

**MALEV TO RESUME CARRYING EMIGRES  
ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS****By Allison Kaplan**

NEW YORK, March 29 (JTA) -- The Hungarian state airline Malev resumed Thursday transporting Soviet Jewish emigres on their regularly scheduled flights from Moscow and to Tel Aviv.

But it remained doubtful whether the special Malev charter flights that had carried Soviet Jews from Moscow to Budapest to Israel would also begin again.

The marketing director for Malev, Ferenc Urban, told reporters in Budapest that the special charters would not resume. But meanwhile, officials of American Jewish organizations here were told by Daniel Elias, counsel at the Hungarian Embassy here, that the charter flights would be reinstated.

The conflicting signals appear to reflect continued tension between the Hungarian government and Malev.

As a result of the tension, Hungary's minister of transportation dismissed Lajos Jahoda, Malev's general manager.

The dismissal Wednesday was yet another development in the diplomatic flap that began last week, when Malev announced it would cease carrying Soviet Jews on scheduled tourist flights and the special charters.

**Threats By Terrorists**

Malev made the decision after terrorist threats were issued by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

That move drew condemnation from both Israel and the United States, who promptly lobbied Hungarian government leaders to have the decision reversed.

American Jewish groups praised the decision by Malev to resume taking the emigres on their regularly scheduled flights, and asked that the charters also be resumed.

"We welcome the Hungarian government's decision to reverse their earlier suspension of flights carrying Soviet Jews from Moscow to Budapest and on to Israel," said Shoshana Cardin, president of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, in a statement.

"We hope that the Hungarian government will soon institute special flights that will carry even greater numbers of Soviet Jews to freedom in Israel," Cardin said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called Malev's decision to continue to fly Soviet Jews a "recognition by the Hungarian government that you can't give in to terrorist threats."

Hoenlein added that he hoped "the efforts to secure additional routes will be continued, and that no one will be subject to that kind of blackmail in the future."

Several new opportunities for new routes of emigration opened up this week, with Poland offering its airport as a transit point for emigrating Soviet Jews.

Moreover, Finnish leaders met on Thursday with World Zionist Organization chairman Simcha Diniz to discuss a possible Helsinki stopover.

**DEFUNCT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT FIRM  
SAID TO HAVE BRIBED U.S. NAVY****By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, March 29 (JTA) -- A now-defunct Israeli defense firm may have tried to bribe the Navy \$500,000 into awarding it a contract to build more ground control stations for unmanned spy aircraft in 1986 and 1987, a well-placed Israeli defense lobbyist here said Thursday.

But the lobbyist added that any attempted bribe by the firm, Mazlat Ltd., to influence the Pentagon to build them was unsuccessful, because the Pentagon decided instead to seek new types of ground stations.

Ground control stations provide the electronics for monitoring and maneuvering unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs.

The ground station contract was eventually awarded to Teledyne Inc. of Los Angeles. Mazlat, which was a joint venture of two Israeli firms, Israel Aircraft Industries and Tadiran Ltd., did not even bid on it, the lobbyist added.

The lobbyist was reacting to a guilty plea entered Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., by a once-prominent U.S. defense industry consultant, who said he bribed high-level U.S. officials in 1986 and 1987 to influence the awarding of various Pentagon contracts.

The ex-consultant, William Galvin, said in a plea agreement released Wednesday that Mazlat secretly agreed to pay him and Melvyn Paisley, a then-assistant secretary of the navy, \$500,000 each to seek approval of new ground control contracts for Mazlat.

**Agreed To Lobby**

In the plea agreement, Galvin said he and two Israeli businessmen, Uri Simhoni and Mazlat president Zvi Schiller, met in April 1986 with Paisley, who agreed to lobby on Mazlat's behalf.

The Washington Post reported that in one instance, "Paisley had a phone brought to the restaurant table where he and one of the businessmen were having lunch and ordered a Navy officer to meet with the businessmen."

The New York Times reported Thursday that Galvin did influence Paisley to ask U.S. defense contractors to submit proposals to construct short-range ground stations similar to a version bought by the Navy from Mazlat.

Mazlat's one major U.S. defense contract was awarded in late 1985, before any of the alleged bribes took place.

That contract, to build Pioneer shorter range UAVs and accompanying ground stations, is worth between \$70 million to \$80 million to Mazlat and the Baltimore-based AAI Corp., which had been the prime contractor in the project.

The Israeli defense lobbyist said that if the allegations of a Mazlat bribe were true, "it means that money was stolen from the company."

Galvin pleaded guilty to various federal conspiracy and bribery charges.

The Post reported that Mazlat paid Galvin's Swiss company \$268,000. But it is unclear whether Paisley ever received any of the money.

Galvin is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 3 and faces a possible prison sentence of 40 years and a \$1 million fine.

## KNESSET ADJOURNS FOR PESACH RECESS READY TO RESUME FOR NEW COALITION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset headed for its Passover recess in the early hours of Friday morning, apparently ready to reconvene at short notice if Shimon Peres can put together a viable coalition government for its approval.

The Labor Party leader has 11 days left to accomplish the task, out of the 21-day mandate he received from President Chaim Herzog on March 20.

He has made little progress so far, but hope glimmered faintly when the recently formed Party for the Advancement of Zionist-Liberal Values announced this week that it was prepared to hold coalition talks with Labor.

A meeting between representatives of the two parties has been tentatively scheduled for this Sunday.

The Zionist-Liberals consist of five former members of Likud's Liberal Party wing, who defected from Likud last month in protest against Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace diplomacy.

The new faction is headed by Yitzhak Moda'i, the former minister of economics and planning, who has been one of Shamir's most severe critics.

Political insiders believe its willingness to meet with Labor is a tactical ploy to improve its bargaining position with Likud.

They say Peres' chances of persuading the five breakaways to join a Labor-led government vary inversely with their ability to extract from Shamir the promise of safe seats on the Likud list in the next elections.

According to the Israeli media, Peres will offer to appoint Moda'i finance minister in his new government, an office Moda'i held when Peres last was prime minister in between 1984 and 1986.

But the Labor Party leader probably would find it impossible to guarantee safe seats for the five Likud defectors on Labor's election list. The party's constitution strictly forbids such arrangements.

Meanwhile, Peres was reported to be seeking legal assurances from Attorney General Yosef Harish that the Knesset can be called out of recess should he have a new government to present to it.

## KNESSET BATTLES OVER BUDGET EXPECTED TO SOON BE OBSOLETE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset battled into the early hours of Friday morning over a \$32 billion budget, which all members agreed would be obsolete as soon as it is adopted.

The budget for fiscal 1990-91, which starts April 1, was drafted before the influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union. It does not provide for the massive housing, employment and other urgent needs of the newcomers.

Moreover, it would be administered by a caretaker regime of uncertain duration, since the Likud-Labor unity government fell March 15 on a no-confidence motion.

Minister of Construction and Housing David Levy threatened to vote against the budget if \$150 million from reserve funds is not earmarked to build 30,000 housing units for new immigrants.

Levy was pitted against his Likud colleague

Dan Meridor, the justice minister, who was put in charge of the Treasury by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir after he fired Finance Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, on March 13.

Likud Knesset member Dan Tichon noted that the outgoing fiscal year ended with a \$900 million deficit, and predicted that the next budget deficit would be at least three times as high.

But while more than 3,000 protests and reservations were registered by members during the course of the debate, the Knesset managed to produce a windfall for the religious bloc.

The strictly Orthodox "haredi" parties are being courted ardently by Peres, who is trying to entice them into a Labor-led coalition -- so far with a notable lack of success -- and by Shamir, who is determined to foil his efforts.

Each party accused the other of bribing the rabbis, whose political clout vastly exceeds the size of their constituency.

The Knesset Finance Committee, which deliberated all night Wednesday, came up with a \$111 million allocation for religious institutions, up from the \$70 million discussed on Sunday.

A proposal to raise the religious allocation from \$200,000 per Knesset member to \$350,000 was defeated by a vote of 45-32.

The vote, led by the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and Shinui, was taken while many Likud and religious Knesset members were absent from the chamber.

## SCHACH DENOUNCED FOR DEGEL SPEECH CALLING KIBBUTZNIKS NOT TRUE JEWS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA) -- Rabbi Eliezer Schach, leader of the strictly Orthodox Degel HaTorah party, has been hit by a fierce backlash for attacking the kibbutz movement on grounds that it has forsaken religion.

The Lithuanian-born rabbi from Bnei Brak delivered his polemic at Degel's convention in Tel Aviv on Monday night. He claimed that the kibbutzniks, from whom the Labor Party draws much of its support, are not true Jews because they spurn religious practices.

Although they were seen as a repudiation of Shimon Peres' efforts to induce Degel to join a Labor-led coalition government, the elderly rabbi's remarks drew angry criticism from all over the political spectrum.

He was said to have wept when told of the reaction of Knesset member Rafael Eitan, the former Israel Defense Force chief of staff, who heads the extreme right-wing Tsomet party.

"I suggest that he visit the military graveyards where lie the kibbutz war dead," the retired general said.

"Were it not for their supreme sacrifice, Rabbi Schach and the community he represents would find it difficult to articulate the views he voiced Monday."

Editorial cartoonists in Ha'aretz and Ma'ariv independently arrived at the same conclusion. They depicted the rabbi delivering his speech amid the graves of kibbutz war dead.

Sources close to Schach quoted by Ma'ariv on Thursday said the rabbi did not mean to disparage war heroes, even by implication.

But they tried to justify his charge that kibbutz members aren't real Jews by noting that Druse and Circassians do not become Jews just because they also serve and die in the Israel Defense Force.

# IDF COLONEL PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO BRUTALITY TOWARD PALESTINIANS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force colonel pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of ordering the brutal treatment of Palestinians in two West Bank villages in January 1988, a month after the intifada began.

Col. Yehuda Meir, who was a lieutenant colonel at the time, said he acted on "orders" from his superiors in "the military and political echelon."

Meir has been indicted on eight counts of brutality and causing grievous bodily harm for ordering his troops to beat and break the limbs of Palestinian residents of Beita and Huwara villages.

His trial opened in a special military court in the IDF General Headquarters compound in Tel Aviv.

Meir is the highest-ranking IDF officer to be prosecuted since the Palestinian uprising erupted in the territories on Dec. 9, 1987.

The court heard testimony from a company commander, a lieutenant at the time. He said Meir explained to his men that because the prisons were full, intifada activists should not be sent to jail but should be bound and gagged and beaten with clubs on their arms and legs and left lying in the area.

Volunteers were used to execute the orders, the court was told.

The charge sheet said that in Huwara, Meir ordered a platoon to arrest 12 Palestinians and break their bones. They were bound, blindfolded and beaten with clubs, although they had not resisted arrest.

According to the indictment, the platoon commander told Meir the orders were immoral, but he was ignored.

The beatings came to light largely because a foreign television news crew filmed a similar episode.

Several soldiers were charged and Meir, by then a full colonel, was relieved of his duties by the IDF chief of staff and placed on unpaid leave.

## TELETHON ELICITS SEDER INVITES FOR NEWLY ARRIVED SOVIET OLIM By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA) -- Israelis have opened their hearts and homes to new Soviet olim by inviting thousands of new Soviet arrivals to their Passover Seders.

They did so in response to a daylong telethon held Wednesday specifically to elicit Seder invitations to the new Israelis from the Israeli public.

The 12-hour appeal, which was organized by the Army Radio, Educational Television and the Jewish Agency, resulted in 3,000 invitations and about 18,000 acceptances.

Many of the acceptances came from Soviet Jews only in the country a few days.

Computers were used to match Israeli families with immigrants on the basis of language, professional background and special interests.

Particularly encouraging was the cooperation that came from Moscow Radio, which made available to Army Radio star Alex Ansky and his team a studio in the Soviet capital. The Israelis interviewed Soviet Jews awaiting exit visas or passage to Israel.

# SHAMIR AGAIN TRIES TO CLARIFY MEANING OF 'BIG ISRAEL' STATEMENT By Mark Joffe

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tried once again Wednesday to clarify his stance on the settlement of Soviet Jews in the administered territories.

The Likud leader, repeatedly dogged by his statement Jan. 14 that a "big Israel" would be needed to absorb the thousands of arriving Soviet Jews, maintained that it is not Israeli government policy to direct the immigrants to "any particular areas of the country."

However, he softened this statement by reiterating that Israel would not deter Soviet Jews from going anywhere in Israel they so choose.

He made his comments to a group of 120 United Jewish Appeal leaders participating in a mission to the Soviet Union and Israel.

Shamir's initial statement was meant to assuage Arab fears that Israel would settle thousands of Soviet immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, thereby displacing Palestinian residents.

Those Arab apprehensions were triggered by Shamir's statement about a "big Israel" and have led to discussions on the issue at the United Nations, in foreign capitals and in the world media.

They also provoked a threat from a terrorist group in Lebanon toward Hungary for facilitating in the transportation of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel, which in turn led to the Hungarian state airline suspending those flights. They have since reportedly been resumed.

## Virtual Political Suicide

As Shamir himself said Wednesday, "The Arabs are waging a campaign against this wave of aliyah. They are mobilizing the support of foreign governments; they are encouraging their terrorist organizations to use physical violence."

Shamir might be able to lay the whole issue to rest if he disavowed his "big Israel" statement unambiguously, as some American Jewish groups have suggested.

But to do that would be virtual political suicide in a party that is on record as opposing any talk of territorial compromise.

Hence, Shamir's double-edged statement Wednesday that Israel would not direct Soviet Jews to "any particular areas" was coupled with the immediate qualifier that "we shall not forbid any Jew from going to Judea, Samaria or elsewhere."

"Every Jewish immigrant has complete freedom to choose where he wants to live," he maintained.

Shamir told the group he was reiterating his position "to avoid misunderstandings, which some elements have tried to inject into the issue and to exploit against us."

But when pressed on the matter further by a member of the UJA delegation, the prime minister maintained that he had "said nothing about settlements" in his now-famous remark.

"I said that a great aliyah needs a strong country and a great leader -- that's all," he told the group.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, asked later what he thought of Shamir's original remark, smiled devilishly while he told the UJA leaders, "To remain silent is better."

**THE NEW SOVIET ALIYAH:  
ABSORPTION OF SOVIET JEWS POSES  
CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S BUREAUCRACY**  
[Part 5 Of A Series]  
By Allison Kaplan

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- As they have been asked to contribute their time, money and energy to the effort to absorb Soviet Jews in Israel, many practical-minded American Jewish leaders wonder why Israel has not yet mapped out a comprehensive plan for absorption.

One of the biggest obstacles to the creation of such a comprehensive plan is the number of agencies serving the needs of Soviet Jews and other immigrants.

Ministries within the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency for Israel and voluntary immigrant organizations, such as Natan Sharansky's Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, all have important roles to play in the absorption process.

But despite the fact that the Jewish Agency is the recipient of millions of dollars in absorption funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal, it is sometimes shut out of the process.

An illustration of this problem occurs daily at Ben-Gurion Airport, the first stop in Israel for the new Soviet arrivals. It is there that the immigrants are counseled about whether to take the path of direct absorption or opt to live in absorption centers instead.

Despite the fact that the Jewish Agency runs Israel's absorption centers and funds 50 percent of the cost of direct absorption, it has not been permitted direct contact with immigrants arriving at Ben-Gurion.

**No Hand In The Process**

When it protested this policy to the government Absorption Ministry, lengthy negotiations ensued. In the end, the Jewish Agency was told it may be permitted to send one social worker to the airport in the near future.

But right now, it has no hand in the process at Ben-Gurion.

Sharansky's group has had even less success. The activist and former Prisoner of Zion has been foiled numerous times in attempts to send Russian-speaking volunteers to Ben-Gurion to greet the newcomers and guide them through the process.

Even the new immigrants' relatives cannot see them until after they have been processed by the ministry, which takes five to six hours.

Competition among various agencies serving the Soviet immigrants and olim from other countries has led to confusion among the new arrivals as to the proper address for counseling, housing, education and job training. Often they find themselves being shuttled between various offices.

The joke going around among the immigrants now is that after glasnost runs its course in Eastern Europe, Israel will be the only Stalinist bureaucracy left in the world.

"It seems it was easier to mount huge demonstrations to free Soviet Jewry than to change one bureaucratic principle to make absorption proceed more smoothly," Sharansky complained last month to visiting Jewish leaders.

A number of efforts have been formed over the years to untangle the red tape. The latest committee to try to coordinate efforts among various government ministries and the Jewish Agency was chaired by Yossi Beilin, the deputy minister of finance in the government that col-

lapsed March 15.

But while "the Beilin Commission to a great extent has worked, it has been getting too large to be effective," said Jewish Agency Secretary-General Howard Weisband.

Instead of solving problems, it is merely "a channel for putting issues on the table," Weisband said.

Like the rest of the Israeli government, the committee is currently undergoing turmoil. But on each day that Labor and Likud fight their political battles, a serious housing crisis looms nearer.

**Market Saturation Predicted**

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency has been predicting publicly that in six to 10 months, the rental housing market will be fully saturated. Construction of new housing has been proceeding slowly, seriously crippled by strikes from the Arab labor force.

Without available rental housing, the much-heralded system of direct absorption of immigrants will not be able to continue.

In order to put a roof over the heads of Soviet immigrants should such a crisis arise, the Jewish Agency has a contingency plan: It has identified 190 temporary facilities in which there would be 50,000 beds for new immigrants.

"We will have to open all of the clubs, all of the youth movements, all of the hotels," Uri Gordon, chairman of the Agency's Immigration and Absorption Center, said in an interview. He vowed dramatically that "not one Jew will sleep on the street."

And so the Jewish Agency is still indefinitely responsible for the housing of immigrants and, in order to fulfill that responsibility, must restaff and reopen absorption centers.

Is there a solution, a cure for the lack of coordination afflicting the absorption system?

The latest popular idea in some Israeli and American Jewish circles is the concept of absorbing immigrants on a municipal level.

Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielski tells Diaspora audiences that when neither the Jewish Agency nor the government would take charge of the immigrants' overall success, he decided that he would.

**Earmarked For Ra'anana**

Bielski independently raised \$500,000 for his absorption project from the United Jewish Federation of Metrowest New Jersey. The funds technically are earmarked for Ra'anana, though ultimately controlled by the Jewish Agency.

An American Jewish Committee think tank also has recommended a municipal model, coordinated by a mayor, a city council or, in the case of a large city, a neighborhood council, in which voluntary associations like the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum would take an active role in locating housing and employment.

Jewish Agency leaders have some qualms about this system. While they recognize its success in a small community like Ra'anana that has a strong leader like Bielski, they worry that it may not work as well in neighborhoods of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

But overall, "I believe it has tremendous potential and can make the system more effective," said Weisband.

Officials like Weisband are hoping that this small, neighborhood model will foster a spirit of cooperation that on a national level often seems to be an elusive goal.