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SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION HUS ALL-TIME MONTHLY HIGH OF 6,756

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- More Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union in August than in any single month on record, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Friday.

The tally was 6,756, of whom 793, or 11.7 percent, went to Israel, according to the NCSJ's Soviet Research Bureau, which began tabulating emigration from the Soviet Union in 1968.

The previous monthly high was in October 1979, when 4,746 Jews departed. That year, Jewish emigration totaled 51,320, a figure that has not been matched in recent decades. Total Jewish emigration so far this year stands at 33,444.

This year's second-highest monthly figure

was 4,557, recorded in April.

"We welcome the August increase, which surpasses the previous month high for 1989 by more than 2,000," Shoshana Cardin, NCSJ chairwoman, said in a statement. "This is a development of major significance."

Cardin expressed hope that the upward trend will continue. However, she added, "While we rejoice for those who have been able to leave the Community Resources Limited Soviet Union, we remain mindful of the fact that capriciousness is still part of the Soviet emigration procedure."

"For example, only last week, long-term refuseniks Igor, Inna and Slava Uspensky received official permission to emigrate, while Igor's 77year-old mother, a retired biologist, is still refused" because she lacks the requisite "security" clearances, Cardin said.

JEWISH GROUPS MAY NOT FIGHT PLAN TO CUT SOVIET IMMIGRATION TO U.S. By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- A reported plan by the State and Justice departments to radically limit the number of Soviet Jews immigrating to the United States as refugees may be receiving tacit support in some Jewish organizational circles.

The plans for such limitations were outlined in a report Sunday in The New York Times. Citing confidential State Department documents, the Times reported that plans are under way to grant refugee status only to Soviet Jews with immediate family in the United States, who make up only an estimated 35 percent of applicants.

The report did not surprise the national leadership of major Jewish organizations, some of whom had already discussed the issue with the officials formulating such plans.

"The handwriting has been on the wall for a number of months," said David Harris, Washington representative for the American Jewish Committee.

He said that while Jewish groups continue to advocate a generous approach to the refugee situation, they are recognizing that, because of the "sheer numbers" of Jews being permitted to leave the Soviet Union, limitations on the numbers that can come to the United States are inevitable.

Harris said that the Bush administration is hoping to reach an accord with the Jewish community on the issue, and win its approval for the

new policy. Such a strategy would prevent a battle with Congress, which has in the past been very supportive of the Soviet Jewry movement.

"The administration would like to turn to congressional leaders and say, 'We've reached an understanding with the leadership of American Jewish organizations," "Harris said.

He called the negotiation of such an understanding "delicate but possible."

The possibility for such an accord lies in the common concern on the part of the federal government and the Jewish community over the costs of settling the emigres in the United States.

With record numbers of Soviet Jews flooding out of the Soviet Union and the vast majority coming to the United States, the price tag for an open-door policy is rising for both the U.S. government and the Jewish community.

"The majority of federations will not fight the government on this because of their own financial problems," said Ben Zion Leuchter, president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which assists Soviet Jews in immigrating to the United States.

"Some Jewish communities are saying that their resources are limited and that they are nearing the point where they can only fund family-reunification cases," Leuchter said.

He added that communities that have recently agreed to settle Soviet Jews with no close American relatives have only done so "under extreme pressure from national leadership."

What Leuchter calls "the Israel factor" may also push American Jewish leaders toward agreeing to limitations on Soviet Jewish emigration to the United States.

For years, the Israelis have contended that since emigrating Soviet Jews hold Israeli entry visas, they should not be deemed refugees. In 1987, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asked President Ronald Reagan to discontinue the granting of such status.

Harris pointed out that because of the existence of Israel, Soviet Jews are "uniquely fortunate in that they have another place to go."

The Cambodians "who are stuck in camps on the Thai border have nowhere else to go," he observed.

Both Harris and Leuchter made it clear that if the Jewish community were to accede to the plan, it would only come in exchange for serious concessions on the part of the Bush administration on other issues surrounding Soviet Jewish emigration.

In the short term, that means granting refugee status to the more than 14,000 Soviet Jews currently in transit centers in Europe, who are awaiting or have been denied refugee status and, therefore, entry to the United States.

"There is an overwhelming feeling that those denials should be ended," said Leuchter, who called the Immigration and Naturalization Service's approval process "arbitrary."

Another possible condition mentioned by Jewish leaders would be an increase in U.S. government funds to Israel, to help it shoulder the burden of an increased number of Soviet immigrants.

CLERICS CHALLENGE GLEMP'S INSISTENCE THAT CONVENT ACCORD BE RENEGOTIATED JTA Staff Report

PARIS, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- The bitter controversy over a Carmelite convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp has suddenly pitted the Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, against prominent members of the European Catholic clergy.

Glemp, who only a week ago infuriated Jews with an anti-Semitic polemic on the issue, drew sharp responses from his peers over the weekend, after calling on the church to renegotiate an agreement it reached with Jewish leaders in Geneva more than two years ago to relocate the convent.

The agreement's implementation has been blocked by the Polish Church, and Glemp contends now that the Catholic leaders who signed it were not "competent" to do so.

Cardinal Albert Decourtray, the archbishop of Lyon, dismissed Glemp's charges Sunday as "pure nonsense."

"I am shocked, I am wounded" by Glemp's declarations, Decourtray told a news conference in Lyon.

"I do not understand Cardinal Glemp's remarks, and I do not accept them. Keeping the Carmelites within the site of the former Auschwitz concentration camp would break international law." he said.

Decourtray headed the delegation of four European cardinals who signed the agreement with world Jewish leaders on Feb. 22, 1987, in Geneva.

Two of the other three, Cardinal Jean Lustiger, the archbishop of Paris, and Cardinal Godfried Daneels, archbishop of Brussels, joined Decourtray in joint statement released here, which said that "the signed commitments should be upheld."

'Impossible To Take Another Step'

Theo Klein, who headed the Jewish delegation to Geneva, also had a reply for Glemp. "Passions have reached a new pitch, and for us Jews, it is impossible to take another step," he said, ruling out renegotiation.

Klein, a former president of the European Jewish Congress and of CRIF, the Representative Council of Jewish Organizations in France, told the daily newspaper Le Monde, "I fail to see who could resume negotiations with Cardinal Glemp, as he has denied the authority of both the Catholic and the Jewish personalities who negotiated the Geneva agreement.

to replace us," he said.

The fourth signatory of the Geneva agreement, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, has angered Jews by his dilatory tactics.

Macharski, who is archbishop of Krakow has direct jurisdiction over the convent, although he is Glemp's subordinate. Last month, he ordered construction suspended on a ecumenical prayer center off the Auschwitz grounds, where the 17 Carmelite sisters living in the convent were to be relocated.

He said at the time that he was driven by anger at Jewish groups who demonstrated outside the convent, protesting the church's failure to honor its deadline.

Glemp, interviewed Saturday by the Rome dailies La Repubblica and Il Messaggero, said the prayer center would cost too much to build.

"I think that Macharski signed the agreement because things were done a little too fast," he said, implying possibly that the Jews had not given the cardinals time to reflect.

Moving Convent Termed 'Irrational'

Glemp, who is archbishop of Warsaw, stated flatly that the idea of moving the convent offended him, "because it is an irrational gesture."

He asked Domenico del Rio, Vatican correspondent of La Repubblica: "Suppose that I come into your house and say you have to move that dresser. You justifiably would respond, 'Stupid, this is my property.' "

When del Rio pointed out that the Geneva accord was signed "by eminent clergymen," Glemp replied, "No, by Cardinal Macharski and a group of people who are not competent."

He added, "I want the agreement renegotiated. It has to be done by competent persons and not by any cardinal who doesn't understand things."

Glemp explained he meant persons "who didn't understand the mentality of the Polish people."

In Brussels, Cardinal Daneels, who heads the Catholic Church in Belgium, took strong exception. He said that if Glemp means the signatories of the Geneva agreement had no specific mandate from Pope John Paul II, that was true.

But "if Glemp means that we didn't know anything about the situation in Poland, that's not true, because we knew it quite well," Daneels said.

Glemp insisted, however, that "everything has to be renegotiated calmly, through dialogue, as I propose. It has to be looked over, but with competent people. And the Poles must not be excluded."

Glemp added that "the archbishop of Krakow (Macharski) only represents the Church of Krakow. The problem is much greater."

'Put The Nuns In Tents?'

Glemp said he thought it was "a scandal" to ask that the nuns be removed from the Auschwitz convent. "What are we supposed to do, put the nuns in tents?" he asked.

He said he did not understand why anyone was "offended by nuns staying there and praying next to the wall of the concentration camp. The land on which they are is also the place where Catholics, or let us say Christians, have been martyred.

"It is the Jews who have to understand that to consecrate a life to prayer near the place "I can't imagine that others would be ready where Christians have been martyred should not offend their sensibilities," he said.

Glemp was defended by Msgr. Adrian Simonis, the archbishop of Utrecht, who is the highestranking Catholic in the Netherlands.

Simonis charged Friday that the climate surrounding the convent controversy has been exacerbated "by very fanatical Jews."

Addressing a meeting of the diocesan pastoral council in Utrecht, he accused American Jewish demonstrators at Auschwitz of trying to remove a 23-foot-high cross erected in front of the convent.

"If one touches the cross, one touches the soul of the Polish people," Simonis said.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Edwin Eytan in Paris, Ruth E. Gruber in Rome, Yossi Lempkowicz in Brussels and Henrietta Boas in Amsterdam.)

JORDANIAN INFILTRATOR OPENS FIRE, KILLING TWO ISRAELI RESERVISTS By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers died over the weekend of wounds sustained when a lone gunman crossed over the Jordanian border into Israel and ambushed an Israel Defense Force patrol.

The assailant was himself killed in the brief clash Saturday near Kfar Ruppin, in the Beit

Shean Valley.

Staff Sgt. David Barzilai, a 25-year-old reservist from Tel Aviv, died at the scene. A native of Brazil who immigrated to Israel with his family in 1972, he was buried Sunday afternoon in the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem, with full military honors.

The second soldier, Sgt. Aharon Hannuka, a 28-year-old reservist from Jerusalem, died of his wounds Sunday night at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. He was buried Monday afternoon at the

same cemetery.

The attack was the fourth this year involving single infiltrators from Jordan. Two of them were Jordanian soldiers who may have gone berserk.

Saturday's marauder was evidently a terrorist. The Syrian-backed Tala'at Yacub faction, which opposes Yasir Arafat's leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, took credit for the attack.

The terrorist, armed with a Kalachnikov assault rifle and a pistol, is believed to have crossed the Jordan River before dawn Saturday.

He lay concealed in thick underbrush about 50 yards inside Israel, waiting for the routine IDF border patrol to pass. The patrol was led by foot soldiers, followed by a command car.

The infiltrator opened fire on the infantrymen, killing one instantly with a bullet in the head and critically wounding another. The driver of the patrol jeep was slightly wounded.

The assailant, wearing civilian clothes, fired methodically, a single shot at a time, indicating

that he had been trained as a sniper.

He continued to shoot from a well-concealed position. When his Kalachnikov automatic rifle jammed, he switched to his pistol.

The IDF patrol returned the fire, tended the wounded and summoned reinforcements. The attacker was later killed by a burst of gunfire.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned the Jordanians it was their responsibility to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israel from Jordan. He rejected Jordanian claims that the assailant may have come from the West Bank, instead of across the Jordan River.

3 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN NABLUS, AS TIDE OF ARAB MURDERS RISES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- At least three Palestinians, including a teen-age girl, were killed in clashes with Israeli troops over the weekend, in some of the worst violence to erupt in the West Bank since the Palestinian uprising began nearly 21 months ago.

It was triggered when the Israel Desense Force launched a predawn raid Saturday on a deserted house in Nablus, reputedly a hideout.

Two youths reported to be on the most-wanted list were killed, and three others were wounded.

The dead included Ommar Mohammad Kalabuna, 19, said to have participated in the killing of an IDF soldier in Nablus in February.

The victim of that attack was Sgt. Benny Meisner, whose skull was crushed when a concrete block was dropped on his head from a rooftop.

Saturday's raid triggered a riot in Nablus, during which 14-year-old Muna a-Tamam was killed and 11 Palestinians were wounded.

The IDF says the circumstances of the girl's death are unclear. A curfew was clamped on Nablus, the largest Arab city in the West Bank.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin hinted, meanwhile, that troops will be given a freer hand to fire on suspects in the West Bank, particularly if they are masked.

Masked youths are held responsible for the growing number of murders of Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Four were murdered in the Gaza Strip over the weekend.

According to Israeli authorities, 90 alleged collaborators have been murdered since the uprising began in December 1987. But the vast majority, 70, have been slain this year.

About 16 Palestinians were murdered in the territories last month, more than all the Palestinian murder victims in 1988.

ISRAEL CENSURED BY HUMAN-RIGHTS PANEL, TURNED DOWN FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ANOTHER By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- A U.N. humanrights panel wound up a four-week session here last week by accusing Israel of war crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The anti-Israel resolution, backed by the Soviet Union, Cuba and Somalia, as well as the Arab countries, was adopted Aug. 31 by the U.N. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The vote by secret ballot was 15-5, with two abstentions.

The resolution accused Israel of torture, expulsions, collective punishment, detention without trial and other violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Israeli observer, Rafael Walden, called the resolution one-sided and charged that it gave the Palestinians "carte blanche" for terrorism.

The 26-member subcommission, which reports to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, also condemned South Africa by affirming past statements that apartheid is a crime against humanity.

But a resolution dealing with Iraqi atrocities against its Kurdish population was shelved.

The U.N. disarmament conference meeting here also concluded its final session of the year last week, unable to agree on Israel's request for admission as an observer state.

Conference regulations require a consensus among the member countries to admit an observer. There are presently 26 observers, including Iran, Iraq and Libya, who obtained the status this year.

The Western powers are known to want Israel's participation in the discussions, which have focused on chemical warfare. But pressure from the United States and several European countries failed to budge Algeria, which held out against Israel, thereby blocking a consensus.

Nevertheless, the Israeli diplomatic mission to the United Nations in Geneva is optimistic that Israel will be accepted in a few months. The disarmament conference reconvenes early in 1990.

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ARGENTINE COURT UPHOLDS EXTRADITION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL TO WEST GERMANY By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- The Argentine federal Court of Appeals last week upheld the extradition of accused Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger to West Germany, which wants to try him for crimes against humanity.

Schwammberger, who is believed responsible for the deaths of at least 5,000 Jews, would be the first Nazi war criminal to be extradited from

Argentina.

But he is expected to appeal the decision in the Argentine Supreme Court, which could delay extradition four months to two years.

In Bonn, West German Justice Minister Hans Engelhard welcomed the Argentine court's decision. He said West German prosecutors would seek the maximum sentence, life imprisonment, if Schwammberger stands trial.

Officials of American Jewish groups, however, are worried that such proceedings may be a long time away. It has been 16 years since West Germany issued a warrant for Schwammberger's arrest and more than two years since the former Austrian Nazi was arrested by Argentine police.

"We are very concerned," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "Schwammberger was apprehended in 1987. It is now 1989, and he still has not been brought to justice."

"We are thrilled with the court finding, but not with the delay," he said.

Schwammberger was sixth on the Wiesenthal Center's list of most-wanted Nazi war criminals.

'A Very Nasty Guy'

The Austrian-born Nazi, referred to by Holocaust survivors as the mass murderer of Rozwadow and Przemysl, is suspected of killing hundreds of Jews in labor camps during the Nazi occupation of Polish Galicia. He is also thought to be one of the organizers of the mass deportations to the Auschwitz death camp.

"He was a very nasty guy," said Morton Rosenthal, director of Latin American affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "He is known for tactics like setting vicious dogs on camp prisoners, personally smashing heads of children against walls and throwing people live into bonfires."

Schwammberger was arrested in Austria after World War II, but escaped to South America in 1949, with the help of the Nazi Odessa network. Now 77 years old, the former Nazi had been living outside Buenos Aires under his actual name, with an Argentine passport.

In October 1987, the Wiesenthal Center announced it believed Schwammberger, among other war criminals, to be hiding in Argentina. In November, extradition was requested by a Stuttgart court and a reward of \$250,000 was offered by the West German government for Schwammberger's capture.

Two weeks later, Schwammberger was arrested by Argentine police in the province of Cordoba. He has been awaiting extradition for over 20 months in a prison hospital, where he is being treated for what has been termed a "heart condition."

"Justice is being delayed, and it may be politically motivated," said Hier.

(JTA correspondent David Kantor in Bonn contributed to this report.)

ISRAELI HEALTH MINISTER URGES ANNE POLLARD'S RELEASE FROM JAIL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Health Minister Ya'acov Tsur came under fire over the weekend for urging U.S. authorities to release Anne Henderson Pollard from jail.

Tsur insisted Monday that his plea for clemency implied no change in Israel's policy of refraining from intervention in the Pollard spy case. The Laborite minister said his public appeal was a humanitarian gesture and had been coordinated with the top government leadership.

Pollard is serving two concurrent five-year prison terms for of possession of classified documents in connection with the espionage activities of her husband, Jonathan Jay Pollard. The former U.S. Navy civilian employee was sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for Israel.

A movement has developed in the United States and Israel for the early release of Anne Pollard, who is suffering from a debilitating intestinal disease.

She is presently confined at the Federal Prison Camp in Danbury, Conn., and was denied early parole last month. Although officially eligible for furloughs, she was recently told she will not be released for the High Holy Days.

Israel has distanced itself from the Pollard case since it surfaced in 1985. The official position has been that Pollard's recruitment and spying was a rogue operation conducted without the knowledge or approval of top Israeli authorities.

Tsur's plea was joined by the Association of Prisoners of Zion, an Israeli group active in the past on behalf of Soviet Jews imprisoned in the Soviet Union for Zionist activities.

W. GERMANY MARKS WAR'S ANNIVERSARY WITH SPEECHES AND GRAVESIDE CEREMONY By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl cited the cordial relations between Bonn and Jerusalem as a model for reconciliation, and pledged to work for understanding and cooperation with former enemies and victims of Germany's past.

Kohl, leader of the ruling Christian Democratic Union, addressed a packed special session of the Bundestag on Friday that marked the 50th anniversary of the start of World War II, which began with the German invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939.

The ambassadors of Israel, Poland and other countries that suffered from the Nazi regime were present.

As part of the events marking the day, a ceremony was held at the Jewish cemetery in West Berlin that was well attended by prominent politicians, including Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of West Germany's Central Council of Jews, warned against signs of resurgent anti-Semitism.

He said he was appalled by the electoral successes of the extreme right-wing Republican Party, which "adopted elements of the Nazi ideology."

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt declared that by launching the war, Germany committed crimes that were a misfortune for Europe and a disgrace for the Germans.