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**RUMORS THAT SOVIET EMIGRE FLIGHTS  
MIGHT BE RESTORED BUOY CABINET**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- While "gravely concerned" over the success Arab threats have had curtailing Soviet Jewish immigrant flights to Israel via Hungary, the Israeli Cabinet was buoyed Sunday by reports that the flights might be restored and that other routes and means of transportation may become available.

A source of optimism was a remark by visiting Hungarian minister of agriculture Szabo Hutter, who said the Hungarian state airline, Malev, would soon reinstate its charter flights carrying Soviet emigres to Tel Aviv.

Malev ended the flights last week, after the extremist Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine threatened terrorist attacks on airports and aircraft carrying Soviet Jews to Israel.

Malev also called off scheduled flights to Israel that carried immigrants.

Although the Hungarian foreign minister, Gyula Horn, publicly criticized the airline Sunday for surrendering to terrorist threats, he did not say the government would overrule it.

Malev asked the Soviet airline Aeroflot on Thursday to stop flying Israel-bound Jewish emigres to Budapest in order to change planes. The Soviet authorities, importuned by the Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization, promptly complied.

**Ban On One-Way Tickets**

The Soviets announced Thursday night that Aeroflot would no longer sell one-way tickets to Jews bound for Israel via Hungary. The ban applies to flights to Budapest from Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev.

But there had been rumors about Soviet barriers to Jewish emigration to Israel even before Thursday, and the relation between the Hungarian and Soviet decisions was not clear.

Moscow's action came despite assurances to a Jewish group Thursday from Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador to Washington, that the Malev decision was in no way related to overall Soviet policy on Jewish emigration.

Dubinina told the group that Soviet policy allowing Jews to emigrate to Israel remains unchanged.

Dubinina's assurance was reported by Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, who headed a joint delegation of the National Conference and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at a meeting with the Soviet envoy.

HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, urged President Bush on Sunday to use his good offices to convince the Soviet government "to give assistance to the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel rather than to limit it."

The letter, signed by HIAS President Ben Zion Leuchter, called attention to terrorist threats against airports and aircraft transporting Soviet Jews to Israel.

Israel, meanwhile, sent a senior official to Hungary to try to get the Malev flights restored. Yosef Govrin, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, flew to Budapest on Sunday.

A possible substitute to the Hungarian barrier may be coming from Poland and perhaps Czechoslovakia.

Israeli Cabinet sources said Poland has agreed to increase the number of weekly flights from Warsaw to Tel Aviv and that a new route has been agreed on between Israel and Prague. The World Jewish Congress said Warsaw was doubling its flights to Israel from two to four.

Other reports over the weekend said Soviet and Israeli officials were discussing the establishment of an ocean route to Israel, probably from Odessa on the Black Sea, employing Greek and Cypriot passenger ships.

The report, carried by the Yugoslavia.. news agency Tanjug, was not confirmed in Israel.

The New York Times reported Saturday that PLO leader Yasir Arafat asked the Soviet Union to avoid "direct maritime or air transport" of emigrants to Israel. There are no direct routes to Israel from the Soviet Union.

**PERES' FATE COULD BE DETERMINED  
BY AGED RABBI SCHACH OF BNEI BRAK**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- The success or failure of Shimon Peres' efforts to form a Labor-led coalition government may be determined long before his 21-day mandate expires, by the speech an aged rabbi from Bnei Brak will deliver at a political rally in Tel Aviv on Monday night.

Rabbi Eliezer Schach, founder and spiritual guide of the ultra-Orthodox, non-Hasidic Degel HaTorah (Torah Flag) Party, will address some 10,000 delegates at its first national convention, to be held in a local basketball arena.

His speech, which the Lithuanian-born rabbi will deliver in Yiddish, could signal Degel's continued backing of the hard-line Likud party headed by interim Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Or it could lean toward Labor, giving Peres the slim margin he needs to establish a narrowly based coalition partnership of the ultra-Orthodox or "haredi" parties with the vigorously secular left-wing factions.

Degel controls only two of the Knesset's 120 seats. But a change of its support from Likud to Labor is all Peres needs to tip the parliamentary balance, which is now divided 60-60 between the two major parties.

The direction in which Schach steers Degel HaTorah is also bound to influence the rest of the haredi bloc, notably Shas, which currently holds five Knesset seats.

Shas was also founded by Schach, differing from Degel in that its constituency is largely Sephardic, while the smaller party is an enclave of Ashkenazic Jews of Eastern European origin.

While Shas advised President Chaim Herzog to assign Likud the task of forming the next government, it is split and looks for guidance to another spiritual mentor, Israel's former Sephardic chief rabbi, Ovadia Yosef.

Yosef has made clear his preference for the flexible peace policies of the Labor Party. He is, in fact, credited with toppling the Shamir government, of which Shas was a part, by ordering its Knesset members to abstain from the crucial vote on a Labor no-confidence motion on March 15.

The issue was Shamir's rigid refusal to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's formula for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The 70-year-old Yosef, and Schach, whose age has been variously reported from 92 to 96, are both religious pacifists. Their beliefs stem from the halachic injunction that saving lives is paramount.

The two rabbis are prepared, therefore, to trade territory for peace, which is in line with Labor's policy but not Likud's.

Schach, however, refused to support Peres for the office of prime minister, and his position is uncertain.

While the Israeli and world news media prepared to cover Schach's speech, the venerable rabbi, who heads the Ponevezh Yeshiva, was literally besieged over the weekend by delegations from Likud and Labor, who hoped to win his favor.

Some haredi insiders said that if Schach delivers a tough anti-Labor speech, it could boomerang to split Shas. Such a rupture seems to rest on Rabbi Yosef who, it is said, does not want to break with the older sage but will not back away from his position on peace talks.

Labor, meanwhile, continued its negotiations on Sunday with another Orthodox party, Agudat Yisrael, with no appreciable progress reported. The Agudah is furious with Shamir for allegedly renegeing on promises he made to induce them into his coalition in December 1988.

Its Council of Sages voted 6-2 in favor of Labor and instructed its politicians to advise Herzog to nominate Peres. But there are hard-liners in the party who do not subscribe to the land-for-peace formula.

Labor is trying to entice the Agudah with promises of an additional \$100 million for its religious school system.

Likud is fighting back. Local newspapers reported Sunday that Herut hawk Ariel Sharon flew to New York to try to persuade the Lubavitcher rebbe to intervene with Agudah on behalf of Likud.

The Lubavitch Hasidim have increasingly wielded power in the Agudat Yisrael party -- one reason why the disciples of Rabbi Schach broke away to form Degel HaTorah just before the last elections. A Chabad spokesman in Israel insisted that the Brooklyn-based rebbe is determined not to intervene.

#### **SPLIT DEVELOPS IN GUSH EMUNIM; YOUTH JOINING ISRAEL MAINSTREAM** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- A split has developed within the Gush Emunim, the militant settlement movement in the West Bank, between its pragmatic and more ideological wings.

Yitzhak Armoni, who resigned as secretary-general over the weekend, blamed "elements in the Gush" for thwarting his efforts to democratize the movement.

One of his opponents has been Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the charismatic Gush leader from Hebron known for his hard-line ways. Armoni, who came from Ramat Magshimim, a kibbutz in the Golan Heights, took office last May with Levinger's support. But they have since drifted apart.

The veteran leadership is said to fear democratic processes, because they could lead to the loss of their positions within the Gush.

But there is a more basic split, observers

say. Levinger and his circle want to preserve the Gush Emunim as the main force behind the settlement movement.

But the younger generation has integrated into the political parties and regional and municipal institutions, which tends to render the Gush functionally redundant.

#### **JEWISH GROUPS EXPRESS SUPPORT OF SENATE RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Jewish organizations urged President Bush on Friday to join the Senate in declaring that Jerusalem is the united capital of Israel.

The Jewish groups expressed their appreciation for the Senate's unanimous voice vote adoption of Moynihan's resolution on Jerusalem, which had 83 co-sponsors, 45 Democrats and 38 Republicans.

The resolution, adopted at midnight Thursday, declared that "Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the State of Israel," and that it "must remain an undivided city."

A similar resolution has been introduced in the House by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.). The resolution has some 50 co-sponsors so far, and Engel is still gathering additional names before the resolution will be offered on the House floor, a spokeswoman for the congressman said Friday.

"The swift passage of this resolution demonstrates the broad bipartisan support in the Senate for our ally Israel," Moynihan said.

"This sends a message of reassurance to Israel -- reassurance which is essential to making progress toward peace."

The resolution also "calls upon all parties involved in the search for peace to maintain their strong efforts to bring about negotiations between Israel and Palestinian representatives."

The resolution noted that "ambiguous statements" by Bush and other members of his administration "concerning the right of Jews to live in all parts of Jerusalem raise concerns in Israel that Jerusalem might one day be redivided and access to religious sites in Jerusalem denied to Israeli citizens."

This was a reference to Bush's March 3 statement opposing "new settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem."

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a statement saying that it "hopes that the Senate action will find expression in U.S. policy and put to rest questions about the right of Jews to live in any part of Jerusalem."

"The fact that the overwhelming majority of Democrats and Republicans rushed to identify with the resolution points out that Jerusalem is above politics, and that all Americans recognize and support the reality of an open, united Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," the Conference said.

Arden Shenker, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, expressed confidence "that the president, in formulating foreign policy, will be sensitive to what is clearly a national consensus on Jerusalem."

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Zionist Organization of America and NA'AMAT USA also expressed their support of the resolution.

## ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ORDER TO EXTRADITE SCHWAMMBERGER

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders here and abroad have expressed satisfaction with the Argentine Supreme Court's decision to uphold an extradition order against accused Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger.

The 78-year-old former SS officer will stand trial in West Germany for the killings of at least 5,000 Jews while he was commandant of the concentration camps at Przemysl and Mielec in Poland in 1943-44.

Marcos Nizevenky, president of B'nai B'rith District 26 in Argentina, said the ruling was "especially important in view of the history of delays and refusals to act on similar cases of Nazi war criminals in Argentina."

Efraim Zuroff, head of the Israeli office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said Schwammberger's trial, coming at a time when German unification seems imminent, "will provide an important lesson for German youth both in East and West Germany regarding the dangers of Nazism and totalitarianism."

Schwammberger, who was born in Austria and received Argentine citizenship in 1965, was arrested Nov. 13, 1987, at a ranch in Cordoba province, where he had been hiding.

His detention was ordered on the basis of an extradition request filed in 1973 by a court in Stuttgart, West Germany.

In October 1987, a Wiesenthal Center announcement in Jerusalem put Schwammberger on its "10 most wanted" list, which was reported in the Argentine press, together with his photograph. Schwammberger subsequently tried to hide, but was discovered and arrested.

Since then, Schwammberger has been confined to prison in La Plata, 35 miles south of Buenos Aires, while his lawyers waged a legal struggle against extradition.

An appeals court upheld the order last August. It was appealed to the Supreme Court, whose ruling Friday is final.

### 'Landmark Decision'

Burton Levinson, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, called the ruling a "landmark decision."

He said it was of historic importance because Schwammberger will be the first Nazi war criminal ever extradited from Argentina to stand trial.

Levinson noted that many Nazi war criminals found haven in that country, including Adolf Eichmann, who was apprehended by Israeli agents in May 1960 and tried in Israel.

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, said he hoped the extradition will signal the end of tolerance in Argentina for Nazis and followers of neo-Nazi ideologies.

"This shows that Argentina will no longer be a haven for Nazi war criminals and illustrates the validity of the functioning democracy and judicial system in Argentina," Reich said in a statement from Buenos Aires, where he is visiting.

Schwammberger is accused of having been directly responsible for the torture-murder of hundreds of Jews.

Prison sources at La Plata said Schwammberger would be handed over to the West German authorities in a few days. But an official at the West German Embassy in Buenos Aires could not say when he would be extradited.

## W. GERMAN REPUBLICANS WIN ONLY 5.4 PERCENT IN BAVARIA By David Kantor

BONN, March 25 (JTA) -- The extreme right-wing Republican Party suffered a bigger loss than originally reported, according to complete returns from the March 18 Bavarian elections announced Sunday.

The final tally gave the Republicans 5.4 percent of the vote cast in statewide municipal balloting.

The early results had them winning 7 percent, in itself a setback compared with the 14.6 percent the Republicans scored in Bavaria during the nationwide elections last year for delegates to the European Parliament.

Bavaria is home to the Munich-based party, which is headed by a former Waffen SS officer, Franz Schoenhuber, and is reputedly neo-Nazi.

In the March 18 election, the Republican Party did better in cities than in rural areas. The party, which campaigns on an ultranationalist, anti-foreign worker platform, scored its biggest success in Rosenheim with 11.8 percent of the vote, up from 11 percent reported earlier.

The Republicans got 9.6 percent in Landshut and 7.3 percent in Munich.

## MEMORIAL UNVEILED IN BARCELONA TO JEWS WHO FOUGHT FASCISM By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA) -- A memorial to the 7,000 Jews from all over the world who fought against fascism in Spain from 1936-39 was unveiled in Barcelona on Sunday.

President Chaim Herzog of Israel was surprised but not displeased to learn that the 6-foot-high stone monument is engraved with a quotation from a speech he delivered in Tel Aviv several years ago.

The occasion was the convention of Jewish volunteers of the International Brigade, which fought on the side of Republican Spain against the nationalist rebels led by Generalissimo Francisco Franco and supported by Hitler and Mussolini.

The quotation, in Spanish, reads: "The victory of fascism in Spain paved the way for Hitler and led to the annihilation of human dignity. Fifty million people, 6 million of them Jews, paid with their lives.

"Honor is due to the thousands of volunteers who, arms in hand, took a stand here against fascism. There were many Jews among them. Haim Herzog, president of Israel."

The President's Office said Sunday it would have preferred the engraver to have spelled the president's first name correctly, "Chaim."

The memorial was built following the initiative of a Belgian Jew, Dov Liebermann, now 80, who wanted to let history know of the Jewish presence in the fight against fascism.

This visual tribute, which was fashioned in Brussels, was an opportunity to dispel the belief that Jews went like sheep to the slaughter at the hands of fascists and Nazis.

The memorial was sponsored by the Union of Old Jewish Resistants of Belgium and the World Federation of Veteran Jewish Fighters, Resistance Fighters and Camp Inmates.

The Jewish presence in the International Brigades comprised one-fifth of the 35,000-member legion, many of whom lost their lives in the fight.

*JTA staff writer Allison Kaplan recently spent five days in Israel studying the historic absorption of Soviet Jews now under way there. She has written a comprehensive, five-part series on the absorption process, incorporating human, institutional and political perspectives.*

**THE NEW SOVIET ALIYAH:  
'WHERE TO LIVE?' IS CHIEF CONCERN  
OF BOTH NEW AND RECENT IMMIGRANTS  
[Part 1 Of A Series]  
By Allison Kaplan**

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Mevasseret Zion is a small town perched atop a hill located about 10 minutes northwest of Jerusalem. Like many hilltop towns in the Jerusalem area, it offers a breathtaking view of the expansive city.

Mevasseret Zion is no ordinary town -- it is an absorption center for new immigrants. As such, it has the communal atmosphere of a kibbutz. Only the metal bars on the windows and doors of the houses give it a more urban feel.

The town is a virtual United Nations, with immigrants from the United States, Canada, South America, Romania and Ethiopia. And then there is the group whose arrival is changing the lives of all immigrants at the absorption center: the Soviet Jews.

The Russians have arrived at Mevasseret Zion, and despite the fact that they have come with no money and uncertain prospects, most seem optimistic. They say they feel at home.

At one time, even only a year ago, the Jewish Agency for Israel, which operates the absorption center, would have been totally pleased with these sentiments. It would have encouraged families to stay at the absorption center until they were securely on their feet and had saved enough money to purchase an apartment.

But this is February 1990, and times have changed. Every day, new Soviet immigrants crowd into Ben-Gurion Airport, and the Jewish Agency and government must find them places to live.

The Jewish Agency is starting to get tough.

**Desperate For Space**

Officials know they can't allow immigrants to become too settled in absorption centers, because the space is desperately needed for newcomers. So, the Jewish Agency issued new rules in January, intended to encourage the Soviets and other immigrants to leave the absorption center and enter the rental market.

Those who stay at Mevasseret Zion or any other absorption center now have to begin paying a nominal rent after six months of residency. If they remain in the absorption center a year, their rent shoots up even higher.

The new regulations shocked and dismayed many of the absorption center's residents. When the announcement was made, some traveled to an absorption center in Jerusalem to join other Soviet immigrants in protesting the decision.

Tzipporah Lipin, a Jewish Agency representative who takes journalists on tours of Mevasseret Zion, says the Jewish Agency's goal is to make the new immigrants independent as quickly as possible.

"The time spent here is not to coast and wait. It's meant to be a constructive working time, a learning time," she says.

Newlyweds Vicki and Grisha Lubarski are models of the talented young immigrants that have Israeli officials raving about the potential of

the new aliyah.

The Lubarski household is not much different from any other Israeli household. The sparsely furnished room is impeccably arranged, with doilies on the table and the bookshelves. The floor is freshly mopped. Standing out in the middle of the room are a brand new, full-size refrigerator and a large television set.

Curly-haired Vicki Lubarski, 20, looks like she could be an undergraduate at Brooklyn College. Like many Soviet women, she favors pink lipstick and pastel eye shadow.

Her husband, Grisha, 29, returns home carrying flowers. Wearing brown wire-frame glasses, a patterned Shetland sweater, jeans and a still-shiny wedding band -- he and Vicki have only been married for a year -- Grisha looks like a Soviet version of the American yuppie.

He has just been to a kibbutz explaining the Soviet aliyah to children there. Despite his short time studying Hebrew, he is fluent in the language and rarely resorts to Russian, even though a translator sits beside him.

Grisha is a doctor who has worked in radiology and internal medicine. "The medical studies here are essentially the same, but the equipment is far more sophisticated," he says.

In order to practice in Israel, he must take eight to nine months of retraining courses, pass a battery of tests and do an internship.

**'What Will Happen, Will Happen.'**

When asked if he is worried about the huge numbers of doctors among the Soviets, he shrugs. "What will happen, will happen," he says. "There isn't much I can do about it."

Grisha initially worked for a month in a nursing home, but quit, saying it interfered with his Hebrew studies. Because Vicki's mother, Genia, is living with them, they say they have enough money in the short-term to devote themselves completely to their Hebrew studies.

"For now," Grisha says, "there is no problem with money."

But the couple have been at the absorption center for five months, and they are not sure what they are going to do when their six-month deadline to begin paying rent arrives.

They are reluctant to commit themselves to an apartment rental, because they are not sure in which city they can best pursue their studies.

So right now, they don't know if they will move, or continue at Mevasseret Zion and pay the rent.

For some of their neighbors, the time for choices has already run out.

Maria, an electrical engineer, and Lisa, her retired mother, came from Leningrad and have been at Mevasseret Zion for two years. They are finally responding to the pressure to leave.

"It's very difficult to buy a flat. The ones who remained here in Mevasseret Zion were the ones who don't have the money," says Maria, a slim, middle-aged woman. She looks around wistfully. "It's very nice here. But now the time has come to rent an apartment."

Maria works, but her salary "is very low," she says. They aren't quite sure how they will make ends meet in the new place they have rented in Jerusalem, but they are about to try. There is no other alternative.

Their financial troubles have not embittered them. Despite their concerns, the pair, who were refuseniks for 19 years, say they are proud of Israel and glad they immigrated here.