate good will toward Jewish communities worldwide, and especially in the United States, with whom East Germany wants desperately to improve trade relations.

Five unidentified youths were given prison terms Monday ranging from two-and-a-half to six years. The West German press described the sentencing as extremely severe.

The five were found guilty of desecrating the Jewish cemetery at Prenzlauerberg, where 222 gravestones were overturned.

According to East German press reports, the vandals gathered regularly at the cemetery to display Nazi symbols and discuss fascist ideas.

The East German youth publication, Junge Welt, condemned the desecrations in notably harsh language.

East Berlin is expecting a visit from a World Jewish Congress delegation this month, to discuss possible reparations for Jewish Holocaust victims.

East German leader Erich Honecker has made allusions to possible restitution, in the belief that it will help East Germany receive most-favored-nation trade status with the United States.