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## **HUNGARIAN MINISTER ARRIVES, RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn arrived in Israel on Sunday for the first official visit from Budapest since the two countries re-established diplomatic relations in September after a 22-year break.

But uncertainty hovered over reports that a high-ranking Czechoslovak delegation was coming to discuss the restoration of diplomatic ties with Prague.

The newspaper Yediot Achronot said the Czechs were due here Monday to confer with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, but the group had not arrived by midday.

While there was no confirmation of the newspaper story, angry government officials complained that its publication was damaging.

The new Czech president, Vaclav Havel, said shortly after his election by Parliament on Dec. 29 that he intended to restore relations with Israel and with the Vatican.

Yediot Achronot said the Czechs would re-establish full diplomatic ties in one step, skipping the intermediate stages adopted by Poland and Hungary.

Czechoslovakia, like all countries within the Soviet orbit except Romania, severed ties with Israel in the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War.

### **Hungary Shares E.C. Position**

Hungarian Minister Horn, meanwhile, declared on his arrival that Hungary shares the European Community position on the Middle East conflict.

The E.C. calls for an international peace conference under U.N. auspices with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, a scenario unconditionally rejected by Israel.

After conferring with Arens, however, Horn modified his statement saying that while Hungary favored an international conference, it was up to the parties involved to determine the best path to peace.

Arens said Israeli technical know-how and economic contacts could help Hungary make the transition from its communist economy to a free-market system.

Horn and Arens signed agreements on culture, education and science.

Hungary restored diplomatic relations with Israel on Sept. 18, after an 18-month period during which an Israeli consular section headed by Shlomo Marom operated in Budapest.

Marom was promptly named ambassador to Hungary. Budapest has not yet sent an ambassador to Tel Aviv but is expected to shortly.

Poland and Israel exchanged interests sections in 1989 but no further progress has been made toward the restoration of full diplomatic ties.

The same is true of Israel and the Soviet Union.

The Soviets sent a consular delegation to Tel Aviv in 1987, ostensibly to look after Soviet property and nationals in Israel.

Israel was allowed to reciprocate with a consular mission in Moscow in 1989.

## **RELIGIOUS MINISTRY RULES AGAINST WOMEN OF THE WALL**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A new regulation enacted by Israel's Ministry of Religious Affairs will essentially make criminal the activities of the "Women of the Wall," overseas supporters of the Israeli women's prayer group said Monday.

The new ruling forbids "the holding of a religious ceremony, which is not in accordance with the custom of a (holy) place, and which offends the sensibilities of the worshipers towards the place."

The 1,000-member International Committee for the Women of the Kotel called the move "the epitome of arbitrariness and discrimination" and vowed to fight the regulation in court.

"This outrageous enactment is an affront to every Jewish woman as well as to Jewish men who care about the quality of Jewish religious life and equity in the administration of Israel's holy places," the group said in a statement.

The regulation was signed by both Ze'evulun Hammer, the minister of religious affairs, and Dan Meridor, the minister of justice.

On Jan. 1, the government submitted a copy of the new regulation to Israel's Supreme Court.

The court is presently considering a petition by the Women of the Wall, asking the government for protection of their right to pray collectively at the Western Wall, wearing tallitot and carrying a Torah.

### **Violent Confrontations With Orthodox**

Attempts to do so in the past year have led to violent confrontations with some Orthodox worshipers. Even when the women have attempted to pray in a group in accordance with temporary court orders, meaning without wearing tallitot or with a Torah, they have been harassed.

A full court hearing of the case has now been postponed further in order to give the Women of the Wall time to consider the impact of the Ministry of Religion's ruling and plan their next move.

The government had been ordered to submit a response to the Women of the Wall's petition by Dec. 31. They had been given a seven-month delay in court proceedings last May, to attempt to reach an understanding with the women.

But the government "never made the slightest attempt to do this and instead used the time to enact the new ruling," said Rivka Haut of the International Committee.

Haut, who is Orthodox, and the rest of the Committee contend that there is no halachic reason why women cannot pray as a group or read from the Torah at the Wall.

"It is extremely noteworthy," the group said in their statement, "that the Ministry's ruling, in fact, makes no halachic objection to the women's practice. Instead, it cites vague and undefined 'custom' and unidentified 'worshipers.'"

They added that the ruling appears to reward the violent acts of those who have battled the women's presence by "protecting the 'sensibilities' of those who have thrown metal chairs, punched, kicked and bitten Jewish women at

prayer, while turning the women into criminals."

Harriet Kurlander, director of the Commission for Women's Equality for the American Jewish Congress, noted that although the Ministry of Religious Affairs has utilized its authority to protect holy places in the past, including the use of loudspeakers and the distribution of literature, this latest ruling "appears to be the first time they have addressed the content of worship."

#### COMMUNIST KNESSET MEMBER STEPS DOWN AFTER 42 YEARS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Meir Wilner, an original signer of Israel's Declaration of Independence and a veteran leader of the Israeli Communist party who has served in every Knesset since the first, resigned from parliament Monday to make room for younger blood.

Wilner, 70, will be replaced Wednesday by Hashem Mahamid, former mayor of the Arab town of Umm el-Fahm, in accordance with an agreement reached several weeks ago by the Communist-controlled leftist bloc known as the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, or Hadash.

Under pressure from younger elements, its four-man Knesset faction was to be replaced.

But while Wilner and his two Arab colleagues, Tawfik Toubi and Tawfik Zaayad, agreed to step down, former Black Panther Charlie Biton balked.

Biton has said that if ousted from Hadash, he would remain in Knesset as an independent member.

Wilner was born in Poland and is a journalist by profession. He served for many years as the Communist party's secretary-general.

#### INTERNATIONAL JEWISH MEDIA CONFERENCE INCLUDES DELEGATION FROM SOVIET UNION

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A Soviet delegate attending the third International Conference of the Jewish Media made it clear that while conditions have improved at home, Jewish issues still cannot be discussed openly in the Soviet Union.

Delegations from 27 countries, including the United States and most of Europe, are represented at the five-day gathering, which began Sunday.

One of the 12-member Soviet contingent at the conference is Timur Yaacovishvili, who is from Tbilisi in Soviet Georgia.

Yaacovishvili said Soviet Jewry is grateful for the work done by the world Jewish media during the years before glasnost and perestroika, when Soviet Jews were bombarded with anti-Zionist propaganda.

Alexander Shmukler, editor of Moscow's Jewish Information Bulletin, was quoted in the Israeli press as saying that despite glasnost, Israel still receives unbalanced treatment in the Soviet media, and that there is a strong need for the "unofficial" Jewish press as well as the officially sanctioned Jewish periodicals.

President Chaim Herzog and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir addressed the opening session Sunday night.

Other political leaders scheduled to speak during the week include Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

#### IDF CRACKING DOWN IN RAMALLAH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- More than 100 Ramallah-area residents were detained and the homes of four of them were sealed off this week as security forces cracked down on intifada activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to military sources, many of the detainees are Palestinians suspected of violence against fellow Arabs they believed were collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Some are suspected of being members of local "shock" committees responsible for serious assaults, including the murder of a villager in Deir Sudan last October, the attempted murder of another and several stabbings in the Ramallah area.

In one case, security forces demolished the home of Hussein Hijazi Aluch, 26, in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza on Sunday night.

Aluch is a suspected member of a local Fatah organization that calls itself "Eagles of the Revolution," and has been accused of murdering a municipal employee and trying to kill another city worker, both of whom he suspected of cooperating with the Israelis.

Security forces also sealed off a home in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza owned by an activist suspected of serious assaults. He allegedly attacked an employee of the Civil Administration and stole his pistol.

#### LAHAT: I'D TALK TO ARAFAT

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Tel Aviv's Likud mayor, Shlomo Lahat, is in deep trouble with his own party for saying publicly that he would be willing to meet with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

Although a veteran Likud member, Lahat is known not to toe the Likud line. He told a news conference Sunday that he would be prepared to participate in talks with Arafat if he was convinced the PLO leader represented the Palestinian people.

Lahat also expressed the opinion that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would also talk with Arafat in the very near future.

He simply does not have much of a choice, Lahat said, adding that Shamir had to view the current situation realistically.

Sara Doron, chairperson of the Likud Knesset faction, suggested that Lahat stick to municipal politics.

Likud hawk Reuven Rivlin declared the mayor was in the wrong party.

#### ISRAELI PROF. PREDICTS QUAKE

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A leading seismologist predicts a devastating earthquake for Israel sometime in the next 50 years that will register a 7 on the Richter scale and will strike mainly in northern Galilee and the Jordan Valley.

The quake was forecast by Dr. Avi Shapiro of the Seismological Department at the Haifa Institute for Oil and Geological Research.

Shapiro told a lecture audience in Haifa on Thursday that the tremor could be forecast up to three months in advance, but that he would keep the date from the public to avoid panic which might take more lives than the earthquake itself.

**MEMBER OF PUBLIC ENEMY  
NOW SETS BIGOTRY TO MUSIC**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- An upcoming solo album by a member of the rap music group Public Enemy is expected to further heighten the controversy which already surrounds the rap group.

The album by Richard Griffin, who uses the stage name "Professor Griff," contains a song which is a verbatim repetition of Griffin's interview with The Washington Times last May, according to Debbie Bennetts, the publicist for Luke Skywalker Records, Griff's album producer.

In the controversial May 9 interview with Times reporter David Mills, Griffin maintained, among other things, that Jews were "responsible for the majority of wickedness that goes on across the globe," that they "have a grip on America" and "a tight grip on our brothers in South Africa."

At the time of that interview, no anti-Semitic ideology had found its way into Public Enemy's highly popular music, which generally contains strongly worded messages of black nationalism and black pride.

But this month, in a new Public Enemy single called "Welcome to the Terrordome," there are lines which imply that during the controversy over Griff, the "so-called chosen" people crucified Public Enemy, "just like Jesus."

Both the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles have protested the lyrics of the Public Enemy song to executives of CBS Records, the album's distributor.

**Anti-Semitism Now Attractive**

But to Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center, the lyrics contained in "Welcome to the Terrordome" pale in comparison to the prospect of a musical rendition of Griff's interview.

Cooper said Griffin's album will make anti-Semitic views appear not only acceptable but attractive to his young fans.

"That there will be thousands singing (Griffin's) Nazi-like slogans is not a good way to start the New Year," Cooper said.

Griffin will release his new rap album, titled "Pawns in the Game," on Feb. 21.

Cooper called Griffin's decision to do a musical rendition of the interview, sung by Griffin and fellow rapper Luke Skywalker, "a cynical attempt to cash in on the controversy."

But Bennetts, the publicist for the Miami-based Luke Skywalker Records, contended that the album "is not cashing in on the controversy at all; it's confronting it."

Putting the interview on the album was an opportunity for Griff to present his point of view, Bennetts said.

"From what I have heard, he doesn't say anything about hating anyone," she added.

Griffin cited books from the research library of the Rev. Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, including Henry Ford's "The International Jew," as the sources for his assertions in the Washington Times interview.

Griffin told MTV on Nov. 8 that "Pawns in the Game" would "tell his side of the story" about the interview.

Other than the MTV interview, Griffin has remained relatively inaccessible to the press after speaking to The Washington Times.

After many Jewish groups and music critics condemned Griff's comments in the newspaper last spring, Public Enemy's leader, Chuck Ridenhour, or "Chuck D," made a public apology and suspended Griff from the group. In the heat of the controversy, Public Enemy temporarily disbanded, but regrouped less than a month later.

At that time, Griff was reinstated, but was moved from serving as the group's "Minister of Information" to acting as its "Supreme Allied Chief of Community Relations." His new position involves liaison work between Public Enemy and the black community, with a special emphasis on reaching out to black youth.

**WEST GERMAN NEO-NAZI PARTY  
TO SET UP BRANCHES IN EAST**

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Franz Schoenhuber, the former Waffen-SS officer who heads the Republican Party, the largest and most successful of West Germany's extreme right-wing groups, announced Monday that his party would establish branches in East Germany.

The party has already set up a recruiting office in West Berlin for East German citizens, referred to by Schoenhuber as an "information office."

The East German government has said officially it would not allow Schoenhuber or his representatives into his territory nor would it tolerate a Republican sister party on its soil.

When Schoenhuber attempted to enter East Berlin from West Berlin on Monday, he was turned away by the East German border guards, who cited his "fascist activities" as their reason.

Meanwhile, the recently formed opposition groups in East Germany are accusing the ruling Communist Party of exploiting fears of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism to serve its political ends.

In the last two weeks, the controlled press has reported almost daily incidents of walls daubed with anti-Semitic or other Nazi slogans.

The news media blames East German youths, who it says were influenced by West German extremists to express their "fascist" attitudes.

But many of the alleged daubings were unverified, and a spokesman for New Forum, the leading opposition group, accused Prime Minister Hans Modrow of deliberately starting a fear campaign.

The spokesman charged that the government specifically is trying to create an atmosphere that would favor the creation of another secret police organization like the notorious Stasi, disbanded by popular demand last year.

Stasi was used to brutally crush all opposition during the regime of deposed dictator Erich Honecker, when Stalinists ruled the German Democratic Republic.

Now, according to the opposition, the government is propagating the neo-Nazi menace, "but the real message is that they want to employ many of the 24,000 Stasi agents who have been fired."

Ibrahim Boehme, a leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, said part of the problem is that the Communists have run out of campaign issues.

"They clearly want to exploit the issue of right-wing extremism for political purposes," said Boehme, who comes from a Jewish family and was jailed for 15 months in 1977 for his political activities.

# JERUSALEM POST NAMES GROSS AS ITS NEW MANAGING EDITOR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem Post has named N. David Gross, a 66-year-old British-born journalist, as its new managing editor. Gross joined the Post in 1950.

The appointment Monday was announced less than a week after Post publisher Yehuda Levy fired more than 20 senior staff members, including Managing Editor David Landau, in a dispute over editorial policy.

The dispute led to a joint letter of resignation from the staff members to David Radler, chairman of the Canada-based Hollinger newspaper chain, which bought the Post last April.

They accused Levy of compromising editorial integrity and said they would leave their jobs in 30 days if he was not removed.

Levy, assured of the owner's confidence, dismissed the dissidents on Jan. 2, giving them a half-hour to clear the newspaper premises from which they have since been barred.

The English-language Post, long considered left of center, had been sharply critical of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc for their handling of the Palestinian uprising.

Levy, a retired Israel Defense Force colonel, is a Likud supporter. Critics say he is determined to turn the widely respected Post into a mouthpiece for Likud.

The new managing editor, who came to Israel in 1949, has served the Post as its chief night editor, news editor and associate managing editor.

# GROUNDWELL SUPPORT GATHERING FOR LETTING SOVIET FAMILY STAY

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Scores of Israelis, including several Knesset members, are urging the authorities to allow four related families of Soviet immigrants to remain in the country even though they are not Jewish.

The clamor for indulgence on humanitarian grounds began after the Interior Ministry rescinded the automatic citizenship it said was mistakenly accorded the 19 members of the Tropimov clan and issued them tourist visas instead.

The family is Catholic and does not intend to convert.

According to 63-year-old Pyotr Tropimov, in a Haifa newspaper story that first appeared last Friday, the Tropimovs came to Israel because the Soviet authorities would not give them an exit permit for the United States.

Tropimov said they got their Israeli visas on the basis of an invitation from a friend in Beer-sheba.

The first members of the family to arrive were overwhelmed, first by the warmth of their reception at Ben-Gurion Airport and then by the apartment allocated them in Haifa as well as financial assistance, Tropimov said.

They wrote to their relatives to join them.

The Jewish Agency said such occurrences, though rare, are not unknown.

But the Interior Ministry expressed surprise.

Spokeswoman Dvora Ellison said Sunday that immigrant status would be withdrawn from anyone not entitled to it, and that the Tropimovs would soon have to find themselves "another corner of the world."

# AMERICAN INVESTOR REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN KOOR INDUSTRIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A leading American investment company with holdings in Israel was reported Monday to be negotiating for the purchase of Koor Industries.

The financially ailing Histadrut-owned conglomerate is in receivership and efforts to save it have been dragging on for more than a year.

Negotiations were suspended, however, when Stanley Gould, president and chairman of the American Shamrock Investment Co., arrived here Thursday to talk business with Histadrut and the Treasury. He left Sunday night.

Shamrock reportedly offered up to \$250 million for Koor, whose subsidiaries account for about a third of Israel's industrial output and some 40,000 jobs.

Gould was said to have made two conditions for purchase: that his firm acquire a controlling interest of at least 51 percent and that the government and the banks help bail out Koor before the sale goes through.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres said the Treasury was considering the American offer and would reach a decision in "a week or so."

But a spokesman for Histadrut's Hevrat Haovdim, which owns Koor, said the company had not received an offer from Shamrock.

While the government was said to have promised about \$100 million to help save Koor, Peres stressed that it made no commitment to get Koor out of the red.

Its chief creditors are Israeli banks, which would have to write off about \$200 million in debts to meet Gould's conditions. American Shamrock, described as one of the largest investment houses in the United States, already owns 50 percent of the Telad television production studios in Jerusalem, and is a partner in a protein production plant at Kibbutz Hatzor in the Negev.

Gould told Yediot Achronot that Koor has great potential and operates many fine companies, and that it could prosper with the right recovery plan.

Meanwhile, other foreign investors are said to have expressed interest in Koor. A local report mentioned the Belzberg brothers, wealthy Orthodox Jews from Canada.

# MAXWELL LOOKING TO BUY BANK

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- British press tycoon Robert Maxwell seems determined to own a bank in Israel.

Frustrated in his efforts to buy the government-owned Israel Union Bank, Maxwell has turned his attention to the United Mizrahi Bank, which is affiliated with Mizrahi, the religious Zionist organization.

According to press reports from Israel, Maxwell's representative there, Aharon Meir, flew here last week for consultations.

But Maxwell is said to face strong opposition from Australian businessman Max Lieberman, who is also interested in the bank.

If Maxwell clinches the deal, Meir is expected to represent him on the Mizrahi Bank board.

Maxwell already owns a 30 percent interest in Ma'ariv, Israel's second largest daily newspaper, and a major share of Scitex, an Israeli manufacturer of electronics and computers.