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U.S. OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW EXPECT RESUMPTION OF BUDAPEST FLIGHTS

By Mark Joffe

MOSCOW, March 28 (JTA) -- Officials at the U.S. Embassy here expect flights carrying Soviet Jews to Israel by way of Budapest to resume soon, perhaps within the next week.

Poland also may soon begin flying Soviet Jews to Israel by way of Warsaw, the officials said. Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki announced his country's willingness to do so Sunday evening at an American Jewish Congress dinner in New York.

The Moscow-Budapest-Tel Aviv route was interrupted last week, when Malev Airlines, Hungary's national carrier, announced it would no longer fly Soviet emigres from Budapest to Tel Aviv because of a recent terrorist threat from a little-known group called the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

But according to one official at the U.S. Embassy here, that situation "will be turned around, within probably a week."

"The indication is that flights will be resumed," the official told a United Jewish Appeal delegation here Tuesday.

The official, who spoke on condition that he would not be identified, said that the U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian Affairs, Raymond Seitz, had discussed the matter last week with Hungary's ambassador to Washington.

Willingness To Resume Flights

"We made clear that we expect a decision will be turned around and turned around quickly," he said.

According to one U.S. official, the Hungarians indicated a willingness to resume flights after the United States offered to assist Malev in implementing security measures to prevent any terrorist attack on the flights.

The group of UJA leaders who met with the U.S. officials were here on a mission to help prepare for Operation Exodus, UJA's \$420 million special campaign for resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel.

The delegation also met Tuesday with Dr. Yuri Reshetov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

Reshetov stressed his country's abhorrence of anti-Semitism and desire to facilitate the emigration of Jews who no longer wish to remain in the Soviet Union.

But when asked whether the Soviet government would ratify an agreement to start direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv, Reshetov was much less forthcoming.

He blamed the Kremlin's failure to make good on a December agreement reached by Aeroflot and El Al Israel Airlines on "rather silly statements" made earlier this year, he said, by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The Likud leader's remark that it would take a "big Israel" to absorb the massive wave of Soviet emigres was widely perceived as a justification for holding onto the administered territories forever.

ADL JOINS FORCES WITH VA'AD TO COMBAT SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish umbrella group and an American organization that combats anti-Semitism have joined forces in an effort to escalate the fight against the perceived rise in anti-Semitism in the post-glasnost Soviet Union.

The Confederation of Jewish Organizations and Communities of the USSR, known as the Va'ad, signed an agreement with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith "to expose, analyze and counteract anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union," it was announced Wednesday at a press conference at ADL headquarters here.

"Until now there have not been verified cases of physical assault against Jews, but everyone expects it and we want to create mechanisms of defense," said Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Va'ad, who was in New York to work out arrangements with ADL.

Chlenov called for more effective collection and evaluation of data pertaining to Soviet anti-Semitism.

Under the new agreement, a desk will be created at ADL to focus on the subject of increased Soviet anti-Semitism and to disseminate information to the American Jewish community.

The Va'ad will designate a person in Moscow to serve as liaison, providing information to ADL.

'Fact From Fiction'

"We need to be able to distinguish fact from fiction in the dissemination of information," said Kenneth Jacobson, director of ADL's international affairs division.

Chlenov, who is a professor of history at the University of Moscow, noted that the "blood-bath" in Baku in recent months, he said, shows that Soviet authorities are incapable of protecting minority citizens and of stopping pogroms.

Chlenov said that such governmental ineptitude is of particular concern to the minimum one-and-a-half million Soviet Jews still residing in the Soviet Union.

"The Nazi movement has reappeared in the '80s in the country that combatted the Nazis in the Second World War," he said. "We very often hear the language of the Nazis: world Zionist conspiracy, Aryan, Freemasonry."

Chlenov said there are about 20 neo-Nazi groups in Russia proper, many concentrated in industrial cities. They control approximately 10 journals which disseminate "thousands" of anti-Semitic pamphlets.

But Chlenov made a distinction between grass-roots anti-Semitism and state anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

Although state anti-Semitism has not been a cause for concern in recent years, the appointment of Valentin Rasputin, an anti-Semitic writer, to Gorbachev's advisory council does pose the threat of organized anti-Semitism from above, he said.

Chlenov called on American Jews to join Soviet Jews in demanding, via letters and public rallies, the Soviet government to make public statements condemning anti-Semitism.

LABOR RECEIVES UNCERTAIN SUPPORT FROM EX-LIKUD PARTY MEMBERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA) -- Prime Minister-designate Shimon Peres' stalled efforts to put together a Labor-led coalition government got a possible boost from an unexpected quarter this week.

But the Labor Party leader is said to be wary.

The recently formed Party for the Advancement of Zionist-Liberal Values announced Tuesday that it was prepared to hold coalition talks with Labor.

It consists of five former members of Likud's Liberal Party wing, led by Yitzhak Moda'i, who was minister of economics and planning.

They quit Likud last month in protest against Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace diplomacy. But most political observers suspect their offer to Labor could be a tactical ploy to improve their bargaining position with Likud.

Nevertheless, one member of the faction, Pessah Grupper, said Wednesday night that contact had been made, and he expected Moda'i would be invited to meet Peres and would accept.

But Grupper also confirmed that the five breakaways would return to the Likud fold if assured of safe seats in the next elections.

Along with Minister of Industry and Trade Ariel Sharon -- who has quit the government but not the party -- and Deputy Premier David Levy, Moda'i has tried repeatedly to scuttle Shamir's peace initiative toward the Palestinians.

Peres, meanwhile, has now gone through eight days of his 21-day mandate to form a new government. He can ask President Chaim Herzog for a 21-day extension.

The Knesset begins its Passover recess Wednesday or Thursday, depending on when it acts on the \$32 billion state budget for fiscal 1990-91, which begins April 1.

According to Claude Klein, professor of constitutional law at the Hebrew University, that does not preclude Peres' continuing his efforts or the validation of a new government if he succeeds.

Klein said that the Knesset can be called into session for a vote of confidence in a new government. The rules preclude it from being recalled during recess for a no-confidence vote, he explained.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY KILLED IN LEBANON; WAS ACCUSED OF BEING AN ISRAELI AGENT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA) -- An American missionary accused of being an Israeli agent was shot to death by masked gunmen at a children's center in the southern Lebanon security zone Tuesday night.

Troops of the Israel Defense Force and its allied South Lebanon Army were reported to have surrounded Rashaya Fukkar village on the eastern slopes of Mount Hermon, where the killing occurred.

But Israeli authorities denied any connection with the victim, William Robinson, 56, described as an evangelical Christian who worked with retarded children.

Rashaya Fukkar, a village of about 5,000 mostly Sunni Moslems, has been the center of a media campaign that accused Robinson of trying

to buy land to establish a settlement in Lebanon for Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The persistent charges led the Lebanese government in Beirut to order an investigation of Robinson's activities.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. peace-keeping forces in southern Lebanon, said Wednesday he knew of no Israeli settlement activity in Lebanon.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said that "we deplore this act of terrorism against an American citizen."

She said that Robinson was operating in Lebanon "apparently independent of any organization," although he had received some support from the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Oklahoma City.

Tutwiler added that U.S. officials had several times warned Robinson that he should leave Lebanon. Requests by Robinson to have his U.S. passport "revalidated" had been denied twice, she said.

Robinson was alleged to be variously an agent of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, of the CIA and of the KGB.

Bill Wofford, administrator of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, said Robinson was shot by masked intruders armed with Kalachnikov assault rifles.

According to Wofford, Robinson was engaged in prayers at the time with his wife Barbara, their four sons and about 20 handicapped children for whom they provided shelter.

Wofford described Robinson as not being particularly pro-Israel. He said he was trying to buy a plot of land to build a children's rehabilitation center.

The pro-Syrian Lebanese National Front claimed credit for the slaying.

(JTA correspondent David Friedman in Washington contributed to this report.)

DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE CAMP MURDERED, FAMILY BEATEN, FOR UNKNOWN REASONS
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA) -- The director of the West Bank refugee camp of Nur es-Shams near Tulkarm was brutally murdered Wednesday morning by a gang of masked men, and six other members of his family were severely beaten, for reasons that are yet unknown.

The victim, Ali Sa'id Kazzuk, 32, an official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, was killed by masked men, who broke into his residence in the camp and used axes and knives to attack him and six members of the family.

The six survivors, who suffered serious wounds, were hospitalized at Tulkarm Hospital.

It was not clear Wednesday night what might have been the motive for the murder. Some residents of the camp said the man was known as a collaborator with the Israeli authorities. Others said he was simply corrupt. Recently, the walls in the camp were covered with slogans against him.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Press Service, which operates out of East Jerusalem, was allowed to reopen Wednesday. The service was closed two years ago by the authorities.

A general curfew was to be imposed on the Gaza Strip starting early Thursday, "until further notice." The authorities believe that this may cut down disturbances on Land Day this Friday.

**THE NEW SOVIET ALIYAH:
ISRAELIS GREET THE IMMIGRANTS
WITH A MIXTURE OF JOY AND FEAR**
[Part 4 Of A Series]
By Allison Kaplan

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- There are some things needed for the successful resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel that money can't buy.

Jobs can be created, housing can be built-- but this alone won't make the Soviet olim feel welcome.

Only their Israeli neighbors can do that.

The charismatic mayor of the city of Ra'anana, Ze'ev Bielski, was one of the first Israeli leaders to say openly that the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for Israel must make special efforts to avoid alienating veteran Israeli citizens in their enthusiasm to help new Soviet immigrants.

To illustrate his point, Bielski labeled his pilot project for the direct absorption of Soviet Jews in Ra'anana "Natasha-Rachel."

Natasha, he explains to his Diaspora audiences, represents the hopes and dreams of the Soviet immigrant families.

Rachel represents the aspirations of the Israelis, both the pioneering Ashkenazim who built the country, and the thousands of Sephardic Jews from Iraq, Morocco and other countries who underwent the trying absorption of the 1950s and '60s.

"If Rachel sees us working to give Natasha a nice apartment, good furniture, and a secure job, and she has none of these things," Bielski asks, "how is she going to feel?"

Spirit Of Voluntarism

To an impressive extent, Israeli society is rising to the occasion and welcoming their brethren from the Soviet Union with open arms. A spectrum of organizations and individual volunteers have offered clothes, furniture and helpful advice to the new arrivals.

Without such a positive spirit of voluntarism, direct absorption in Ra'anana and elsewhere could not succeed.

But to many Israelis, while the current Soviet influx may be a blessing for Zionism, in a practical sense it is a somewhat worrisome fact of life.

For while most are happy the Soviet Jews are getting out and pleased that thousands of them are going to Israel, that joy is severely tempered with apprehension that they will eventually have to pay a heavy price for the Soviet aliyah.

In a country where unemployment is high and the price of housing already far outreaches salary levels, the prospect of more competition for jobs and desirable housing is a cause for worry.

Just ask your average cabdriver.

"Where are the Soviets going to find work?" asks Yossi, a cabby from Jerusalem. "There's no jobs here at all -- not here in Jerusalem, not in Tel Aviv, not in Haifa."

Shimon, who drives a cab in Tel Aviv, laments, "And what about our Israeli youth? It's already hard for them to find work, and they are leaving the country."

Young Israelis, even those who are relatively well-off, are the most worried, since they, like the new olim, want to build their lives, purchase a home and begin a career.

Levi and Noa, a Tel Aviv couple about to wed, are successful Israelis. They are young, educated and about to get married. Levi, 28, is an accountant and Noa, 24, works in a bank.

They currently live in an apartment in a fashionable neighborhood in northern Tel Aviv. But after their wedding, they will move into Levi's parents' home in the central town of Hadera.

They are making this move because they have no money to buy their own apartment now, and if they continue renting, they will never be able to save the money to buy their own place.

"Don't get me wrong," Levi says of the Soviet Jews. "I'm happy that they're getting out. We want them to come. But we don't want to pay that much for them."

He resents, in particular, the easier mortgage terms an immigrant couple can receive, which will cover more than half the total cost of the apartment. He and Noa can only get a mortgage for a fraction of the total cost -- they must save up the rest.

Worked As Carpet Salesman

"We are professionals, we have jobs, and we don't see the day when we will have our own home," Levi says.

Like countless other young Israelis, Levi spent a year and a half in the United States, working as a carpet salesman.

He contends that if he hadn't had his accounting degree to assure him a good job in Israel, he probably would have stayed in the United States instead of returning to Israel last winter.

"This government doesn't seem to care when a half-a-million people leave the country to go to America to find work there," he complains. "But when a million Soviets come here, they make such a fuss."

Noa speaks disparagingly of the pledges by Israeli leaders that the new immigrants will be housed and employed.

"We paid our dues to this country," she says. "We served two and three years in the army. The government didn't give us money to get an apartment. They didn't promise us a job."

Veteran immigrants to Israel dismiss such complaints, saying that they sound awfully familiar.

Gripes Against Olim's Rights

The gripes "are not so much against Russian olim as against the rights that olim have in general," says Judy Ben-Ami, who came to Israel from Seattle seven years ago.

"I heard similar complaints when I was a university student," says Marcello Landsmann, who immigrated from Spain. "Israelis would ask why I, as a new immigrant, could study for free, when they had served in the army and had to pay their own way. They have to understand that this is the way the country is."

The fear that the Soviets will further crowd the job market is the strongest of the worries. A recent Jewish Agency poll shows that only 16 percent of Israelis believe that Soviet aliyah will not impact negatively on unemployment.

The Hebrew press has picked up on some of the grumbling and often portrays the new immigrants as demanding and selfish.

A recent newspaper article, dripping with sarcasm, described the attitude of a Romanian immigrant who came to Israel for economic rea-

sons. The immigrant was complaining because she had been led to believe that every new immigrant to Israel gets an apartment as a present, and now she feels cheated.

"Never mind that in Romania, they barely had anything to eat," the article said. "That was the reason they decided to come to Israel."

In the article, the woman demands her promised apartment -- "not a villa, mind you, but just a nice five-room flat." She goes on to complain that her absorption center "is more Communist than Romania."

There are, of course, two areas in Israel where the Soviet newcomers are not only welcomed, but desperately wanted -- among the West Bank settlers and in the development towns in the Negev and Galilee.

Etta Bick lives in the West Bank settlement of Alon Shvut, made up of 250 families.

'Terrible Frustration'

Communities like Alon Shvut feel "a terrible frustration" that they are not getting Soviet immigrants, Bick says sadly. "Our communities are cohesive, well-organized and ready to give."

That Jewish Agency funds cannot be used to settle Soviets in their community feels like "a slap in the face" from the Israeli government and American Jewry, Bick says.

The development towns in the Negev and Galilee are not receiving Soviet Jews for less political reasons. Employment opportunities are limited there. Because of this, thousands of Israelis from previous waves of immigration have left the region for the center of the country.

In a desire to show early success at absorbing the current wave of Soviet Jews, the government and Jewish Agency have been much more reluctant to send them to the development towns than they were previous immigrant groups. As a result, the olim have been steered to more populous areas around Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

This decision has bred resentment. In the northern development town of Ma'alot, tempers flared in January when the Jewish Agency sent only Ethiopian Jews to the town's absorption center, after promising the town's leadership that both Ethiopian and Soviet Jews would be sent.

Jobs For Skilled Workers

Uri Gordon, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, said at the time that they could not send Soviets there, "because of the employment situation," which angered Ma'alot residents.

One Ma'alot resident, Elaine Levitt, wrote in the Jerusalem Post that Gordon's statement was especially disturbing, "because it implies that employment is not an important factor in the absorption of Ethiopian Jews."

The controversy focused attention on the touchy issue of whether the Soviets were being treated as more desirable than other immigrant groups because they are of European origin.

When asked directly if racism has to do with the excitement over the coming Soviet aliyah -- if the words "talented," "educated" and a "good aliyah" are code words for the fact that they are of European origin -- most Israelis, including Sephardim, will deny it.

But the issue surfaces in Israeli humor.

One joke going around asks, "Why is the new Soviet aliyah like turpentine?" The answer: "Because it will thin out the color of the country."

Undeniably, some bitterness lingers in the Moroccan and Yemenite communities as they compare the corrugated metal shacks, or ma'abarot, where they lived when they came to Israel to the subsidized apartments where the Soviets are now living.

Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet prisoner of Zion, has recently harnessed his savvy political skills to defuse ethnic tension. He has participated in demonstrations for Yemenite Jewry, held dialogues with Sephardim, and in general tried to project his concern for all Israelis, not just Soviet immigrants.

Sharansky "has eaten a lot of couscous lately," one Israeli observer quipped.

Cynical talk notwithstanding, most Israelis seem prepared to assist the new immigrants.

Many have stepped forward to act as "adopted families," helping those in direct absorption cope with the mysteries of the Israeli banking system and the job market.

A trim, athletic-looking Israeli woman named Ilana Babayut strolls into the home of a Soviet immigrant family in the Mevasseret Zion absorption center. An elderly woman living there gazes at her, smiles a mouthful of gold teeth and proclaims her a "miracle."

Babayut is a teacher who lives with her attorney husband in a villa near the absorption center. When asked how she met the family, Babayut replies, "Why, I just knocked on their door."

The Israeli government and the Jewish Agency are hoping that Babayut's attitude will be infectious.

For it is only this positive spirit, coupled with a stable economy and sufficient housing, that will have Mayor Bielski's Natasha and Rachel eventually living happily side by side.

ISRAELI ARABS APPEAL TO RABBIS TO RESOLVE TOWNS' MONEY WOES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA) -- Leaders of Israel's Arabs appealed this week to senior rabbis for help in resolving the severe financial crisis of the Arab municipalities.

The secretariat of the Arab Council of Mayors met in Shfaram on Tuesday, with their agenda geared to presenting grievances to the leaders of the Orthodox "haredi" community, including Rabbi Eliezer Schach and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual mentors of Degel HaTorah and Shas.

"We are sure the rabbis are sensitive to our problems. Perhaps they can help where the politicians failed," said Mohammad Zeidan, mayor of Kafr Manda and a spokesman for the Arab mayors.

Both religious leaders were stars this week at the convention of Degel HaTorah, as the entire nation heard the speech of Schach, who apparently tipped the coalition scale in favor of Likud.

Arab municipalities have been promised some \$51 million in loans to help overcome their deficits, but the loans did not come through due to bureaucratic difficulties with the banks.

Their financial crisis will be at the core of Land Day events Friday, which has become the annual protest day of Israel's Arabs against their alleged discrimination by the authorities.

The Arab mayors said they would also appeal to President Chaim Herzog, "who has shown sympathy to our problems."