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**ISRAELI POLICE BEGIN INVESTIGATION INTO WEIZMAN'S CONTACTS WITH PLO**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The police have opened an inquiry into Ezer Weizman's alleged contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The investigation was ordered Tuesday by Attorney General Yosef Harish, after consultations with Justice Minister Dan Meridor of Likud.

According to police sources, the outgoing inspector general of police, David Kraus, will be in charge of the inquiry, which will determine whether the Laborite Cabinet minister should be prosecuted.

The sources said the investigation would be short, inasmuch as most of the material already is in police hands.

Weizman, who is reported to have hired a Tel Aviv attorney to represent him, was summarily fired from the Cabinet by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Dec. 31.

To avoid a looming Likud-Labor coalition crisis, he was allowed to retain his portfolio as minister of science and development. Shamir has made clear, however, that he wants him eventually out of the government.

Weizman was forced to resign from the 12-member Inner Cabinet of senior ministers, the government's top policy-making body. But he was allowed to remain in the full Cabinet.

Shamir accused Weizman of undermining Israel's negotiating position by advising the PLO what diplomatic strategy to use in dealing with Israel and the United States.

Weizman has denied the charges, though he has publicly advocated that Israel negotiate with the PLO.

**Immunity Could Be Stripped**

Legal experts believe Weizman will be shielded from court proceedings by his parliamentary immunity.

But Harish has indicated he would seek to strip him of it. The attorney general is prepared to argue before the Knesset House Committee that the immunity law cannot apply to such blatant acts of defiance as Weizman allegedly committed.

But the full Knesset ultimately will have to decide whether to lift a member's immunity.

Weizman, 65, entered politics as a hawk, managing Likud's successful 1977 election campaign, which ended more than 30 years of Labor Party rule. Prime Minister Menachem Begin rewarded Weizman by naming him defense minister.

The Egyptian peace breakthrough, however, deeply affected Weizman's political outlook.

Gradually, he became disillusioned with Begin's response and with what he considered the waste of a historic opportunity to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement in the region, following the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

As a Knesset member, Weizman maintains close contacts with leading international statesmen, including key figures in the Arab world.

Legal experts say he could defend his contacts with PLO officials on grounds that he was acting in accord with his political and parliamentary duties as he saw them.

**ARAB NATIONS MAY TRY TO STAUNCH FLOW OF OLIM FROM EASTERN EUROPE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Arab countries, fearful of massive Jewish immigration to Israel, may ask the governments of Eastern Europe to curtail it, Hadashot reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said the Arab foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting on the issue at Arab League headquarters next month.

King Hussein of Jordan has warned that the flood of immigrants now pouring into Israel from the Soviet Union poses a grave danger to the entire Arab world and Jordan, in particular.

According to Hussein, Israel might force Palestinians out of the administered territories to settle Jewish immigrants.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared to many to lend credence to such fears, when he told a group of Likud supporters on Jan. 14 that mass immigration would lead to a "bigger Israel."

The U.S. State Department said such remarks "were not helpful."

Shamir later denied he was suggesting Israeli expansionism.

Hadashot quoted a report in the Jordanian newspaper Akhbar al-Asboua that Jordan has approached East European countries about Jewish immigration.

Arab diplomatic sources, meanwhile, do not dismiss the possibility that a high-ranking Arab delegation will go to Moscow to present the Arab point of view on the subject.

**SUBDUED BUT GRATEFUL PLANELOAD OF SOVIET JEWS ARRIVES IN ISRAEL**

By Eric Silver

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Four hundred Soviet Jews, the biggest group to arrive on a single flight, flew to Israel early Tuesday morning aboard a chartered El Al Boeing 747.

"Shalom Moscow, shalom Eastern bloc," a stocky man of about 40 exulted on the tarmac at Budapest's international airport, as he prepared to board the plane.

A spokesman for the Jewish Agency predicted that 1,500 Soviet Jews a week would soon be passing through the Hungarian capital, which has replaced volatile Bucharest as their main gateway to the West.

"The potential is much greater," said the spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari. "As more Soviet Jews pour into Budapest from Moscow, we shall bring more planes here."

Israel hopes that the Kremlin will soon formally approve direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv. "That," said Ben-Ari, "would certainly be the best solution."

At a conservative estimate, Israel expects 250,000 Soviet Jews to arrive here in the next three years.

Twelve of the party on the El Al jetliner were from Baku, capital of the strife-torn Soviet republic of Azerbaijan.

One of them, Nathan Sherinoff, a trumpet-player in the local symphony orchestra, forecast that all 100,000 Jews in Baku would leave within three years.

Sherinoff left his home two weeks ago, before the current clash with the Red Army, but he reported escalating hostility by the Azerbaijani nationalists toward the Jewish minority.

### Five Years For The Jews

Slogans painted on the walls of the capital read: "We give the Armenians one year, the Russians three years, the Jews five years." The Jews are getting the message.

But at the same time, Moslem nationalists are pressing Jews to join them in fighting their Armenian and Russian foes. "We gave you homes and jobs," Sherinoff quoted them as saying. "Now it's time to repay us."

Some Jews complied, he said, but the vast majority refused. "It isn't our war," he insisted.

Ukrainian Jews on the flight said they feared that the nationalist movement there, too, was turning against them.

Bella Kogan, a 52-year-old civil engineer traveling with her husband and son, said: "In the Ukraine, I had a home and a job, but I felt we had to go. We were afraid of civil war."

"The Jews are already being portrayed as the enemy -- in newspapers, in magazines and on television," she said.

Bella and her husband, Alexander, also an engineer, admitted they would have preferred to settle in the United States.

"I know English," she explained. "At my age, it is hard to learn a new language. I'm also worried about finding a job in Israel."

But 23-year-old their son, Leonid, who served two years as a marine in the Red Army, said Israel is his first choice. Though he wants to study law, he apparently is not perturbed at the prospect of being conscripted into the Israeli army. "I'm not afraid," he asserted.

### Babies And Babushkas

The 400 were a mixed batch: elegant city-dwellers from metropolitan Russia, Yiddish-speaking Lithuanian and Ukrainian survivors, mustachioed mountain Jews from the Caucasian republics.

About two-thirds were young families, some wheeling babies onto the plane in strollers and even full-size baby carriages.

An arthritic grandmother struggled up the airline steps on crutches. Another babushka was handed up by her son in a tan leather trench coat. A third, blue-rinsed in a fake fur coat, would have looked at home in a shopping mall.

A young musician lugged a cello as hand luggage. A folk singer, who recorded an instant audition for the Israeli army radio station, plucked a guitar.

Almost every family was toting its duty-free ghetto-blasting cassette recorder. Coca-Cola, the ultimate liberation, was the treat of the three-hour flight.

But it was a subdued, phlegmatic homecoming: no prayers, no incantations.

All those interviewed -- an airline pilot who was invited up to the flight deck, an economist, a doctor, a lawyer, the engineers and musicians -- plan to settle in big cities, where they have friends and relatives. There were no takers for the West Bank.

Hardly any spoke Hebrew. These were migrants, not activists. After anything from two days to two weeks on the road, they were too weary at 3 a.m. to join in the patriotic songs relayed by El Al as the plane descended on Ben-Gurion Airport. No one kissed the runway.

### **PHOTOGRAPHER ROMAN VISHNIAC, 92, PRAISED AS 'GREATEST IN HIS FIELD'** By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Photographer Roman Vishniac, whose photographs of Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust immortalized a vanished world, was called "the greatest in the field" by his friend Elie Wiesel.

Vishniac died in his Manhattan apartment Monday morning of colon cancer, at age 92.

The Nobel peace laureate, who wrote the preface to Vishniac's book "A Vanished World," cited the storytelling ability of the photographer, saying Vishniac had an uncanny ability to read the minds of his subjects.

Vishniac "wrote the subtitles for every picture," said Wiesel. "He had a story for every picture, an exquisite memory -- rich, colorful and precise. He knew exactly what the object of his picture not only did, but what he thought."

Vishniac was born in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad), Russia, in 1897. Trained as a biologist, he was known in the world of science and photography as a microphotographer, taking pictures of microscopic form of life.

But it was his work as the Jewish photographer par excellence that garnered him a lasting place in the pantheon of chroniclers of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, before it was decimated by the Holocaust.

### Trekled Across Pre-War Europe

Vishniac, having had a premonition of the destruction of the Jews, roamed across 5,000 miles of Europe with a camera between the years 1932 to 1939, taking some 16,000 photographs.

He made his way through Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, with the express purpose of immortalizing Jewish life. Frequently using a hidden camera, he photographed Jews in the cities, ghettos and tiny shtetls.

Vishniac recorded the visions of poor and persecuted Jews as his personal way of preserving their lives for posterity. He once said, "I was unable to save my people -- only their memory."

He took pictures of Nazi demonstrations in Germany and preserved as proof photographs of Jewish victims of the Nazis. To avoid suspicion, he often dressed as a Nazi to take the pictures.

His haunting shots of frightened Jews included pictures of individuals peering fearfully from windows, looking for signs of Nazis or collaborators.

Vishniac fled Germany before the war erupted, traveling to France, where he spent three months in the Gurs internment camp run by the Vichy French. In France, he got visas for himself and his family and arrived in New York in December 1940.

His first book on the subject was "Polish Jews: A Pictorial Record," published by Shocken Books in 1942.

He taught humanities at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and was professor of biology education at Yeshiva University in Manhattan and at Yeshiva's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In 1971, the International Fund for Concerned Photography mounted an exhibit of Vishniac's photographs at the Jewish Museum here.

The fund became the International Center of Photography, which published a book on Vishniac in 1974. Some 100 of Vishniac's photographs are in the center's permanent collection.

# L.A. MAN ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES ORDERED EXTRADITED TO GERMANY By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- A suburban Los Angeles man who was found guilty of mass murder during World War II was ordered extradited to West Germany on Tuesday.

Bruno Karl Blach, 69, a retired grocery store clerk in La Habra, Calif., agreed to the extradition at his appearance Tuesday in federal district court in Los Angeles, according to the Office of Special Investigations of the Justice Department.

After OSI began deportation proceedings against Blach in 1987, the U.S. Immigration Court ruled that Blach had served as an SS guard and dog-handler at Dachau concentration camp from 1940 to 1943, and at Wiener Neudorf concentration camp from 1943 to 1945.

Blach appealed the case, which was still pending when he was arrested in October. He has been held in jail since then.

Blach will be sent to Duisburg, West Germany, to stand trial for mass murder in Germany and Austria.

Blach, who joined the Nazi party in January 1939, was a member of the SS Totenkopf (Death's Head Battalion).

Testimony against Blach was given in the California court by concentration camp survivor Alexy Bialas, who testified that Blach threw an elderly Polish Jew into a ditch and personally shot him with a machine gun after the man faltered in his step.

Blach, who entered the United States in 1956, never became a U.S. citizen.

A native of Czechoslovakia, Blach was charged with murder in the Duisburg court in June 28, 1989. The German court accused him of killing three persons in Austria on the way from Wiener Neudorf to Mauthausen concentration camp, in April 1945.

The Duisburg court, in its warrant for Blach's arrest, said prosecution for murder is not subject to a statute of limitations under West German law.

## NAZI DOCTOR MAY BE TRIED IN GERMANY By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- A doctor who may have participated in the Nazis' so-called "euthanasia" program will go on trial in Hildesheim, in northern West Germany, if he is found physically fit.

The prosecution announced Tuesday that it would press charges against Dr. Klaus Endrueweit, 76, who is accused of complicity in the murders of 2,250 people during World War II.

Chief Prosecutor Hans-Helmut Kehr said Endrueweit would have to undergo a medical examination to find out if he is fit to stand trial.

A Frankfurt court cleared him and two other doctors in 1967 on grounds that it was impossible to prove that they knowingly committed wrongful acts or violated existing law.

But a higher court reversed the Frankfurt decision in 1971.

The Third Reich inaugurated a policy before World War II to eliminate from society persons considered "unfit to live." That included the mentally ill, the disabled and persons suffering from incurable diseases.

According to experts, about 70,000 people were killed, including preschool children.

# MAIKOVSKIS DENIES ATROCITIES, CLAIMING TO BE AFRAID OF BLOOD By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Accused Nazi war criminal Boleslavs Maikovskis defended himself in court Monday against charges of mass killings by claiming he cannot stand the sight of blood.

He told a court in the northwestern city of Munster that he refused to carry out orders to oversee the shooting of 171 residents of the Latvian village of Audrini in January 1942. The indictment charges he gave such orders.

"I was not involved in this matter. It happened without my participation," the 86-year-old defendant pleaded.

Maikovskis is also charged with the separate killings of Jews in the area. He told the court that for physical and psychological reasons, he cannot watch blood spilling from living creatures.

According to Maikovskis, who was the Nazi-appointed police chief in the nearby town of Rezekne, the mass shootings were ordered by his superior, Albert Eichelis, in retaliation for help the villagers supposedly gave to partisans fighting the Nazis.

Observers at the Munster court say the role of the Latvian police as a whole during the Nazi occupation from 1941 to 1944 will play an important part in the trial.

Experts are expected to testify that the police approved of what the Nazis did and helped them in many ways, including organizing the deportations and killings of Jews.

Eichelis, who died several years ago, was tried for war crimes in 1984 and drew a long prison sentence.

His testimony implicated Maikovskis, who was living at the time in Mineola, N.Y., and prompted the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to investigate him.

The INS began deportation proceedings against Maikovskis in 1976, on grounds that he lied about his past when he applied for a U.S. entry visa in 1951.

The intention was to deport him to the Soviet Union, where he was tried in absentia in 1965 and sentenced to death for war crimes, including complicity in the killings of 20,000 Jews in Riga.

But Maikovskis slipped out of the United States in 1987 and went to West Germany as a tourist. He was arrested in Munster in October 1988.

If convicted, he faces a life sentence.

## YUGOSLAV WOMEN CHARGED AS SPIES By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Two Yugoslav women were detained in Israel two weeks ago on charges of spying for the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ha'aretz reported Tuesday.

The newspaper's disclosure forced the Haifa Magistrates Court to lift the ban it imposed on the story's publication at the time of the arrests.

The women were identified as Victoria David, reportedly a convert to Judaism who immigrated here two years ago, and her non-Jewish friend Patricia Kansevich, who came to Israel as a tourist in the past year.

They were accused of photographing strategic sites and sending the photos to the PLO. The women admitted taking the pictures, but denied they were for the PLO.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**RABBIS DEBATE VALUE OF DIALOGUE WITH GENTILES AND NON-ORTHODOX**

By Toby Axelrod

The New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Should Orthodox leaders engage in dialogue with non-Jewish clergy? With non-Orthodox rabbis? If so, what topics may be debated, and in what context?

Rabbis of centrist or modern Orthodoxy, caught between an increasingly assertive right wing and ever-widening divergences with liberal Judaism on the left, met here last week to discuss the value of continuing dialogue with other movements of Judaism and with non-Jewish clergy.

The setting was the mid-winter conference of the Rabbinical Council of America, the nation's largest body of Orthodox rabbis. The council meets twice a year, once for business and once for its mid-winter study and reflection session.

"It is our duty to stretch out our hand and hope that if we reach out, there will be a solution to our problems," Rabbi Max Schreier, president of the council, said in his keynote address to the conference.

The Rabbinical Council has faced opposition to its interfaith and inter-movement activities for more than 35 years, both internally and from other Orthodox groups.

The debate has centered on its membership in the Synagogue Council of America, which unites Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbinic and congregational groups. Opponents say membership in that umbrella group implies legitimization of Judaism's liberal streams.

Through the Synagogue Council, moreover, the Rabbinical Council is affiliated to the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (commonly known by the acronym IJCIC), which conducts ongoing dialogue with the Vatican and other Christian groups.

**A Matter Of 'Damage Control'**

In a panel discussion following Schreier's speech, several leading Orthodox practitioners of interfaith dialogue sought to explain these activities and their limits.

"I see our job in the Synagogue Council of America and in IJCIC as plain damage control," said Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, a former Rabbinical Council president who co-chairs the Synagogue Council's interreligious affairs committee.

"We are not discussing religion, but we are discussing issues from a religious position," Schonfeld said of his Synagogue Council activities.

"We are people of spiritual background. We can't discuss a problem as a stockbroker, a glazier or a businessman. We watch over the store and we call it the interreligious affairs committee."

Israel Singer, another Orthodox activist involved in interreligious activity, said he enters such dialogues with a sense of cynicism.

"If you have to talk to this guy to stay safe, you talk to the guy," said Singer, who as secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress plays a key role in IJCIC.

"My object is to enhance the position of the Jewish people in every way I can, whether with a head of state or church," Singer said.

According to Schonfeld, the deciding factor in entering the Synagogue Council and its interfaith panel -- for him personally and for the Rabbinical Council -- was the opinion of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, the supreme halachic author-

ity of modern Orthodoxy, known to his followers as "the Rav."

Soloveitchik, the Leib Merkin Distinguished Professor of Talmud and Jewish Philosophy at Yeshiva University, is ailing and rarely speaks in public today.

**Matter Of 'Universal Conviction'**

In 1965, Schonfeld recalled, Henry Siegman, then Synagogue Council head, now executive director of the American Jewish Congress, "asked me to become the chairman of the interreligious affairs committee. I went to the Rav, and he said, 'We don't need it.'"

"In 1967, when I was asked again, he said, 'Now you have to take it.' Why? Because the conditions have changed. There is an onslaught against Israel."

Rabbi Walter Wurzburger, a respected theologian who has been president of both the Rabbinical Council and the Synagogue Council, called such dialogue "a religious, ethical imperative."

"We should not look upon dialogue with the non-Jewish religious community simply in terms of our own self-interest, but also in terms of certain universal responsibilities as people of faith," said Wurzburger, former editor of the Rabbinical Council journal Tradition.

Recalling his own personal observations of Soloveitchik's respect for other religions, Wurzburger said: "The Rav never prohibited talking to non-Jews on matters of socio-ethical importance."

"I plead with you, let us not be so victimized by the Holocaust and by the United Nations" that you "completely abandon the universal conviction," he added.

"I love Jews much more than anyone else," Wurzburger said, "but my love for Jews does not entail hatred or disdain for non-Jews."

The Rabbinical Council has been a member of the Synagogue Council since the umbrella group was founded in the 1930s, according to Rabbi Louis Bernstein, a former Rabbinical Council president and author of "Challenge and Continuity," a history of the Orthodox group.

In 1955, 11 yeshiva deans issued a ban on participating in "mixed groups," Bernstein said in an interview. Still, he said, "the Rabbinical Council of America never recognized this ban."

**Fostering 'Mutual Understanding'**

But Rabbi David Hollander, who was president of the Rabbinical Council at the time of the ban said he had been personally instructed by Soloveitchik to observe the 1955 ban and avoid Synagogue Council activities, for fear of legitimizing non-Orthodox Jewish practice.

"I asked Rabbi Soloveitchik, 'Should I, as president, attend the Synagogue Council meeting?' He said: 'Do not flout the decision of the roshi yeshivos, and do not attend the meetings,'" Hollander recalled.

Soloveitchik is not known to have written formally on the topic since 1966, when he made this statement in the Rabbinical Council Record:

"In the areas of universal concern, we welcome an exchange of ideas and impressions. Communication among the various communities will greatly contribute towards mutual understanding."

The debate has continued, however. "This has been an ongoing fight, with Hollander leading the challenge," said Bernstein. "We are not the College of Cardinals. It's perfectly OK to disagree. But the reality of life is that (the prodigious) points of view have prevailed."