

**FORMER CHAIRMAN OF NCSJ OPPOSES JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT WAIVER NOW**
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 22 (JTA) -- Now is not the time to call for a waiver of Jackson-Vanik Amendment sanctions against the Soviet Union, the immediate past chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said here Thursday.

"It is premature to back a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment now," Morris Abram told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview nine days after the National Conference decided to back such a waiver if President Bush receives assurances in four key areas.

The Soviet Union has made great strides forward, but much still needs to be done before the country can be considered a democracy, said Abram, who is slated next month to become U.S. ambassador to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva.

Abram is currently chief U.S. delegate to the 35-nation Conference on Human Dimensions, which has been meeting here since early this month.

The meeting, held under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, is a continuation of the process that produced the 1975 Helsinki human rights accords.

In January, the Soviet Union signed a new, farther-reaching human rights agreement guaranteeing equal rights and freedom of information, travel and religious practice.

Summing up the Paris meeting, which ends Friday, Abram said, "What is clear is that we got more out of the Helsinki process than the Soviets go out of it. The very fact that we got them talking about human rights, although we are not yet satisfied with the range of their applications, is already a notable process."

'Recent Changes Could Be Canceled'

On Jackson-Vanik, the U.S. envoy pointed out that the Soviets claim they have prepared new legislation, some 50 different laws, to cover such human rights issues as freedom of emigration and religious practice.

"We have not yet seen these new laws. I suggest that we first see them and get a chance to study them before we make new concessions," Abram said.

"As long as the Soviet Union remains a one-party state, with no real political opposition or a free press which can reveal issues and rap the government, all the recent changes could be canceled at a moment's notice," he said.

Abram said the American delegation here is not satisfied with Soviet progress on emigration reform. "It has not been institutionalized, but depends on executive decision. Many refuseniks are still denied their exist visas for both security reasons and for what the Soviet authorities describe as family reasons," he said.

"I do not want to meddle with the NCSJ's decision -- I am a public official, I just want to express my views," Abram stressed.

Back in 1979, when Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union reached an all-time high, "I would have supported a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment," he said. "Things are different now. We should get much more from the Soviets."

LIKUD OPPONENTS OF SHAMIR PLAN MUSTER SUPPORT OF RANK AND FILE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- Three powerful Likud ministers who oppose Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace plan won resounding support at a gathering of party members here Wednesday night.

Ariel Sharon, David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i announced their intentions to seek amendments to the plan when Shamir presents it to the Likud Central Committee on July 5.

Sharon, who chairs the Central Committee and is minister of industry and trade, said the changes he advocates would eliminate the "dangers" he thinks are inherent in Shamir's proposals.

The initiative, which Shamir and his allies have been promoting vigorously at home and abroad, calls for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The voters would select delegates with whom Israel would negotiate an interim period of self-rule in the territories, to be followed by negotiations to decide their final status.

Shamir insists that the plan, approved by the Cabinet and the Knesset, constitutes national policy and cannot be altered. But he agreed, reluctantly, to discuss it before the Likud Central Committee.

Sharon claims the plan would lead to the creation of a Palestinian state and the redivision of Jerusalem.

His views are shared by Levy, a deputy premier who is also minister of construction and housing, and Moda'i, leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing and minister of economics and planning.

End Of Uprising As Precondition

Their strategy is to kill the plan by amending it rather than a yes-or-no confrontation, which Shamir is likely to win.

The changes which Levy outlined to the party faithful seem calculated to make the initiative totally unacceptable to the Palestinians and to raise suspicions among Israel's friends abroad over the sincerity of its intentions.

They will demand that the Palestinian uprising be "completely stopped" before the diplomatic process can begin. They insist that Arab residents of East Jerusalem be denied the right to participate in the elections.

They want Israel to reject outright any freeze of settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to rule out, in advance of the negotiations, the possibility of "another Palestinian state between the sea and the Jordan River."

According to the Likud party line, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a Palestinian state.

Speakers at the Likud meeting denounced what they called Shamir's attempt to "bulldoze the Central Committee" to accept his plan without debate.

The three ministers claimed that 1,300 of the party faithful attended the meeting. Reporters present put the attendance closer to 700. The Central Committee has nearly 2,000 members.

SETTLER ARRESTED FOR SHOOTING ARABS MAY BE LINKED TO OTHER VIOLENT ACTS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- A series of apparently calculated acts of violence against Arabs has led police to suspect the existence of a new Jewish terrorist underground, similar to the one broken up in 1984.

Leaders of the Jewish settlement movement were reported, meanwhile, to be disturbed by the extremism of some yeshiva students in the West Bank.

A Jewish resident of the Samaria district was arrested Tuesday after he opened fire with an Uzi submachine gun on a group of Arab day-laborers waiting for transportation at the Geha road junction, near Bnei Brak.

Two Arabs were wounded. The shooting occurred shortly after the funeral of Frederick Rosenfeld, a resident of the West Bank settlement of Ariel who was murdered by Arabs last week-end.

Tuesday's shooting apparently was an act of reprisal. The gunman's name was withheld by court order.

He was brought before a judge Thursday, who authorized a continuation of his detention in custody.

Police suspect that he may belong to an underground group responsible for the recent murders of several Arabs, which remain unsolved, the daily Yediot Achronot reported Thursday.

But the suspect reportedly insisted at his interrogation Tuesday that he acted alone.

According to the newspaper, he may be the same man who shot an Arab to death near the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on May 11.

In that incident and in the shooting on Tuesday, the assailant fired an Uzi submachine gun at short range, after making sure his targets were Arabs.

Radicalization Of Yeshiva

Knesset member Yossi Sarid of the dovish Citizens Rights Movement charged Wednesday that the person who opened fire at the Geha cross-roads is also responsible for the May 29 murder of a teen-age Arab girl in the West Bank village of Kifel Harit.

Similar charges were leveled by Knesset member Haim Oron of Mapam, the United Workers Party of Israel.

The girl was shot to death and two other Palestinians were wounded when armed Jewish settlers rampaged through the village in retaliation for alleged rock-throwing.

Suspects arrested after the Kifel Harit incident included students at the Tomb of Joseph yeshiva in Nablus.

Israel Radio said Thursday that settler leaders are deeply concerned over the radicalization of the student body there.

Uri Ariel, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea and Samaria, told reporters that "recent events" made it apparent that there were "hot-headed youngsters" at the school.

It was decided therefore to enroll more "mature and reasonable" students to change the atmosphere, he said. The yeshiva will be supervised by a public council.

The school was visited Wednesday by Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, one of the moderates of the Gush Emunim settlers movement.

Trying to calm tempers in the wake of the

Rosenfeld murder, he warned there were two "intifadas" on a collision course.

One is the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising. The other is the Jewish counter-uprising, which began about three months ago. Unless both are stopped, the situation could become much worse, he said.

HEBREW U. PROFESSOR SLAIN ON PATH NEAR ISRAEL MUSEUM By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police are inclined to dismiss Palestinian nationalism as a motive in the murder of Hebrew University Professor Menahem Stern, one of Israel's most distinguished academicians, whose body was found in the bushes next to the Israel Museum on Wednesday morning.

But the investigation of the crime has only just begun and nothing can be ruled out, according to the Jerusalem police district commander, Yosef Yehudai.

Stern was fatally stabbed Wednesday shortly before his body was discovered at about 9:30 a.m., by a group of first graders who were on an outing to the museum.

Knife wounds in his chest indicated Stern was killed only minutes before, and although papers and documents were scattered near the body, nothing appears to have been stolen, according to police and Shin Bet agents who arrived at scene.

"We don't see a reason to start with the nationalistic motive. Very few Arabs wander around in this area," Yehudai told reporters.

Nevertheless, he said, "all possibilities are still open, and we are only in the beginning of the investigation."

Yehudai noted that there have been several murders in the area in recent years.

An Israel Museum employee told police he had seen a suspicious-looking man in the vicinity that morning, whom he described as a Jew, about 40.

Awarded Israel Prize

The only known facts in the case so far are that Stern left his home on Tchernikovsky Street in the Rehavia section at 8:30 Wednesday morning and, as was his habit, walked to the National Library at the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

Funeral services for the 64-year-old Stern have been scheduled for Sunday morning.

Stern, a tenured professor of Jewish history at the Hebrew University, was considered an authority on Hellenistic and Roman culture and an expert on the period of the Second Temple.

Stern was awarded the prestigious Israel Prize for Jewish history in 1977. He had been a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences since 1978.

Stern was also chairman of the Israel Historical Society and a member of the editorial board of its quarterly magazine, Zion.

He was published extensively, including his most famous work, "Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism," a three-volume opus published in English by the Academy of Sciences.

Stern was born in Byalistok, Poland, in 1925 and immigrated to Palestine in 1938.

He studied at the Hebrew University and received his doctorate there in 1960 when he joined the faculty.

ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL ENDORSES PEACE PLAN, BAN ON PLO CONTACTS

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- The Zionist General Council adjourned its meeting here late Wednesday night after adopting resolutions supporting the government's peace initiative and its policy of barring contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The General Council is the governing body of the World Zionist Organization between sessions of the World Zionist Congress, which convenes every four years.

The resolution supporting the government peace plan urges Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to participate in the elections the plan proposes.

The resolution was approved by all parties except the left-wing Mapam and the right-wing Tehiya parties.

Mapam, the United Workers Party of Israel, alone refused to endorse the resolution backing the ban on contacts with the PLO. The resolution disapproves of any Jew who violates the ban.

Milton Shapiro, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said he was gratified that the Labor Zionist movement had joined with Likud on this issue.

"The real intent of the resolution is to condemn those Jews and organizations which have established contact with Yasir Arafat and the PLO and give voice to the majority will of the Jewish people," Shapiro said.

Challenges Of Soviet Aliyah

The Herut faction at the General Council meeting failed, however, in its attempt to force the ouster of Menahem Rosensaft, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance of America, who was one of five prominent Jews who met with Arafat in Stockholm last December.

Addressing the closing session of the General Council meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir touched on the benefits and challenges of aliyah.

"Our situation would have been different if we had many more Jews in Eretz Yisrael, and it will be different when we have hundreds of thousands more," he said.

Predicting an imminent mass emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union, Shamir urged Jews worldwide to invest in Israel to "help us solve the problem of providing jobs" for them.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the WZO-Jewish Agency Executive, closed the session with a call to Zionist organizations around the world to work to bring more Soviet Jews to Israel and to expand Zionist and Jewish education abroad.

A 10-member commission, consisting of five representatives of the WZO and five prominent Diaspora leaders, has been meeting on that issue for the past 18 months.

ISRAEL RESPONDS TO ILO CHARGES

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 22 (JTA) -- The head of the Israeli delegation to the International Labor Organization conference here lashed back Wednesday at Arabs who have accused Israel of mistreating Palestinian workers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rabbi Moshe Feldman, Israel's deputy minister of labor and social welfare, claimed in a speech to the body that one of the principal goals

of the Palestinian uprising is to destroy economic relations between Israel and the territories it administers.

He said no method is too extreme to achieve that goal, including physical harm, harassment and intimidation of Arab workers and setting fire to the buses transporting them to Israel.

This is in stark contrast to the declared principles of the ILO, Feldman said.

A resolution charging Israel with "violation of trade union rights" and suppression of trade union activities in the territories was introduced by the Arab states when the conference opened on June 7.

But it was relegated to third place on the agenda, following discussion of environmental issues and the international debt. Observers doubt it will come to the floor before the conference adjourns on June 28.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TRUMPETS U.N. PEACE CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, June 22 (JTA) -- The Socialist International called on all parties to the Middle East conflict Wednesday to take part in a peace conference under U.N. auspices.

The summons was issued at the Socialist International Congress in Stockholm, which brought together the Socialist and Social Democratic parties from 81 countries.

The congress, which ended Thursday, was boycotted by the Israel Labor Party, led by Finance Minister Shimon Peres, because representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization had been invited to the plenary session as observers.

Israel, in any event, has consistently rejected any international peace conference, pushing instead for Palestinian elections to be followed by bilateral negotiations over the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Socialist International's Middle East Committee plans to hold a "hearing" on the Arab-Israeli conflict in Brussels with "all parties concerned," provided it can get them to sit down together.

PERES DENIES MEETING PLO REP

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Shimon Peres denied Thursday that he had a secret meeting with an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization when he was in Stockholm briefly this week.

Peres, who is chairman of the Labor Party, was to have led his party's delegation at the Socialist International Congress in the Swedish capital.

Although Peres was there, the Israelis boycotted the congress because the PLO had been invited as observers.

The mass-circulation Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter reported Thursday that Peres met with the head of the PLO delegation, Yasir Abed Rabbo, at a private dinner given by the Swedish foreign minister, Sven Anderson.

Rabbo did not comment on the story, but he told a news conference on Thursday that the United Nations-supervised elections planned in November for Namibia, formerly Southwest Africa, could be a model for the elections Israel wants to hold in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

JEWISH COUPLE'S WEDDING IN WARSAW TO BE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN 40 YEARS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- Twenty-two members of Robert Blum's family are flying from New York to Warsaw for his wedding there to Joanna Kan on July 2.

Blum, a lawyer from New York's Upper East Side, is marrying a Polish convert to Judaism in historic circumstances that seem to have taken even the couple themselves by surprise.

Blum, 29, and Kan, 22, had intended to marry in New York. But following an unexpectedly emotional trip to Warsaw last October, the couple decided to be wed in the sole synagogue still functioning in the Polish capital.

Their wedding is to be a gift to the elderly Jews who still live in that city, once a flourishing center of Judaism which has not seen a traditional Jewish wedding performed in some 40 years.

The wedding invitation is written in three languages, English, Hebrew and Polish.

For their Polish nuptials, the couple are making some personal compromises, taking steps they might not have thought necessary in New York.

Although their union most probably would have been consecrated in a Conservative ceremony in New York, in Warsaw their wedding will be strictly Orthodox. They have followed requests to adhere to tradition to the extent that the bride will travel three hours each way to be immersed in the old mikveh (ritual bath) in Krakow.

"We were going to get married in your standard New York wedding," said Blum. "But when we went to Warsaw to see her family, we visited the synagogue. It was really sad visiting these people. Their lives are pretty bad."

'This Is All That's Left'

"As well-read as you are on what happened to that community, it doesn't prepare you for seeing these people and thinking, 'This is all that's left of Polish Judaism,'" said Blum, a third-generation American.

When the couple visited the Nozyk Synagogue, the only one left of what were about 400 synagogues in Warsaw before the war, "everyone at the synagogue was telling us there hadn't been a wedding there in so many years."

In fact, many told them they had not had a wedding in Warsaw since the war. And members of the local community had not been invited to the bar mitzvah that an American boy had in Krakow four years ago, they claimed.

That bar mitzvah caused a trans-Atlantic furor, when an American Orthodox rabbi who did not know the bar mitzvah boy flew to Warsaw to prevent a Reform woman rabbi from performing the ceremony, which he claimed would violate Polish Jewish religious tradition.

The rabbi who was instrumental in that decision has held sway this time. Rabbi Chaskell Besser, who is in charge of Polish Jewish matters for the Ronald Lauder Foundation, advised the couple to marry in an Orthodox wedding.

The ceremony will be performed by a rabbi just recently arrived in Warsaw. Rabbi Menachem Jaskowitz of Jerusalem was born in Lodz, Poland.

Jaskowitz, who visited New York briefly this week, said he returned to Poland to "rekindle the spark of Judaism" in a country where Hitler thought he would eradicate it and annihilate all its people.

The rabbi said he had gone through all the steps necessary to ensure that all documents for the wedding were in order. This included, he said, verification the couple had not been married before and the confirmation of Kan's conversion.

Kan, who in Poland was a national track star, was raised in a home of Catholics who practiced no religion.

Grandfather Sent To Auschwitz

Her mother's father looks so Jewish that the Nazis picked him up twice on the streets of Warsaw and, the second time, sent him to Auschwitz. He is still alive and still looks Jewish, said Blum.

Kan "was always interested in the Holocaust as a uniquely Jewish experience."

When her parents divorced, her mother met and married an American who took them to live in Connecticut, where she was surrounded by Jewish friends. She "admired Jewish family life."

Kan converted twice, the first time with a Conservative rabbi, in accordance with her fiancé's Conservative orientation. As the wedding plans became more real, she elected to undertake a second, Orthodox conversion.

Kan said a wedding in Warsaw was her idea, because "I saw these old people and it broke my heart."

When they visited the synagogue, she told her fiancé, "It would bring such meaning to our wedding. And it would also be a mitzvah to bring such joy to the community of Warsaw."

Upon their return to New York, said Blum, "We just looked at each other and said, 'We should do this.' It was a way of putting a little extra meaning into our lives."

Following the wedding, the couple will do something a bit different for their honeymoon. They will act as guides for their family and friends through parts of Poland, and the tour will include a stop at Auschwitz.

Alone, they will honeymoon in Israel, because, said Blum, "it was the easiest thing to get a direct flight from Warsaw to Tel Aviv."

FOR THIRD TIME THIS MONTH, ISRAEL DEVALUES THE SHEKEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- For the third time in as many weeks, the Bank of Israel devalued the shekel, this time by approximately 4.4 percent.

The move on Thursday was approved by Finance Minister Shimon Peres and hailed by the Manufacturers Association, but was criticized by Histadrut, the trade union federation.

The central bank set the new exchange rate at 2.0649 shekels in relation to a "basket" of foreign currencies. But it will be allowed to fluctuate by 3 percentage points, up or down.

Michael Bruno, governor of the Bank of Israel, denied that the latest devaluation was necessitated by large-scale speculation in foreign currencies.

It was planned two weeks ago as part of the government's efforts to stimulate exports, he said.

He conceded the devaluation would probably raise the price of imports, and possibly of locally made products.

But with an economic recession and an unemployment rate of 8 percent, demand is low and "devaluation has a better chance of success," Bruno said.