

# WALLENBERG KIN INVITED TO MOSCOW; HOPE TO SOLVE 40-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- An unprecedented Soviet invitation to the relatives of Raoul Wallenberg has left activists hopeful of uncovering the fate of the Swedish diplomat, who disappeared behind the Iron Curtain soon after rescuing some 100,000 Hungarian Jews during World War II.

In Stockholm on Thursday, Soviet Ambassador to Sweden Boris Pankin invited Nina Lagergren and Dr. Guy von Dardel, Wallenberg's half-sister and half-brother, to come to Moscow in October for meetings with high level Soviet government officials.

The move represents the first time since Wallenberg's arrest by Russian secret police in January 1945 that the Soviets have acknowledged Wallenberg family members' requests for a meeting.

"The main thing that we have is the opportunity to see and talk" with officials, said Lagergren and von Dardel, in a communication with their supporters in the United States. "In our interviews in Sweden, we stressed the importance of the whole world's interest in, and work for, Raoul."

"We don't know what the Soviet government is planning or prepared to do," said Rachel Oestreicher Haspel, president of the New York-based Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States. "The number one prayer for people all around the world is to find that Raoul Wallenberg is alive and well and in fact can be released."

"We also hope that they open files on Mr. Wallenberg that have not yet been released," she said.

## Distributed Swedish Passports

International efforts on behalf of Wallenberg, a Lutheran, have been spurred by the breadth of his rescue activities on behalf of Jews during the Holocaust.

In early 1944, Wallenberg, then 32, joined the Swedish diplomatic corps in Budapest at the request of the United States.

While there, he coordinated an effort to save as many Jews as possible from the occupying German troops. He placed many in housing under Swedish protective custody, distributed Swedish passports and found sanctuary for Jews in Christian homes.

By the time the Russian army entered Budapest in January 1945, at least 120,000 of the city's 230,000 Jews had eluded the Nazis' deportations, 100,000 directly as a result of Wallenberg's actions.

Wallenberg, however, was placed in illegal "protective custody" by the Soviets, ostensibly on spying charges. Little was known of his whereabouts until 1957, when then Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko announced that Wallenberg had died in a Soviet jail of a heart ailment 10 years earlier.

However, former Soviet prisoners have reported seeing Wallenberg alive as recently as 1988.

If alive, Wallenberg would be 77 years old.

# OBEID BEING HELD UNDER 6-MONTH ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION ORDER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid is being held in Israel under a newly issued six-month administrative detention order, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

When Obeid was first brought to Israel immediately after his abduction from his home in South Lebanon, he was ordered detained for 15 days by a local magistrate.

The new six-month detention order was issued just before the regulations were changed on Friday, which lengthened the administrative detention period from six months to one year.

The radio said it was not known whether Obeid was aware that the administrative order gave him the right to enjoy the services of a lawyer and enabled him to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Obeid is not the first non-Israeli or resident of the occupied territories held under an Israeli administrative detention warrant.

Earlier warrants have been issued to hold drug merchants and others picked up in Lebanon and brought back to Israel for interrogation.

## IDF CLAMPS DOWN ON RAMALLAH ONE DAY AFTER FIREBOMB ATTACK

By Gil Sedan

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Falastin Street, a normally bustling residential and business thoroughfare that links the center of Ramallah with the Jerusalem-Nablus highway, was silent and deserted Tuesday.

The street was under curfew and an alley leading from it was sealed off by a brick wall erected overnight by Israel Defense Force soldiers.

The IDF's operation was in response to the attack Monday on four Israeli tax collectors, whose car was firebombed by two unidentified men who had lurked in that alley. The attack capped weeks of stone-throwing incidents in Ramallah.

The strong security measures were the first by the newly appointed chief of the Central Command, Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai.

Residents of the area were forbidden to leave their homes, shops near the scene of the attack were welded shut and dozens of suspects were detained.

The message was clear. The Israeli authorities expect shopkeepers and residents to prevent terrorist acts in their neighborhood. If they fail, they suffer punishment.

A week before the bombing attack, Ramallah merchants met and decided to escalate their resistance to taxes and to boycott Israeli products.

Security officials, however, are not entirely convinced that Monday's attack was aimed specifically at tax collectors.

Some say that the assailants chose any Israeli target, and the fact the victims were tax collectors was purely coincidental.

But among the dozens of Arabs waiting outside the Ramallah tax office Tuesday morning,

there was no doubt that the target was carefully selected.

"They are driving us crazy with taxes and levies," one young man said. "No wonder somebody went crazy and attacked them."

Two of the tax employees, who were sitting in the back of the car, suffered only minor burns and were reported improved Tuesday.

But the two in the front seat were in critical condition at Hadassah Hospital.

Reuven Noam, 22, who was burned over 40 percent of his body, underwent plastic surgery Tuesday. Doctors operated Monday on Gideon Zaken, 34, who has third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body.

Dr. Ron Wechsler, chief of plastic surgery at the hospital, explained that the patient "will not have the same face as he had before and will not have the same hands." He "will need a lot of adapting to his new looks," the doctor said.

# **AFTER SEVEN WEEKS OF ISRAELI REHAB, EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS RETURN HOME**

By Jacqueline Landau

YEREVAN, Soviet Armenia, Aug. 15 (JTA)--Plump, carefully made-up Aliona, a 21-year-old victim of last year's Armenian earthquake, slowly negotiated the gangway of the El Al plane at Yerevan Airport Tuesday morning, her right stump moving a new, artificial leg and her crushed left leg firmly encased in plaster.

Following her painfully slow but resolutely determined descent was Lubov, walking confidently on her prosthesis. Lubov lost both her small children in the disaster.

Aliona and Lubov were members of the group of 61 survivors of the Armenian earthquake, who flew from Ben-Gurion Airport to Yerevan after a seven-week rehabilitation in Israeli hospitals.

Some were fitted with prostheses; others underwent complicated operations on their damage limbs; still others -- like Aliona -- needed both kinds of treatment.

Theirs was a mercy mission organized by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which brought a rare outpouring of praise for Israel and its medical men from all around the world.

In Yerevan itself on Tuesday, the Armenian Minister of Welfare, Narine Balayan, said that although her country had received help from all over the world, it was "especially grateful" to Israel.

And, in a touching salute to the Jewish state to which she hopes to move soon, 17-year-old Rina said, "Here in Yerevan people say Israeli doctors work miracles."

Rina, dressed with the modesty of Bnei Brak or Brooklyn's Borough Park, said she was virtually the only female Orthodox Jew living in the Armenian capital.

Most of the group returning to Yerevan arrived in Israel June 27, with some in wheelchairs and most apprehensive and skeptical at the prospect of real rehabilitation.

Now, as they walked unaided toward the airport building, their families, crowding the visitors' balconies, began to cheer and shout.

One man could not contain himself and jumped through the ground floor window to run toward his mother, only to be pushed back by an unyielding Soviet policeman.

For most of the survivors, the return to Armenia was very painful.

One woman, whose rehabilitation had gone smoothly, could not face her family wearing her prosthesis. But after gentle persuasion from her doctor, Dori Herer, an orthopedic surgeon at Haifa's Rambam Hospital who accompanied the group, she reluctantly strapped the leg on as the plane landed.

Hovik, a 16-year-old boy whose left leg was amputated just below the hip, cried as his father hugged him and angrily threw down his crutches.

Again, it was Herer who quietly calmed him, before he turned away with tears in his eyes.

Herer had operated on 18 of the survivors. In Hovik's case, he had to repair damage resulting from an unsuccessful amputation in Armenia, before an artificial leg could be fitted.

Work on Aliona's left leg was more complicated. It had been crushed by falling masonry that had severed her right leg; the nerves and muscles had died and the limb was flaccid and useless. Herer fused the muscles so that her leg was fixed in what he termed a "functional position," encased, until it healed in place, in a plaster cast.

Both Tel Hashomer Hospital, where 27 amputees had been treated by Professor Tully Steinbach, and Rambam Hospital, where 34 patients were cared for by Professor Haim Stein, supplied the Armenians with documents in clear English describing their rehabilitation and giving precise instructions for further medical attention.

According to Dr. Herer, successful rehabilitation hinges not only on expert medical help but also on motivation and support from family and friends.

In June, that support came willingly from Israel's tiny Armenian community. Nearly all the 600 Armenians living in Haifa and Jaffa had turned out to welcome the group when it arrived in Israel, and from that moment they were inseparable.

Members of the community took turns sitting with patients recovering from operations. As second and third generation Israelis who cling fiercely to their Armenian language and customs, they acted as interpreters and also as guides during bus tours of Israel arranged by the JDC.

One of the leaders of the Haifa community, Yerem Lapadjian, who accompanied the group on his first ever trip to Armenia, recalled their visit to the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem -- a particularly moving experience for these deeply religious Christians.

Yerem, a burly car electrician in his thirties, was overcome with emotion as the plane touched down at Yerevan, but he cried openly when he had to part from the survivors who, he said, had become as "dear as his own family."

# **6TH HEART TRANSPLANT A SUCCESS**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The sixth Israeli heart transplant operation was conducted Monday night at Jerusalem's Hadassah University Hospital at Ein Kerem.

The patient, 57-year-old Yaacov Gross of Rishon le-Zion, a mortgage bank branch manager, had been in cardiology treatment for the last year.

The heart was taken from a young man who was killed early Monday morning in a car accident in the coastal area. It was brought to Jerusalem in the evening after the blood types of the deceased and Gross were found to match.

**IJCIC SILENT ON CONVENT,  
CHOOSES QUIET DIPLOMACY**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The governing board of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations has determined that "the time has come for some quiet non-flamboyant diplomacy" between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community over the issue of the Auschwitz convent, IJCIC member Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum said Tuesday.

Tanenbaum, the immediate past chairman of IJCIC, said that it was in the interest of such diplomacy that the group chose not to issue a public statement following an emergency meeting Tuesday.

But IJCIC's current chairman, Rabbi A. James Rudin, emphasized that the decision not to release a statement did not mean the organization was remaining passive.

"We are pursuing our international Jewish and Christian contacts so that we can move to a resolution of the Carmelite convent problem," Rudin said.

Twelve members of the governing board of IJCIC, the primary vehicle of communication between the world Jewish community and the Vatican, met Tuesday to discuss the recent developments surrounding the controversial Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, among other issues.

The meeting came a week after the archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, announced he was canceling a 1987 agreement reached between Jewish and Catholic leaders. The leaders had agreed to build an interreligious center away from the actual site of the death camp, to which the convent would be moved.

Macharski's announcement sparked loud protests from a number of Jewish organizations.

Tanenbaum said that at the IJCIC meeting, he briefed his fellow members on conversations he had over the past week with Catholic officials close to Macharski.

**'Not A Permanent Break'**

He said that he had been told in those conversations that Macharski's statement did not indicate that the Polish cardinal advocated a "permanent break" in relations with Jews.

Instead, he described Macharski's statement on the interreligious center as an "emotional reaction" to last month's demonstration by seven New York Jews, including Bronx Rabbi Avraham Weiss.

"The entry of Rabbi Avi Weiss, by climbing over fences surrounding the convent and trying to get inside the convent -- which to Catholics is the holy of holies -- resulted in (Macharski's) being deeply upset," Tanenbaum said, also pointing out that the incident put Macharski under increased pressure from Polish Catholics to keep the convent where it is.

Weiss's action, and demonstrations by other groups, followed the passage of the February deadline by which Macharski had agreed the convent would be moved.

In another apparent reference to Weiss, Tanenbaum said that "nothing is to be gained if we allow the present situation to be dominated by self-appointed Jewish leaders from the streets."

Such leaders, he said, "claim to represent the Jewish people but act out their own style by attacking and condemning the Catholic Church, the Vatican and the papacy."

**U.S. EXTRADITES ISRAELI TO BELGIUM  
FOR ABDUCTING CHILDREN FROM EX-WIFE**

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- An ultra-Orthodox Jew who kidnapped his three children from his former wife, a Belgian Catholic, arrived here from New York in police custody Monday following extradition from the United States.

Chaim Yarden, 31, an Israeli citizen, was arrested in New York last January after Belgian authorities requested his extradition.

Yarden is accused of abducting the children, Moriah, Simon and Marina, from their school three years ago after a Brussels court awarded custody to their mother, Patricia Heymans.

She has had no word of them or their whereabouts since then.

Yarden, who was a secular Jew at the time of his marriage, became ultra-Orthodox just before he divorced his wife, whom he met in Israel. He has been sentenced here by default to one year in prison.

According to legal sources, he will be kept in jail as long as his children are not found and returned to their mother.

Yarden was tracked down by Heymans' father, who found him living with the ultra-Orthodox Satmar Hasidic sect in New York.

His search was aided by an organization called "Missing Children" and by members of the Jewish community in New York.

New York police were unable to find the children, however.

Their mother flew to New York last week to enlist the help of the Jewish community.

She is said to have met with an ultra-Orthodox rabbi, who reportedly told her she would never see her children again unless she converted to Judaism and married a Hasid.

**THEFT OF TRAVEL AGENTS' DATA  
COULD EXPOSE ISRAELI DIPLOMATS**

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Mystery surrounds the theft of computer disks from a Jewish-owned travel agency here.

According to speculation in the news media, the safety of Israeli diplomatic personnel who are clients of the agency may be jeopardized.

The break-in occurred two weeks ago at "Isbel," a travel agency that specializes in trips to Israel and Zaire. It is located in a shopping mall in the center of the city.

According to press accounts, the thieves broke the door and seized two computers and their classified disks. The disks were said to contain details of trips made during the last few months by Israeli diplomats accredited to Belgium.

The disks might also contain the identity of intelligence agents issued diplomatic passports as part of their cover.

Israel's ambassador to Belgium, Avi Primor, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he should have been informed of the break-in right after it occurred but he did not think the robbery endangered the embassy staff.

Newspapers wondered, however, why the thieves stole the disks, which have no monetary value.

Several days after the theft someone spray-painted the newly installed door of the travel agency with the words "Islamic Breakers" in English.

## ORTHODOX SPLIT ON LAND-FOR-PEACE LEADS TO 'ANTI-HAREDI' CAMPAIGN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The religious bloc is sharply divided over the land-for-peace issue.

The National Religious Party, which speaks for religious Zionism, has taken exception to recent pronouncements by the spiritual mentors of the ultra-Orthodox Shas and Degel Hatorah parties, who favor territorial compromise if it leads to peace.

The NRP announced Tuesday that it will mount a public campaign "to accentuate the difference between religious Zionism and haredism," meaning ultra-Orthodoxy.

The party's national secretary, Shaul Yahalom, said speeches this week by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the Shas party's spiritual guide, and Rabbi Eliezer Schach, who has the same role in Degel Hatorah, are the product of a discredited anti-Zionist line.

Yosef's lecture, which opened the annual Oral Law Study conference at the Mossad Harav Kook here on Sunday night, climaxed a fortnight of intense controversy and speculation in religious and political circles following Yosef's meeting in Egypt last month with President Hosni Mubarak.

Yosef, a former Sephardic chief rabbi, had told the Egyptian leader that in Jewish law, the value of saving lives could supersede the value of retaining all of the Holy Land.

Yosef, considered the foremost religious leader of the age, repeated this theme in his lecture, citing copiously from Talmudic and halachic sources.

### Human Life Takes Precedence

Like Schach, Yosef upheld the halachic principle of "pikuach nefesh," or saving human life, over the sanctity of the Holy Land.

He maintained that in exchange for true peace, territorial concessions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be halachically acceptable.

But Yosef declined to issue a formal halachic "psak," or ruling, to this effect, "since it is not presently practicable."

Israel's two chief rabbis, the Ashkenazic Avraham Shapir and the Sephardic Mordechai Eliahu, hold an opposing view on land-for-peace. They recently issued a joint halachic ruling that forbids any territorial concessions.

In opposing Yosef and Schach, Yahalom said the NRP would undertake a countrywide campaign to stress the values of patriotism and supreme sacrifice for Jewish sovereignty.

He said the NRP would also urge parents to think twice before they send their children to the rapidly growing network of Shas-supported schools, "which rejects Zionism and educates against army service."

Yosef and his supporters were also criticized Monday by right-wing politicians. Geula Cohen of Tehiya went as far as to link Yosef's position to a terror attack in Ramallah on Monday morning.

But Yosef has been strongly supported by Minister of Interior Arye Deri of Shas, who is known to favor a Shas alliance with Labor rather than Likud. Deri, who traveled with Yosef to Egypt, attended the rabbi's lecture Sunday night and was seen vigorously applauding.

According to the ultra-Orthodox daily Yated Ne'eman, organ of Degel Hatorah, the views expressed by rabbis Yosef and Schach were not

merely intellectual hypothesizing, remote from reality.

Granting that there is no immediate possibility of trading land for peace, the newspaper said that the two rabbis made it crystal clear that the halacha would favor such a trade if and when the possibility arises.

Meanwhile, two newspapers of secular Israel rapped the Orthodox rabbis for bringing their religious authority to bear on the land-for-peace controversy, whether for or against concessions.

Ha'aretz and the Jerusalem Post argued in editorials Tuesday that the rabbis are no better qualified than other thoughtful citizens to participate in the debate.

"If they have no special status in this field, it would be better that they kept out of it," Ha'aretz said.

The Post was critical of the state-appointed chief rabbis. Their "attempt to decree halachic standards of judgement as authoritative on the great state issues of peace and war, and thus superior to the secular judgement of our democratic institutions of governance, constitutes a wholly unwarranted rabbinical interference in matters of state," the Post said.

## THREE ARRESTED IN DENMARK WITH TIES TO TERRORISTS

By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- A man and two women were arrested here Friday in connection with criminal activities said to benefit a Palestinian terrorist organization.

A court ordered the suspects jailed for 13 days while police and the Danish intelligence agency, PET, prepare documentary evidence against them.

They and 11 other suspects -- who have been in custody for the last four months -- are believed to be members of a gang which funnels the proceeds of crime to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist organization based in Lebanon.

Seized documents link the group to weapon thefts and robbery. It also may have been implicated in a 1985 bomb attempt against a Copenhagen synagogue.

The police and the PET said they uncovered detailed plans to kidnap Jorn Rausing, son of Gad Rausing, who is one of the wealthiest men in Sweden and of Jewish origin.

The gang planned to demand \$25 million ransom, which would go to the PFLP.

Police said more arrests are expected.

The affair has received wide media coverage in Denmark. Pro-Palestinian sympathies, manifested when the first arrests were made earlier this year, seem to have evaporated as the public learned of the violent nature of the gang.

## COST OF LIVING UP SLIGHTLY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The Cost of Living Index rose by a relatively low 0.6 percent during July, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Tuesday.

The index has risen by 12.6 percent since the beginning of this year, indicating an annual inflationary rate of some 20 percent to 21 percent.

This month is expected to show an increase of just under 1 percent.