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# **DREADED POGROMS DON'T MATERIALIZE, BUT SOVIET JEWS STILL LIVING IN FEAR**

**By Susan Birnbaum**

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- The long-dreaded pogroms against Soviet Jews that had been threatened for May 5 did not materialize Saturday in the Soviet Union.

But fear among Jews there is still very much alive.

May 5 is widely known in the Soviet Union as the birthday of Karl Marx and as a religious day in the Russian Orthodox calendar. For months now, it has taken on another, more sinister identity as the date that anti-Semitic groups had targeted Jews for violence.

Soviet authorities had issued assurances that violence against Jews would not be permitted, and few Soviet Jewry groups in the United States believed large-scale slaughter of Jews like the turn-of-the-century pogroms would be possible today.

But because the threats had triggered near hysteria among some Soviet Jews, especially in the Russian republic, representatives of Jewish groups and some individual monitors of human rights traveled there to be present Saturday.

David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, reported Sunday by telephone from Moscow that "nothing happened yesterday, to the best of anyone's knowledge. There were no reports of any incidents."

Harris is one of three AJCommittee officials in Moscow to conduct a national survey of attitudes among Soviet Jews and non-Jews about Jewish identity, culture and religion.

On Sunday, Harris met with Jewish activists from Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk, Sverdlovsk, Tbilisi and other cities. None of them reported disturbances in their respective cities.

## **Places Of Refuge Reportedly Sought**

In addition, said Harris, 150 to 200 people gathered Saturday at Moscow's Choral Synagogue without any harassment. There was "no particular police protection in front of the synagogue" in evidence, he also observed.

In Leningrad, Jacob Davidson and Elie Wurtman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry also reported all quiet, but the "Jews are very scared," Davidson said.

They spent Shabbat at Leningrad's Choral Synagogue, along with Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz and Vladimir Michnik, a refusenik of 11 years who is head of B'nai B'rith International in Leningrad.

Davidson said they were informed of a "show trial" set for Monday in the Ukrainian city of Krivoy Rog. Michael Chodos, a 19-year-old Jew arrested a day after receiving an official invitation to immigrate to Israel, is charged with evading the draft. He faces a three-year prison sentence.

The lurking menace of attacks on Jews, whether real or embroidered to induce panic, has given rise to contingency planning.

The Jewish Agency for Israel is even looking into setting up a possible safe haven for Jews in Soviet Georgia, according to a report in the Jerusalem Post.

According to Post correspondent Walter

Ruby, Jewish Agency representative Yitzhak Moshe is allegedly working to prepare a refuge for Jews in Soviet Georgia, where they can flee if catastrophe strikes.

So far, he has signed up 100 Georgian Jewish families to take in refugees in the event anti-Jewish violence forces them to flee their homes, Ruby reported.

Other reports of safe haven center on Lithuania, the Baltic republic that recently proclaimed independence from Moscow.

According to a report in the French weekly *Jeune Afrique*, Soviet Zionist leader Lev Gorodetsky has reached an agreement with Sajudis, the Lithuanian National Front, to provide a refuge for Jews fleeing anticipated anti-Semitic outbreaks in the Leningrad area.

The report said the Lithuanians agreed to provide camps for Jewish refugees, on condition that all expenses are paid for in hard currency by Jewish organizations in the United States.

## **Anti-Semitism Worst In Leningrad**

The extent of anti-Semitism in Leningrad was revealed in data collected by Alexander Benifand, executive director of the Jewish Research Center, a privately funded bureau of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Benifand, who showed his data in a recent interview in New York, indicated that a full 81 percent of Jews in Leningrad had experienced anti-Semitic incidents within the preceding six months. And a whopping 94 percent of Leningrad Jews feared pogroms.

Moscow was ranked next among Soviet cities where Jews reported experiencing the most anti-Semitism. The lowest figures for experiences of anti-Semitism and fear of pogroms occurred among Georgian Jews and those in other Central Asian republics. Jews in the Baltic states also experienced a relatively low incidence of anti-Semitism.

In Israel, Soviet Jewry activist Natan Sharansky said attacks on Jews are less likely to occur in the big cities, "where the government is in control."

However, Sharansky observed that such attacks "may occur in the more remote communities, where there are relatively few Jews."

Sharansky, speaking in Israel on Saturday, said the fact that pogroms did not materialize does not mean Jews can relax. "Although there are no pogroms, there is an atmosphere of pogroms in the Soviet Union," he said.

*(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)*

## **ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE REPORTED IN POLISH CITY OF 1946 POGROM**

WARSAW, May 6 (JTA) -- An official of the Simon Wiesenthal Center has expressed grave concern over anti-Semitic violence at a folk festival in the Polish city of Kielce last month.

Dr. Shimon Samuels, European director of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, discussed the incident with Deputy Interior Minister Krzysztof Kozlowski and government spokesman Henryk Wozniakowski at a meeting here Friday.

Samuels protested the way the local authorities handled an April 29 assault by right-wing

thugs at a concert of Klezmer music by a Jewish folk-music group from Vinnitsa in the Ukraine.

The group was performing at an international folk festival in Kielce, some 60 miles northeast of Krakow.

In the incident, a gas grenade was thrown into the theater during the performance, injuring two people. The group's car was smashed.

According to the Interior Ministry, the Kielce police chief said in his report that the attack was "probably motivated by anti-Soviet feelings." No arrests were made.

The incident occurred on the same day a New York Times story was filed from Krakow. The Times report was about a Jewish festival, mounted by non-Jews and also replete with Klezmer music, and about lingering anti-Semitic sentiment there.

A Jewish filmmaker walking through the center of Krakow was reportedly asked if he was Jewish and then told by a drunken man, "Then I'll kill you. You've got no right to be here. You're in my house."

In the Kielce attack, Samuels noted that eyewitnesses affirmed that the incident was anti-Semitic, and complained that the local law-enforcement officials took no action whatever to find the perpetrators.

"Though the incident may be atypical of current Polish-Jewish relations, it is particularly disturbing in light of Kielce's history as the site of Poland's bloodiest post-war pogrom," Samuels said.

He was referring to the 42 Jewish Holocaust survivors from Kielce, who returned there only to be massacred by local extremists on July 4, 1946. The Jews, gathered at the Jewish Committee in Kielce, were killed by a crowd spurred by rumors of blood libel, a medieval slur claiming Jews murdered Christians for their blood.

The victims of the Kielce pogrom were among the 200 Kielce Jews who survived, out of a prewar Jewish population of 25,000. There are currently 200,500 people living in Kielce.

## **ISLAMIC JIHAD CALLS FOR KNIFE ATTACKS AGAINST SOVIET JEWS ARRIVING IN ISRAEL** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- The extremist Islamic Jihad movement in the Gaza Strip has threatened "a revolution of knives against the millions of Soviet Jews arriving in the country."

The exhortation to use knives on Soviet Jewish immigrants was addressed to Moslem believers by the Islamic fundamentalist organization, which is urging that the intifada be escalated into a holy war.

It was contained in leaflets the Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, distributed in the Gaza Strip over the weekend.

Violent encounters between residents and Israeli security forces have, in fact, peaked on religious occasions.

One of the worst clashes of the nearly 29-month-old intifada occurred in the Gaza Strip on April 26 on the holiday of Id el-Fitr, marking the close of the monthlong fast of Ramadan.

About 1,000 residents of the Jabalya refugee camp stormed a local military outpost. The soldiers opened fire, killing three Palestinians and wounding 150.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, Mohammed Shaker el-Masri was killed in a confrontation with Israeli troops at the Tulkarm refugee camp Satur-

day. Palestinian sources said he was on the wanted list since the intifada began.

On Friday, Yasir Mohammed Abu-Hmeid, 19, was seriously wounded in a gunfight with soldiers at El-Amari refugee camp, near Ramallah.

Abu-Hmeid is suspected of murdering six Palestinians because they allegedly collaborated with Israeli authorities.

## **JEWISH AGENCY REPORTS PROGRESS IN FINDING HOUSING FOR SOVIET OLIM** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- Israel apparently is making good progress in its crash effort to provide housing for the growing influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, provided the latest figures last week during a seven-hour meeting here of the Jewish Agency Executive, devoted to Soviet aliyah.

Kaplan estimated that some 15,000 rental units are presently available in Israel, which he said should cover immigrant housing needs for the next six months.

The construction of another 15,000 flats will start next month, to be followed by 15,000 more, he said. Six thousand new units already have been started and another 5,000 flats are being rebuilt.

More than 30,000 Soviet Jews immigrated to Israel in the first four months of 1990, Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, announced during the meeting. He said he expected the number of Soviet Jews to increase in the months ahead.

The Jewish Agency is also preparing to absorb thousands more immigrants from Ethiopia and Argentina, Gordon said. He said about 1,000 Jews have come to Israel from Argentina so far this year, motivated apparently by the economic crisis in their native country.

## **Job Training And Placement**

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, left Sunday for the United States, to boost fund-raising for Operation Exodus, the \$420 million special campaign undertaken by American Jewry for the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel.

About \$130 million has been raised so far, just under one-third of the sum sought over the next three years.

Dinitz intends to meet with top donors to try to persuade them to give more. He is also scheduled to meet with senior U.S. officials at the State Department to expedite U.S. aid.

Meanwhile, the director general of the Jewish Agency, Moshe Nativ, briefed the Jewish Agency Executive on the problem of finding employment for the newcomers.

He said about 500 recent immigrants have been given work at factories in the past four months by arrangement with the Israel Manufacturers Association to allocate jobs for immigrants.

Jewish Agency emissaries are also active in Jewish population centers in the Soviet Union helping potential immigrants prepare for absorption into Israel's work force.

Seminars are being held for Hebrew teachers and vocational training courses are being given, including one to be attended by 150 physicians that will open in Moscow and Leningrad later this month.

**SYRIA AND IRAN SAY ISRAEL MUST FREE SHI'ITES BEFORE HOSTAGES ARE RELEASED**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The Syrian foreign minister and an Iranian diplomat indicated Sunday that no more U.S. hostages would be released until Israel frees some 400 Lebanese Shi'ites it is holding.

Both Farouk a-Sharaa, the Syrian official, and Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, said this was the "goodwill" gesture their two countries were seeking for their help in gaining the freedom recently of two U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

The two officials appeared on ABC-TV news program "This Week with David Brinkley."

"I believe it is very easy for the United States government to contact Israel and convince them to release these hostages," Kharrazi said.

Sharaa maintained that Syria and Iran both have only limited influence with the Lebanese groups that have taken hostages. He said the demand for Israel to release its prisoners was "not a precondition, not a deal" but a humanitarian gesture.

He blamed the hostage-taking and the anarchy in Lebanon on Israel's June 1982 invasion of the country.

"There was no hostage-taking in Lebanon before the Israeli invasion in Lebanon in 1982," Sharaa said.

He said that various groups in Lebanon took hostages in "reaction to the Israeli invasion, what happened to their families, their children, their houses, 'demolitioning' their houses, the continuing air raids."

"This is an ethical issue," he said. "How do you expect these people to be so humanitarian to release the American hostages and other Western hostages when their relatives have been kidnapped by Israel."

**Missing Israelis Feared Dead**

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who was scheduled to appear on the program, did not go on the air, because ABC would not accept his condition that he not be asked about the Shi'ite prisoners or Israeli soldiers held by Lebanese groups, said Sam Donaldson, who hosted the program Sunday.

But another guest on the program, Gary Sick, a staff member on the National Security Council in the Carter administration, said Israel is willing to release the Shi'ites, whom he called "counter-hostages," but only if the Israeli soldiers are freed.

"They don't want to get caught in a situation where the United States wants to get its hostages back, but the Israeli prisoners are forgotten," said Sick, an expert on Iran.

He said he believed only one of the Israelis, a navigator who bailed out when his plane was shot down, is still alive. He said two soldiers who were captured while on patrol in southern Lebanon are probably dead.

Kharrazi said Iran also wants the release of four Iranians taken in 1982 by Christian groups in Lebanon.

President Bush said last Thursday that as a goodwill gesture, the United States could seek to learn what happened to the Iranians, although the United States believes they are dead. But Kharrazi said he believes at least three of them are still alive.

**ISRAEL DENIES FIRING AT HUSSEIN, BUT SAYS IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- The Israeli navy has denied that one of its vessels in the Gulf of Eilat fired April 28 on the Jordanian royal yacht while King Hussein was aboard.

But at the same time, Israel has responded to a formal U.S. protest by promising that such an incident will not happen again.

The navy said its vessel was on routine patrol along the line separating Israeli from Jordanian territorial waters.

According to standing orders, the boat tested its guns by firing them southward, out to sea, not in the direction of the yacht, the Israel Defense Force said.

The Hashemite kingdom lodged its complaint through a "third party," apparently the United States.

The U.S. ambassador in Israel, William Brown, was instructed to "express our deep concern," Richard Boucher, the State Department's deputy spokesman, announced Friday in Washington.

"The Israelis assured us that they have issued instructions that such an incident is not repeated," Boucher said.

Israeli sources here said the IDF asked the "third party" to convey its assurances to the king that there would be no firing in the vicinity of the royal yacht in the future.

The Jordanians claimed Hussein was visible on the bridge of the yacht at the time. They said he took command of the vessel and was forced to seek shelter in the adjacent Saudi Arabian territorial waters.

The IDF denied the yacht had been chased into Saudi waters.

Israeli sources suggested that the Jordanian ruler panicked when he heard the Israeli vessel fire its test shots.

Hussein, an avid water skier, often relaxes at the Jordanian port of Aqaba, a few miles from the Israeli resort town of Eilat. He is reportedly concerned that certain right-wing elements of Israel would like to dispose of him.

Their reasoning is said to be that with Hussein gone, his Hashemite dynasty might be overthrown by Palestinians, who would then declare Jordan a Palestinian state. Palestinians comprise more than half of Jordan's population.

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

**U.S. GIVES UNRWA \$7 MILLION MORE**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The United States has provided another \$7 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, to meet the needs of a growing refugee population, the State Department announced Friday.

Richard Boucher, the department's deputy spokesman, said this brings the U.S. contribution for 1990 up to \$57 million to support UNRWA's programs in education, vocational training, medical and relief services. The United States is the largest donor to the U.N. agency.

Boucher estimated the number of Palestinian refugees registered for UNRWA services at 2 million, but had no explanation for why the numbers had gone up.

**COURT REJECTS ARAB GROUP'S PLEA  
TO BAR ARIEL SHARON FROM CANADA**  
By Avi Jacob Hyman

TORONTO, May 6 (JTA) -- Canadian Jewish organizations have hailed a federal judge's refusal last week to consider an Arab group's petition to bar Ariel Sharon from entering Canada.

Sharon, who was Israel's defense minister during its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, is scheduled to address a fund-raising dinner of the Canadian Friends of the Jerusalem College of Technology here on June 11.

The application to bar him from entering Canada was submitted to the Federal Court of Canada by the Canadian Arab Federation, which says it represents 2,000 Canadian Arabs and claims Sharon is a war criminal.

Justice James Jerome denied the petition May 2. He explained that the law allows a person to be barred only if there is the potential for serious harm to the applicant as a result of the visit.

"I have great difficulty in establishing a link between the presence of Mr. Sharon in Canada and direct harm to the applicants," Jerome said.

Canadian Jewish Congress President Les Scheininger said he was satisfied but not surprised by the decision.

"This was not a public issue," he said, adding it "was obviously a publicity ploy attempted by the Canadian Arab Federation."

B'nai Brith Canada commented in a similar vein. "We considered this application all along to be a silly, shallow contortion of our justice system," said Paul Marcus, national director of the agency's Institute for International Affairs.

The Canadian Arab Federation said it will continue legal efforts for an injunction barring Sharon and will ask the minister of immigration to deny him entry.

Failing that, the federation said, it will ask the justice minister to have Sharon arrested once he arrives and charged under a 3-year-old law that allows Canadian courts to try war criminals for offenses committed on foreign soil.

The Arab Federation's complaint stems from an Israeli report that found Sharon indirectly responsible for the massacre by Christian militiamen of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps outside Beirut in September 1982.

A co-applicant in its petition, Oddette Manuel, claimed in a statement that 23 members of her family died when two Israeli jets bombed a Beirut apartment building in August 1982, while Sharon was defense minister.

**DALLAS SKINHEADS GET STIFF SENTENCES**  
By Stewart Weiss

DALLAS, May 6 (JTA) -- A U.S. district judge imposed stiff sentences on five leaders of a Skinhead gang here last week, two months after they were convicted on charges of anti-Semitic and other racist violence.

An all-white jury found the five guilty of racially motivated hate crimes against minorities, in what the prosecution called a prolonged reign of terror in the summer of 1988.

It included attacks on a Jewish community center, vandalizing several synagogues and beating blacks and Hispanics in a Dallas park.

According to testimony, several of the defendants planned to pump poison gas into the air-conditioning vents of a local temple.

The five ringleaders were members of a gang

called the Confederate Hammerskins.

Judge Barefoot Sanders pronounced prison sentences of from four to nine years on John Lance Gordon, 19; Sean Christian Tarrant, 20; Christopher Barry Greer, 25; Daniel Alvis Wood, 20; and Michael Lewis Lawrence, 22.

Wood and Jordan, also convicted of using a gun to commit a felony, drew additional mandatory five-year sentences for that offense.

Wood offered the FBI information in return for leniency. After sentencing, he gave the Nazi salute.

**INCIDENT IN CHRISTIAN QUARTER STUPID,  
BUT REACTION OVERBLOWN, SAYS KOLLEK**  
By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Teddy Kollek, Jerusalem's feisty mayor, used the occasion of an appearance here last week to denounce the recent procurement by 150 Orthodox Jews of a building complex in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter.

He called both the acquisition of the complex, known as St. John's Hospice, and the Israeli government's contribution of \$1.8 million in financing for the project "a great stupidity."

"I blame members of the Cabinet who not only allowed this, but encouraged this," Kollek said before a room of Jewish and Christian leaders brought together last Thursday under the auspices of the American Jewish Committee to heal interreligious wounds the incident has caused.

"The people that are behind this certainly should have judgment, and they didn't show it," he said.

But when asked whether he thought Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was directly involved in the government's \$1.8 million secret financing of the real estate deal, Kollek answered unequivocally, "No."

While the mayor said the situation is "very serious," he also believes "to some extent the reaction was overdone."

He said it was unfortunate that the hospice, located near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, was occupied during the Easter season.

"Passover, the month of Ramadan and Easter -- all these holidays passed with exemplary dignity. On the Temple Mount, more than 50,000 Arabs pray every Friday -- more than ever in Jordanian times. Yet all this has been overshadowed by this particular incident," he said.

The conflict that has strained Christian-Jewish relations began April 11, when 150 Orthodox Jews moved into a 72-room building in the Christian Quarter previously owned by the Greek Orthodox Church. They subleased the building from an Armenian, Martyros Matossian, who had leased it for over 20 years from the church.

Kollek said the Greek Orthodox Church had neglected the building complex for many years and had leased it to "a bunch of crooks." But he also insisted that this in no way justifies the activities that have occurred in the last month.

This was done because a group of people believe they have the right to move in everywhere, and they want to move into every community of the Old City. This is against the basic policy of the government," he said.

The mayor also pointed out that the situation of Christians in other Middle East countries is far worse than in Israel. When Jerusalem was under Jordanian control, he said, no permission was given for churches to be built, whereas since 1967, over 20 churches have been built.