ISRAEL LAUNCHES TEST SATELLITE, BECOMING EIGHTH NATION IN SPACE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 19 (JTA) - Israel successfully launched a small test satellite Monday morning, becoming the eighth country in the world capable of sending an object into orbit.

The satellite, dubbed "Ofek (Horizon) One," was lofted into space by an Israeli-made rocket at 11:32 a.m. local time. The launch site was not disclosed.

The satellite entered into what was described as a "low elliptical orbit, circling the globe from east to west once every 90 minutes," at distances ranging from 155 to 620 miles.

Ofek is expected to have a life span of about one month. The time will be used to test its solar energy power plant, its ability to transmit data and its responses to orders from earth, officials here said.

They stressed it was not a "spy satellite," contrary to reports in the foreign news media that have been predicting for the past two weeks that Israel would soon launch one.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir praised the scientific and technological community for designing, building and launching the satellite. He noted it places Israel among the few countries capable of such a feat.

He stressed that the satellite would have no effect on the regional arms race, but does put Israel into the "technological race." With the launching, it has gained an important prestige advantage, he said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed that the Ofek launching was not a military move. He observed that "the problem is not one of borders or the level of our technological prowess, but of the tension and hatred in this region."

‘The World Of Tomorrow’

The launching cast a spotlight on another political figure, Professor Yuval Ne’eman of Tel Aviv University, an internationally prominent physicist who is leader of the ultranationalist party Teshiyah.

Ne’eman, who also heads Israel’s space agency, was sought out by reporters Monday. He described the launch as "very clean," without any problems.

Ne’eman said the test satellite will be followed by a scientific satellite. He said decisions will be made about which of a series of proposed scientific experiments will be carried out by future satellites.

"This is an important step which takes Israel into the world of tomorrow," Ne’eman said.

He noted that satellites are now a multibillion-dollar business serving global communications and a wide variety of other purposes.

"Till now, we have had to buy satellite time -- to pick up TV pictures from the Seoul Olympics every night. We may soon be able to sell it," the scientist said.

Ne’eman also referred to media rumors of an Israeli spy satellite. He said they were a likely conclusion. Considering "that we have defense and security problems, they put two and two together."

He admitted that there is a "defense aspect" to the satellite launching. That is a matter to be discussed in the future by the competent authorities, Ne’eman said.

The spy satellite rumors were fueled by the secrecy that surrounded Monday's launch. Until Ofek was successfully on the way to orbit, officials here refused to comment. The Cabinet, which met Sunday, did not refer to the matter in the public statement issued by Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein.

Spy Satellite Too Costly

Ne’eman himself had dismissed the reports as "more like science fiction tales and far from reality."

Israel’s space scientists say the theoretical capacity exists to build and launch a high-altitude spy satellite, but the costs may be too much for Israel to bear.

A low-altitude orbiter would be cheaper, but of limited military value, the scientists say. It would cover only a narrow path, passing over the Middle East region twice a day, have a short lifetime and need to be replaced frequently.

An intelligence satellite at higher altitudes, set in a stationary orbit, could observe regional developments on a permanent, "real time" basis and would have a longer life span. But it would cost billions to build.

Scientists agree that the problem is financial, not technological. Israel is especially strong on the optical and computer image enhancement technologies required, they say.

According to some observers, Israel’s interest in a military satellite to spy on the Arab states may be an outcome of the Jonathan Pollard affair.

Pollard, a civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, is serving a life sentence in an American federal prison for spying on behalf of Israel.

He sold Israelis material that American intelligence gathered on the Arab countries but did not share with Israel. With Pollard out of business, the Israelis need the means to improve their own intelligence gathering.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION LIKELY TO BE AS ANTI-ISRAEL AS EVER
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 19 (JTA) - Israel will come under a great deal of pressure in the course of the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Israel’s chief representative to the world body predicted Monday.

In a briefing with Israeli correspondents here on the eve of the assembly session’s opening, Ambassador Izhak Bein said that Arab delegates are likely to introduce a number of anti-Israel resolutions in the assembly. They will probably focus on the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, now in its 10th month.

“It is also expected that the rhetoric against Israel will intensify, and we do not rule out several meetings of the Security Council to denounce and attack Israel’s policy in the territories," Bein said.

But the ambassador said that, as far as
Israel is concerned, this assembly will not be much different from previous assemblies. “We expect more of the same rhetoric, but no significant difference in the pattern of the votes” on Middle East and Israeli-related items, he said. “The U.N. is the center stage today in the battle on world public opinion,” Bein observed. “As such, the assembly this year will serve as the battle field between Israel and the Palestinians to influence world public opinion and to project a positive image in the world community.”

Arafat Visit In Doubt

Asked whether Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat will come here to address the General Assembly, Bein said, “It is not sure at all at this point.”

In the last several weeks, unconfirmed reports here and abroad have surfaced that the Palestinian leader, who addressed the assembly in 1974, will come to the United Nations again to deliver a major political speech.

Bein also said that he does not rule out a repeated attempt by the Arabs to deny Israel its credentials to the assembly, which in effect means the ouster of Israel for the duration of the session. He expressed confidence that, as in previous years, the Arabs will be defeated in their attempt.

The annual assembly session was to open here Tuesday, on the eve of Yom Kippur. Hundreds of high-ranking diplomats, including presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from all over the world, are scheduled to arrive here to address the three-month conclave.

President Reagan is scheduled to address the assembly next Monday, the first day of Sukkot. Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz are scheduled to arrive in New York the same day with Foreign Ministers Shimon Peres of Israel and Abdel Ismat Meguid of Egypt. The “summit meeting” is taking place at Washington’s initiative to advance the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

Peres, who is scheduled to arrive in New York on Sept. 25, will address the assembly on Sept. 28. Bein said that the foreign minister is scheduled to meet with many foreign ministers of several nations, including some who do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. The envoy would not elaborate.

EGYPTIAN HELICOPTER OPENS FIRE ON BOATS FROM GAZA, SINKING ONE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 19 (JTA) — An Egyptian army helicopter fired Sunday on three Arab fishing boats from the Gaza Strip, sinking one of them, an Israeli military spokesman announced.

There were no fatalities, but several of the fishermen were wounded. They were rescued by another boat. Israeli police detained one of the uninjured men for sailing into Egyptian territorial waters without permission.

The Egyptians claimed they were interdicting a drug smuggling operation, and the Israeli authorities appear to have accepted their explanation.

Military sources played down the incident. They denied it had any far-reaching political implications.

The fishing boats departed from the Shati refugee camp in Gaza and were intercepted in Egyptian waters off Rafah. The Egyptians said they had intelligence reports that a boat from Turkey was smuggling drugs and planned to hand them over to Arab fishermen from Gaza.

They said the helicopter opened fire when one of the boats tried to escape. The Egyptians also said a vessel was seized and taken to an Egyptian port, where 500 tons of hashish was discovered aboard.

The helicopter incident occurred shortly before Israel’s new ambassador to Egypt, Profes-
sor Shimon Shami, presented his credentials to President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo. Several new ambassadors, including some from Arab countries, presented their credentials at the same time.

Shami said that he had a 90-minute interview with Mubarak afterward. He knows the Egyptian president from his previous tour of duty in Cairo as head of Israel’s cultural mission.

EXPERTS SAY NEXT PRESIDENT MUST APPOINT MIDEAST ENVOY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (JTA) — A 34-member group of Middle East and foreign policy experts urged on Monday that the next president of the United States make one of his first priorities the appointment of a special envoy to the Middle East.

The envoy would promote the peace process and press for an end to the escalating arms race in the region.

The Presidential Study Group on U.S. Policy in the Middle East warned that the danger of a new war is increasing because of the arms race and the end of the Iran-Iraq War.

The study group is co-chaired by former Vice President Walter Mondale and Lawrence Eagleburger, former undersecretary of state for political affairs.

They spoke at a news conference at which the report, prepared under the auspices of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, was released. The group, which includes representatives of the various presidential contenders in the spring primary campaign, has been working on the study since last October.

Mondale said the Middle East envoy must be seen as having the confidence of both the president and the secretary of state. He said the next president cannot “rush into anything without a road map and a sense of direction,” which he indicated it would be the task of the special envoy to provide.

“At the same time, the president can’t just sit back and wait for things to happen, because those things can be very dangerous and damaging to anyone,” Mondale said.

Gov. Michael Dukakis, in a Sept. 7 speech to B’nai B’rith International, pledged to appoint a special envoy.

Eagleburger, a Republican, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he believes Vice President George Bush would take a “hard look” at the proposal.

The former undersecretary said he believes factors increasing the threat of a new war in the Middle East include Syria’s continued insistence that the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be resolved by force and its acquisition of new offensive weapons.

He said Syria had recently acquired intermediate-range surface-to-surface missiles from China and SU-24 fighter aircraft from the Soviet Union. Moreover it has developed what he called “an indigenous chemical warfare capability.”
CONGREGANTS FROM DESTROYED SHUL
GET HELP FROM NEARBY YISHIVA
By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- The 500 to 600 congregants of a Brooklyn synagogue vandalized and destroyed by arsonists have been given the use of a nearby yeshiva for worship on Yom Kippur, but the synagogue’s rabbi has no idea when the charred building can be repaired.

“It will take months. The damage was extensive,” Rabbi Hillel David told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by telephone Monday. He could offer no estimate of the cost.

The bearded, Orthodox rabbi sounded emotionally drained after the funeral for the synagogue’s six Torahs.

The Torahs had been pulled from the Ark, rolled out on the floor, and set on fire early Saturday morning.

Intruders broke into the synagogue, located in the heavily-Jewish Midwood neighborhood of Brooklyn, and spray-painted a dozen swastikas on the inside walls of the synagogue.

Jewish tradition requires that desecrated Torah scrolls must be placed in a coffin and buried in a cemetery, as if they were a deceased person.

Nearly 10,000 grieving Jews attended the emotionally charged funeral procession that packed Brooklyn streets, creating major traffic jams. The burial was at Floral Park Cemetery in Deans, New Jersey.

Among the mourners were Mayor Edward Koch of New York, New York’s senior senator Patrick Moynihan, City Council President Andrew Stein, Controller Harrison Goldin and Bronx Borough President Howard Golden.

The ferocity of the attack on Congregation Rabbinical Institute Sharai Torah, occurring between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the most solemn period on the Jewish calendar, shocked not only the Jewish community but the city at large.

Messages Of Sympathy

It drew messages of sympathy from leaders of many faiths.

Cardinal John O’Connor, the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, described his reaction. “Horrible, absolutely horrible. When I picked up the paper and read the news, my blood ran cold,” O’Connor told reporters after Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral Sunday.

Referring to two youngsters, aged 12 and 15, who were taken into custody Sunday on suspicion of the crime, the cardinal asked, “Where are these children getting that kind of hatred?”

Police have withheld the identity of the suspects because of their age. They were released in custody of their parents pending an appearance at family court.

One was described as Italian, and the other Italian-Hispanic.

David could not predict when his shul would be functioning again. He said it couldn’t possibly be ready for the Sukkot holiday, which begins September 26.

On Kol Nidrei night Tuesday, David will conduct services at facilities provided by Yeshiva Chaim Elazar, which recently completed a new building and offered its old one, David explained.

But he said he had no idea how his congregation will replace the destroyed Torahs. Each was valued at about $25,000. “We’ll ask for help, for donations,” the rabbi said.

ANNE POLLARD TO BE MOVED TO CONNECTICUT PRISON
By Naomi Godfrey
The N.Y. Jewish Week

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- Anne Henderson Pollard is to be transferred from the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minn., to a minimum security women’s prison in Danbury, Conn., according to her lawyer, Nathan Dershowitz.

But while her father, Bernard Henderson, said the change would be a “tremendous improvement,” he repeated a call for a nationwide campaign among Jewish and interfaith organizations to demand her parole.

Pollard, 26, is serving two concurrent five-year prison terms for acting as an accessory to the espionage activities of her husband, Jonathan Jay Pollard.

Jonathan Pollard, the onetime civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. Navy, was convicted of selling classified information to Israel. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment with no chance of parole.

Public concern for Anne Pollard’s incarceration has focused on her medical condition. She reportedly suffers from biliary dyskinesia, a rare digestive ailment which causes her difficulty when digesting food.

She has been denied proper medical treatment, family spokespersons and attorneys charge.

Dershowitz said he had received a letter from J. Michael Quinlan, director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, saying that Anne Pollard is to be transferred to the Danbury camp, a facility that he described as “the lowest level, security.”

The facility is much closer to her family, who lives in Secaucus, N.J.

“I think it’s a very appropriate facility,” Dershowitz said, adding that he understands physicians will be available to Pollard, and that the facility has arrangements for expert consultations with the Yale Medical Center, where Carol Pollard, Jonathan’s sister, works.

‘Looks Terrible’

According to Rabbi Avraham Weiss, of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., Pollard “looks terrible,” has visible skin rashes over her face and hands, and her eyes are infected.

Weiss, who had a six-hour visit with Pollard last week at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, discussed his recent visits with both Pollards with The Jewish Week, and at a news conference this week sponsored by Justice for the Pollards, a group active on behalf of the couple and run by Bernard Henderson.

Groups around the country that are active on behalf of the Pollards are sending out a petition that Anne Pollard be paroled, for which she was eligible as of August, and that she receive proper medical care, according to Henderson, who also attended the news conference.

Weiss, who is a rabbi, and Anne Pollard followed one to Jonathan Pollard about a month ago at the U.S. Penitentiary in Marion, Ill.

The three-hour visit with Jonathan Pollard was arranged with the help of the Aleph Institute, a Chabad-Lubavitch organization which facilitates rabbinic visits to prisons around the country.

The Illinois prison is the highest maximum security prison in the country, where most of the prisoners are those who have caused trouble in other prisons and who are considered dangerous.
ISRAEL'S OLYMPIC ATHLETES
FACE YOM KIPPUR PROBLEM
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19 (JTA) — Israel's athletes at the 23rd Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, are facing more than a competitive challenge.

Their problem is how to avoid violating Yom Kippur, which conflicts with many scheduled events. The Day of Atonement begins at sundown Tuesday and ends at sundown Wednesday.

While they are not necessarily observant, the 19 Israeli gladiators hold Yom Kippur sacred. They are coping with the problem in different ways. Gymnast Revital Sharon will be fasting Wednesday, the day of the gymnastic finals for which the 18-year-old has qualified. She plans to revive her strength with a quick sip of glucose before competing.

Fortunately, the event was scheduled to begin in late afternoon and the organizers agreed to delay her appearance until after the fast.

Israel's fencing team withdrew from the games when it learned their event was set for Wednesday.

The two yachting crews — ranked among Europe's top 10 — appealed in vain to get Wednesday's race, one of seven, switched to another day.

Yachtsmen are judged by the best six of their seven races. The brothers Dan and Ran Torten in the 470 class, and Yael Sela and Eldad Amir in their "Flying Dutchman," represent Israel's only real chance for an Olympics medal.

But they will not compete Wednesday, leaving themselves no margin for error in their six other races.

Flyweight boxer Yehuda Ben-Haim's problem is compounded by politics. He is scheduled to fight Mahjoub Mjirih of Morocco on Wednesday. The Olympic authorities refused to reschedule the bout.

The Moroccan sports officials may decide to keep their contestant out of the ring in support of the Arab League boycott of Israel. In that case, Ben-Haim would simply have to walk to the stadium Wednesday — he refuses to ride — weigh in and claim victory by default.

But if the Moroccan does show up and Ben-Haim refuses to fight him, he will lose by default.

Israel's ultra-Orthodox community is unmoved by the Olympic team's problems. By participating in the ceremonial opening of the Olympic Games on Saturday, the team "profaned the name of the Lord in the eyes of the world," according to the Agudat Israel newspaper Hamodia.

EIGHT ARRESTED AT SOVIET MISSION IN PROTEST FOR AILING REFUSENIX

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 (JTA) — Eight persons, four of them doctors and one a rabbi, had themselves arrested Sunday outside the Soviet Mission to the United Nations to dramatize the plight of George Samoilovich, a Jewish refusenik suffering from cancer.

They blocked the entrance, in violation of a city ordinance, and were charged with disorderly conduct and released. The eight will stand trial in New York City Criminal Court on Nov. 15.

Samoilovich, 63, has been seeking an emigration visa for 11 years, without success. An American doctor who visited Moscow earlier this year diagnosed Samoilovich as having large-cell lymphoma, a form of cancer. The doctor, Richard Rosenbluth, offered to treat him at the Hackensack Medical Center in New Jersey.

But the Soviet authorities refused Samoilovich a medical visa. He also was denied treatment at the Blokhin Cancer Institute of Moscow, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Clad in white lab coats and holding a blown-up photo of Samoilovich, the doctors marched outside the Soviet premises while Russian officials photographed them from the roof. The eight were arrested after they sat down in front of the building and refused police orders to leave.

Taken into custody were Rosenbluth and Dr. Mark Helbraun of Hackensack Medical Center; Drs. Richard Andron and Victor Bordon of Englewood Hospital; Rabbi Avraham Weiss, SSJ national chairman; Glenn Richter, SSJ national coordinator; Dow Weiss of the Bronx and Michael Aaron of Englewood, N.J.

Samoilovich's case has received international attention. Lord Plumb of Britain, president of the Parliament of Europe, raised the matter in Moscow with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko.

ISRAELI DRAFT-DODGING SCAM LARGER THAN FIRST REPORTED, SAY POLICE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 19 (JTA) — A ranking police official contended Monday that the number of draft evaders is much higher than the Israel Defense Force high command is prepared to admit.

Shimon Savir, who heads the serious crimes division of the national police, testified that a single doctor was responsible for getting more than 100 men out of military service on fake medical data.

He was referring to a draft-dodging ring in which IDF officers of relatively high rank and non-commissioned officers allegedly worked in collusion with civilian doctors to sell exemptions from compulsory military service.

The ring was exposed Sept. 5 with the announcement of the arrest of eight IDF personnel and eight civilians, mostly medical doctors.

The scandal sent shock waves through the military establishment and the public.

But the IDF brass insisted that only "a few rotten apples" were involved. Gen. Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, accused the news media last week of blowing the episode out of proportion.

He contended that only a handful of recruits had been fraudulently exempet and that a few reservists had their call-ups postponed or canceled as a result of the ring's operation.

Savir, however, said in court Monday that just one of the accused doctors was responsible for the avoidance of military service by an entire company — well over 100 soldiers. He said that if the doctor "had continued with this system, it would have reached a battalion" — over 500 men.

Savir was referring to Dr. Solomon Kaplan, 51, of Bat Yam, a physician employed by Kupat Holim, the Histadrut health care agency. He is accused of supplying false medical reports over a six-month period. The court has ordered him detained in custody for an additional nine days.

At least two other doctors have been charged with issuing fraudulent medical evidence, including switched X-rays, for payments of cash.

Reminder: JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on Thursday, Sept. 22.