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# **U.S. CITES UNESCO'S ANTI-ISRAEL TILT AS REASON FOR NOT REJOINING AGENCY** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 17 (JTA) -- An anti-Israel tilt and favoritism toward the Palestine Liberation Organization on the part of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are among the reasons cited by the United States for its decision not to rejoin the Paris-based organization.

But the chief reason for refusing to rejoin UNESCO is its poor management, the State Department said in a report released Tuesday.

"The United States withdrew from UNESCO at the end of 1984 because of the organization's excessive politicization, poor management and long-term lack of budgetary restraints," the report says.

Since then, "little or any true reform has taken place," John Bolton, assistant secretary of state for international organizations, told reporters Tuesday.

While Bolton stressed this aspect of disenchantment with the agency, the report spells out in detail UNESCO's anti-Israel stance and its decision to enhance the status of the PLO.

The report notes that UNESCO postponed action on the PLO's request for membership until 1991, mainly in hope of "securing the return of both the United States and the United Kingdom." Britain also recently rejected returning to the organization.

"In the interim, the PLO observer will be able to make direct requests for UNESCO participation program assistance, thereby possibly gaining increased control of aid flows to Palestinians in the occupied territories," the report says.

## **Distancing Himself From Israel**

At the United Nations, a spokesman for UNESCO said Tuesday that postponing consideration of the PLO membership bid was the most the agency's director could accomplish when the issue came up last November.

"It was hailed at that time as a triumph for constructive diplomacy," said Joseph Mehan, the spokesman.

Mehan also rejected the U.S. report's complaint that UNESCO's director general, Federico Mayor Zaragoza of Spain, had recently appointed a high-level "coordinator for cooperation with Palestine," which, the report charges, "gives the PLO a special status in UNESCO's program of work exceeding that of any member state."

He called appointing a specialist "a sensible and practical step," adding, "No one ever accused U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of taking sides when he appointed someone to keep a close eye on what was going on."

The State Department report also accuses Mayor of paying considerable attention to the PLO while distancing himself from Israel.

"In a report that he prepared for the (UNESCO) executive board on the question of PLO participation in UNESCO, the director general proposed levels of assistance and participation that went far beyond what had been anticipated by member states," the report says.

It says Mayor's letters to Israel's permanent

representative to UNESCO "have omitted normal diplomatic courtesy phrases, and on two occasions were so abrupt as to be returned unanswered by the Israeli ambassador."

Furthermore, when Mayor went to Israel for a symposium sponsored by the Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovot, he refused to meet with Israeli government officials and later apologized to the Arab countries for having made the trip, the report says.

"He also refused repeated requests from the Israeli government for access to grants from UNESCO's participation program, something which is supposed to be available for every member state," the report says, adding that such access have been granted to the PLO.

The report also charges that UNESCO has continued to adopt "heavily biased resolutions, often based on false accusations" against Israel.

*(JTA correspondent Allison Kaplan at the United Nations contributed to this report.)*

# **NEW ROUTES FOR SOVIET JEWS LAUNCHED, BUT TRANSPORTATION STILL VULNERABLE** By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, April 17 (JTA) -- Though a new transit route for Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel appears to be opening up in Finland, Jewish organizations here remain concerned that the overall flow of immigration is vulnerable to terrorist threats.

By the end of last week, the Finnish Consulate in Leningrad already had issued 100 transit visas to Soviet Jews who had secured their Soviet emigration papers and Israeli entry visas, according to the World Jewish Congress. A transit visa enables passage through an intermediary country not serving as a final destination.

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJC, said his group learned of the issuing of the visas from sources in the Finnish Jewish community and from the Va'ad, the umbrella body of Jewish organizations in the Soviet Union.

The train ride to Helsinki from Leningrad--the city with the second-largest number of Jews in the Soviet Union--is an eight-hour journey.

Tempering the good news from Finland for Soviet Jews, however, is the likelihood that Malev, the Hungarian national airline, will soon cease carrying Soviet Jewish emigres once again.

## **Malev Selling No New Tickets**

There was an outcry last month when Malev suddenly canceled agreements for special charter flights of Soviet Jews from Moscow to Budapest and also did not allow the emigres aboard regularly scheduled Malev flights.

Malev made the move after receiving threats from an Arab terrorist group that warned it would target airlines and facilities that facilitate the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

After diplomatic protest from Israel and the United States, the Hungarian government dismissed Malev's director.

Shortly thereafter, the airline again permitted Soviet Jews holding tickets on regularly scheduled flights to make the trip. It also agreed to increase the number of regular flights from Moscow, though did not start charter flights.

And now, while the Hungarians are honoring the tickets that were sold in the past, they have not sold new tickets to Soviet Jewish emigres, according to Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Hoenlein said it could be just a matter of weeks before those holding tickets have made the journey; thereafter, immigration via Malev would likely cease.

Presumably, Budapest could still serve as a transit point for Jewish emigres who arrive in Budapest by train or via the Soviet carrier Aeroflot, and then take specially chartered El Al flights from the Hungarian capital to Israel.

But both Hoenlein and Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said it would be "disappointing" if Malev stopped transporting Soviet Jewish immigrants on scheduled flights.

To try to sway the Hungarian airline's decision, "the NCSJ has been in touch with the Hungarian ambassador (to Washington) and the Malev director in recent days and, through our member agencies, with political leaders in Hungary," Wenick said.

During the crisis with Malev, Poland offered to act as a transit point for emigration. Wenick said there is presently "some flow" of emigres to Israel through Warsaw, though it is not an "organized flow."

#### 1,500 Arrivals In Two Days

There has been talk of Czechoslovakia and East Germany serving as way stations, though these are still in the discussion stages.

Wenick said that "there are some indications that there are problems" in some of the arrangements for alternative routes.

"We had anticipated a greater capacity for transporting the emigrants to be in place by now," he admitted.

One of the problems Israeli officials and Jewish groups have encountered in trying to persuade countries to serve as transit points for Soviet Jews has been the fear of terrorist attack.

"We are concerned about the possibility of a terrorist attack in and of itself, and we are very concerned it would have an overall effect on emigration," said Hoenlein.

But some the snags also stem from uncertainty over the issue that the Soviets say stalled direct flights of Jewish emigrants from Moscow to Israel: whether the newcomers will be settled in the West Bank.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told reporters in Washington earlier this month that the "one problem" in allowing direct flights is "the settlement of the Jews in the occupied territories."

Despite the problems, the numbers of emigrants coming through the primary way stations of Budapest and Bucharest, Romania, have been considerable.

Daniel Allen, assistant executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal, reported that during the first two days of April alone, 1,500 Soviet Jews immigrated to Israel.

"There is no question in my mind that in June, July and August, there will be phenomenal numbers," he said.

Many Soviet Jewish families had carefully planned their emigration for the summertime, so that their children would not miss school, Allen said.

#### **HOLOCAUST APOLOGY WILL ADVANCE EAST GERMAN OVERTURES TO ISRAEL** By David Kantor

EAST BERLIN, April 17 (JTA) -- Rapid progress is expected in East Germany's drive to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, following the new government's unprecedented statement of apology last week for crimes committed against the Jewish people during World War II.

A senior government official predicted last weekend that a third round of talks between delegations of the two countries would be agreed to this month. The first two rounds, held in Copenhagen during the weeks of Jan. 29 and March 5, explored both diplomatic ties and the payment of reparations.

Each figured prominently in the government's historic statement on the Holocaust and Israel, read April 12 at the inaugural session of the Volkskammer, East Germany's first freely elected parliament.

The solemn declaration of East German culpability for Nazi atrocities as an heir to the Third Reich was greeted by a standing ovation.

Although East Germany first formally acknowledged its share of guilt in a statement released here on Feb. 8, the document read in the parliament last week was unique in that it begged forgiveness.

"We feel sad and ashamed. We ask the Jews of the world to forgive us," the statement said.

It also declared, "We will strive for the establishment of diplomatic relations and for wide-ranging contacts with the State of Israel."

On the issue of reparations, the statement said, "We do declare our willingness to contribute as much as possible to the healing of mental and physical sufferings of survivors and to provide just compensation for material losses."

#### Reparations May Await Unification

But sources here admit that any financial compensation to Nazi persecutees is likely to be provided by the government that emerges from unification of the two German states.

East and West Germany are planning to establish a monetary union starting in July. That means the Bonn government or the Frankfurt-based Bundesbank will be responsible for monetary matters and budgeting for the two Germans.

Meanwhile, East Germany's tiny Jewish community is becoming more assertive and has indulged in some "mea culpas" of its own.

An editorial in Nachrichtenblatt, the official community newspaper, acknowledged that for 40 years the Jewish community supported the government's line that East Germany was an "anti-fascist" state that rooted out Nazism and was therefore not responsible for its depredations.

That has now been exposed as an official lie, the editorial said.

Nachrichtenblatt also demanded changes in education policy to allow for research and study of the Holocaust.

The weekly reported that, despite official counterpropaganda, anti-Semitism and racial hatred have quietly increased in East Germany as it moves toward free expression and democracy.

On the other hand, the statement read in the Volkskammer last week acknowledged East Germany's obligation "to foster and protect, in a special way, Jewish religion, culture and tradition in Germany" and to "preserve Jewish cemeteries, synagogues and memorial places."

## 2 NEW SETTLEMENTS SET UP IN WEST BANK WITH HELP OF LIKUD INTERIM GOVERNMENT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA) -- Settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are taking advantage of the current political vacuum to rush new settlement projects to completion.

The settlers established two new West Bank settlements this week: Rehan 5, in the northern Samaria region, and Ramat Gidron, near Jerusalem. They are the last of eight settlements approved by the now defunct Likud-Labor unity government when it was formed in 1988.

Dugit, in the northern Gaza Strip, already has a population but no buildings. Several settlers are camping in a tent on the site. Five mobile homes are expected soon.

Dugit was approved in principle in 1982, but final approval was granted only last week by the Likud caretaker government. Labor resigned from the nation unity coalition on March 13, and the government fell two days later.

With only Likud in charge until a new government is formed, settlement advocates are rushing to consolidate what they can. Likud is generally sympathetic to the settlers, since it opposes returning the territory as part of a peace settlement with the Arabs.

The accelerated settlement drive is credited to Michael Dekel, who was just appointed assistant to acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in his capacity as acting defense minister.

## COURT SAYS SETTLERS MUST LEAVE BUILDING IN CHRISTIAN QUARTER By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA) -- The Orthodox Jews who caused an interreligious furor last week when they moved into a housing complex in the Old City's Christian Quarter last week face eviction unless they can get a Jerusalem District Court order reversed.

District Court Judge Ruth Orr ruled Tuesday that the settlers would have to leave unless a higher court rules otherwise. She reserved further action, pending discussions with the disputants.

The 150 settlers, consisting of 20 families and 60 single men, mostly yeshiva students, say they purchased the building, known as St. John's Hospice, through a Panamanian corporation.

The Greek Orthodox Church, which claims ownership, insists the Armenian brothers who leased the property had no right to sell it.

The Jerusalem Magistrates Court issued an evacuation order last Thursday, but its implementation was held up by the District Court, pending an appeal by the settlers' attorney, Uzi Atzman.

Atzman delayed filing the appeal in an attempt to get a sympathetic judge. The District Court sharply reprimanded him for that tactic Tuesday.

The court also criticized the settlers' description of themselves as "guests of a Panamanian company." It dubbed them pilgrims.

The Jews moved in on April 11, during the Christian holy days preceding Easter. It was the first time Jews had settled there since Israel captured the Old City in 1967.

Church leaders complained their holy festival was "desecrated." Spokespersons for the settlers say they were only restoring a Jewish presence to property owned by Jews who fled Arab riots in 1929 and 1936.

Ideological foes in the Knesset have squared off on the matter. Left-wing and right-wing members competed for signatures on petitions to convene a recess session to debate the issue from different points of view.

The dovish Center-Shinui Movement wants the parliament to affirm that the settlers created "unnecessary provocation," harmed "Israel's international standing and created unrest and animosity between Jews and Arabs."

On the other end of side of the political spectrum, Reuven Rivlin of Likud demanded a resolution praising the settlers for strengthening Jerusalem's status as Israel's capital and foiling attempts "to divide" the city.

## CATHOLIC PATRIARCH IMPLIES SETTLERS AIM TO EMPTY JERUSALEM OF CHRISTIANS By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, April 17 (JTA) -- Jerusalem's highest-ranking Roman Catholic prelate has implied that Jews are trying to empty the city of Christians.

According to Michel Sabbah, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, "very violent reactions" will ensue if Jews continue to appropriate Palestinian property in the holy city.

He delivered the warning in an interview published Saturday in the daily *Il Messaggero*.

Sabbah, the first Palestinian to hold a top ecclesiastical office in the Catholic Church, spoke of a "dangerously unstable situation" in Jerusalem, which he blamed on "religious extremists."

He was referring to the 150 Orthodox Jews who moved into a housing complex in the Christian Quarter of the Old City on April 11. Their claim to have legally purchased the property is disputed by the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns it.

"If this process of appropriation of buildings continues, it would signify emptying the city of Christians," said Sabbah. "If I look at this affair from the point of view of the Palestinians, from their fate, I have to say there will be very strong, very violent reactions," he added.

Sabbah authored this year's Good Friday commentary for Pope John Paul II, who delivered it while celebrating the Stations of the Cross. It was exclusively religious in tone and contained no hint of the current conflict in Jerusalem.

The commentary also did not ascribe responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus, though it condemned the violence leading to the crucifixion. Jews were blamed for the crucifixion for many years, until the Vatican finally spoke out against the practice in 1965.

## KATYUSHAS STRIKE GALILEE ON PESACH By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 17 (JTA) -- Several Katyusha rockets exploded Monday evening in Western Galilee, sending residents scurrying for bomb shelters in the final hours of Passover.

There were no casualties or damage, save for a small crater and a minor fire in one village that was quickly put out.

The 122-mm missiles, with a range of about 13 miles, were fired from north of the Israeli-patrolled security zone in southern Lebanon. There was a 90-minute interval between the attacks.

As of midday Tuesday, no terrorist group had claimed credit for the rocket attacks.

# **HEAD OF AGUDAH SAGES THREATENED WITH DEATH IF HE SUPPORTS LABOR**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA) -- Jewish religious extremists threatened Tuesday to kill a Hasidic leader if he supports Shimon Peres' efforts to form a Labor-led coalition government.

Rabbi Moshe Yehoshua Hager, the Hasidic rebbe of Vishnitz, found a threatening letter and a bullet in an envelope on the staircase of his home in the ultra-Orthodox township of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv.

Hager is chairman of the Council of Torah Sages, the supreme authority of the Agudat Yisrael party, whose support Labor needs to win a Knesset confidence vote in support of the government it is trying to form.

According to the Tel Aviv police, the letter warned Hager not to order any Agudah Knesset member to back a government headed by Peres.

The letter was from a shadowy group of far-right religious extremists who call themselves Sicari'i. The name is derived from a group of assassins of the Second Temple era who murdered Jews suspected of collaborating with the Romans.

Peres, who had reached a coalition agreement with the Agudah two weeks ago, was thwarted April 11 by the defection of two of its five Knesset members, just as he was about to present his slate for a vote of confidence.

It was the first time Agudah politicians openly defied their Torah sages.

## **No More Extensions For Peres**

They are believed to have been influenced by Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Brooklyn-based Lubavitcher rebbe, who opposes the Labor Party's willingness to consider territorial compromise as a way to peace.

Peres, meanwhile, continued to work against time to put together a viable government before his mandate expires on April 26. Although he will have used only 36 of the 42 days allowed him by law, Peres said Sunday he would not seek additional time.

His efforts seem to be focused on what aides call a "crucial" meeting Thursday with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, religious mentor of the ultra-Orthodox Sephardic party Shas.

Although Yosef shares Labor's views on territorial compromise, he has kept Shas within the Likud camp. But he says he will make his final decision on which party to back after next weekend.

## **LIKUD GRANTS LICENSE TO HOSPITAL LONG DENIED BY LABOR MINISTERS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 17 (JTA) -- After a year of rejections by Labor ministers of health, the Likud caretaker government has granted a license to a group of doctors to run a private hospital in Haifa that will specialize in open-heart surgery.

The license was denied while the Labor Party controlled the Health Ministry on grounds that fund raising for the new project harmed the public hospital system.

Supporters of the hospital charged that Labor was interested only in protecting Kupat Holim, the Histadrut health care agency.

Yitzhak Shamir, who is now acting health minister as well as acting prime minister following the fall of the government, allowed for Dr. Yoram

Lotan, head of the Health Ministry's hospitalization services, to grant permission to open the new facility last Friday.

It was in the nick of time because South African investors were about to sue the Israeli government for non-fulfillment of its undertaking, according to Dr. Aubrey Joffe, director of the new Carmel Hospital.

Joffe also heads a private hospital established by the same backers in Herzliya Pituach, a suburb of Tel Aviv. Both institutions are staffed mainly by immigrant doctors from South Africa.

Joffe blamed the 25-month lapse between his group's first application and the granting of the license for the deaths of many people awaiting open-heart surgery.

Joffe accused "socialist Health Ministers Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino and Ya'acov Tsur, who oppose free enterprise" of "souring us on investment in Israel."

## **ITALIAN MOVIE MOGUL CHARGED WITH MAKING ANTI-SEMITIC SLUR**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, April 17 (JTA) -- Giancarlo Parretti, an Italian financier who has emerged as a major figure in the Hollywood and international entertainment industries, allegedly complained in a newspaper interview that "the Jews have ganged up on me."

These and other anti-Semitic remarks are attributed to Parretti in the current issue of Business Week magazine, based on an interview that originally appeared in the Italian Communist daily L'Unita.

"The fact is that the Jews don't like the idea that I represent the first Catholic communication network," Parretti is quoted in the interview. "There doesn't exist a single (media) holding company in the world that isn't in the hands of Jews."

Parretti got his first foothold in Hollywood two years ago when his Pathe Communications Corp. took over the ailing Cannon Group, headed by two Israeli-born cousins, Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus. Golan has since established an independent film company, but Globus stayed with Parretti and is now co-president of Pathe.

Globus rushed to his partner's defense, telling the Los Angeles Times last Friday that Parretti is one of the most loving and generous people in Hollywood and has made large donations to Israeli and Jewish causes.

"Do you think I would have worked with him?" Globus asked. "It's ridiculous that the media are trying to take the blood out of the man. There is not even an inch of anti-Semitism."

Parretti, who now controls a diversified international conglomerate of film libraries, television and motion picture studios, and theatres, is currently in the midst of his biggest deal, an attempt to buy out the MGM/United Artists studios and holdings for \$1.2 billion.

Time Warner Inc., another media giant, has offered to put up more than half of the financing, but Hollywood observers believe that the entire deal will collapse unless Parretti can convincingly refute the remarks attributed to him.

The alleged anti-Semitic remarks were denounced by Burton Levinson, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who called on the Hollywood community to "forcefully reject the anti-Semitic stereotyping and bigotry" implicit in the interview.