

**GORBACHEV THREAT ON EMIGRATION,  
NOT TRADE PACT, ALARMS U.S. JEWRY**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders have expressed satisfaction with President Bush's pledge that he will not ask Congress to ratify a trade agreement he signed Friday with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev until Moscow adopts promised emigration reform legislation.

But Jewish leaders were alarmed by Gorbachev's threat Sunday to cut off Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union unless Israel guarantees that immigrants bound for Israel will not be allowed to settle in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Gorbachev issued his surprise threat during a joint news conference with Bush at the White House, which concluded their four days of talks.

"As long as no assurances" are given by Israel that Soviets Jews will not be settled in the territories, the Kremlin may have to "postpone issuing the permits for exit," Gorbachev said in response to a question from reporters.

"The Soviet Union is now being bombarded with a lot of criticism from the Arab countries" as well as from some people within the Soviet Union on the emigration issue, Gorbachev said.

He noted that he recently met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Assad, both of whom raised the question of Israeli guarantees "in acute terms."

Both Bush, and Secretary of States James Baker, who appeared on television after the White House news conference, said the United States continues to oppose the establishment or enhancement of Jewish settlements in the territories.

"But we haven't linked the two in the way that President Gorbachev was suggesting," Baker said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

"We unconditionally support the concept of Soviet Jewish emigration," Baker stressed.

He said he was not disturbed by the Gorbachev threat, since the Soviets asked for Israeli guarantees during his visit to Moscow in May. Gorbachev did not raise the issue during the summit, Baker said.

**Israel Reacts To Threat**

In Israel, Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz reacted to Gorbachev's threat by suggesting that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir invite the Soviet leader to Israel to learn the true situation.

Gorbachev could tour the administered territories and "see with his own eyes" that Israel "has no policy of directing or encouraging immigrants to go to these territories," Peretz said.

Construction and Housing Minister David Levy said there would be "clarifications" in which Israel would "explain ourselves so that our brothers in the USSR shall not be hostages to political processes."

But Levy, who holds the rank of deputy premier, would not say explicitly whether Israel would provide Gorbachev with the guarantees he is seeking.

Jewish groups in the United States pointed out that fewer than 2 percent of Soviet immigrants have settled in the territories.

Martin Wenick, executive director of the

National Conference of Soviet Jewry, said it was a "canard" to say Soviet Jews were settling in the territories in large numbers.

Wenick said he was "deeply disturbed" by Gorbachev's linkage of emigration to the settlement issue. He said that if the Soviets stopped emigration, it would be a violation of international human rights agreements that the Soviets have signed, including the Helsinki Accords.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews also maintained it is not Israel's policy to "actively channel Jews to the West Bank."

"Gorbachev should not curtail the basic human right of free emigration based on the destination of Soviet Jews," a spokeswoman for the group said.

Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, said his group was "distressed" by Gorbachev's "implied threat to curtail immigration of Soviet Jews."

He urged the administration to "make clear its determination that Soviet Jewish immigration must continue."

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, national chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, called Gorbachev's threat "absolutely despicable."

**Trade Agreement Is Surprise**

While displeased with Gorbachev, the Soviet Jewry groups, except for SSSJ, were pleased with Bush's stance on the trade agreement, even though he had previously indicated he would not sign it until the Soviets adopt the long promised law codifying its more liberal emigration policies.

They were also pleased that Bush devoted a great deal of time during the summit to the issues of concern to Soviet Jews, including anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, the need for direct flights between Moscow and Israel, and the cases of long-term refuseniks still being denied exit visas.

The signing of the trade agreement came as a surprise during Friday evening's signing of various agreements by Bush and Gorbachev at the White House.

Bush announced the move by saying, "President Gorbachev and I are also signing a commercial agreement and are looking forward to the passage of a Soviet emigration law."

The new law was supposed to have been adopted by the Supreme Soviet before the summit. During the summit, Soviet officials expressed irritation with U.S. pressure for the law.

Arkady Maslennikov, Gorbachev's spokesman, said there was "resentment" that another country was trying to dictate to the Soviet parliament.

Nevertheless, Maslennikov said the Supreme Soviet is "very serious about the law," which he said has been delayed because of the legislature's extremely busy schedule.

Bush said the law must be adopted before he is willing to waive sanctions contained in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the U.S. Trade Act, which links trade benefits to improved performance on emigration.

Bush repeatedly insisted that the trade agreement was not linked to the Soviet Union ending its economic sanctions against Lithuania.

But Baker conceded that the Senate would be highly unlikely to ratify the agreement if the situation in Lithuania had not improved.

"We are pleased that the administration has held fast to the principle of Jackson-Vanik and is keeping its promise to hold out for the emigration law," the Union of Councils said.

The National Conference said it was less concerned with the emigration law than that the Soviets continue the high level of Jewish emigration, make progress on the cases of long-term refuseniks and place strict limits on the application of "state secrets" in denying visas.

But Weiss of the SSSJ said the trade agreement should not have been signed until the Soviets had adopted a satisfactory emigration law and proved for a full year that it was being implemented in good faith.

#### Agreed To Speak Out On Anti-Semitism

Bush and Gorbachev also discussed the problem of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union during the informal talks Saturday at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland. According to White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, the two leaders "agreed to speak out against prejudice and any trends toward anti-Semitism."

Fitzwater also said Bush spoke to Gorbachev about the cases of various long-term refuseniks, and Gorbachev replied that "he was still working to resolve them."

The National Conference said it trusted that Gorbachev "will follow through" on this pledge and will also make a "forceful, unequivocal condemnation" of anti-Semitism, as Bush did in January during his State of the Union address.

The Union of Councils likewise praised Bush for bringing up the issues of anti-Semitism.

But Weiss said he was "disappointed" that Soviet Jewry did not play a more central role in the summit.

He was particularly incensed that the Bush administration did not put more pressure on the Soviets to institute direct flights between Moscow and Israel. He said that because of the Soviet economic chaos, such pressure would work.

Weiss said it was "unacceptable and unpardonable" the way Jews and other Americans have made a hero of Gorbachev, whom he called a dictator. He said Jews should be in the streets by the thousands supporting Soviet Jews, because they are in danger.

*(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)*

#### **PROTEST AT AEROFLOT OFFICE MAKES LITTLE HEADWAY FOR DIRECT FLIGHTS** By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA) -- Nine Soviet Jewry activists failed last week to convince the regional manager of the Soviet national airline Aeroflot to begin direct flights to Israel.

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, who led the group, even tried to lay down cash for a ticket to Israel, but he politely told he could not do so.

The group, made up of activists from the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the North American Jewish Students Network, demonstrated Friday in front of the Soviet airline's office here during the U.S.-Soviet summit meeting that concluded Sunday.

Aeroflot officials spoke to Weiss, the SSSJ's national chairman, after he showed up at their downtown office, a little more than a block from the Soviet Embassy.

Weiss and his fellow activists were clad with yarmulkes and prayer shawls, and carried a Torah.

Victor Novoselov, the office manager, told the activists that the Soviet Union does not have any objection to allowing Jews to travel directly to Israel.

In December, Aeroflot and El Al, the Israeli national airline, signed an agreement allowing for the first direct flights ever between their countries. But the Kremlin has not ratified the agreement, citing Arab concerns that the Soviet Jewish emigres likely to take advantage of the flights will be settled in the administered territories.

#### Refusenik Addresses Capitol Rally

Vladimir Pismennyi, Aeroflot's Washington regional manager, came out through a side gate to tell Weiss the matter is a "completely political issue" and that "we are only the carrier."

"We believe that you have succumbed to Arab pressure," Weiss told Pismennyi.

Pismennyi told Weiss, "We are ready to fly" if the agreement is ratified.

When Weiss exhausted his arguments, he said he had money with him to purchase Aeroflot tickets to Israel on the spot.

Pismennyi smiled and said that while Aeroflot accepts cash, there were no such tickets. "You cannot reach your goal by this means," he said. In the end, the two men shook hands.

Novoselov spoke with the group for another 10 minutes as Weiss and the other demonstrators sat on the cement floor in front of the office.

They carried posters with slogans such as "Stop Arab Plot Against Israel" and "The Bush Jerusalem Plan: A Half-Baked Idea," referring to Secretary of State James Baker.

Also Friday, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews rallied on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, along with groups favoring independence for Lithuania.

Those addressing the crowd of a few thousand included former refusenik Maria Milman, whose father has been refused permission to leave the Soviet Union on the grounds of having been privy to "state secrets"; Sens. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Donald Riegle Jr. (D-Mich.); and Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.).

"We applaud the Lithuanian offer to the Jews of Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev to grant them asylum" if "the current wave of anti-Semitism erupts into large-scale violence," said Robyn Lieberman, UCSJ's assistant director for government relations.

#### An Award For Gorbachev

There were other words of praise for the Soviets during and immediately before the summit.

In Leningrad, UCSJ President Pamela Cohen commended the regional legislature, known as the Leningrad Soviet, for approving a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and for having the only human rights commission in the Soviet Union.

She is believed to be the first president of a Western human rights group to address a Soviet legislative body.

Here in Washington, Rabbi Arthur Schneier presented Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday with the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's Man of History Award for "changing the course of world events in our time."

At a ceremony in the Soviet Embassy, Schneier, who is president of the foundation, also announced the creation of a Gorbachev Scholar Program that will enable 10 Soviet graduate students to study at American universities each year on all-inclusive scholarships.

**PRESIDENT BUSH DEFENDS U.S. VETO OF U.N. RESOLUTION ON TERRITORIES**

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA) -- President Bush on Sunday defended the U.S. decision late last week to kill a Security Council resolution that would have sent a three-member U.N. delegation to investigate the recent upsurge of violence in the administered territories.

The situation leading up to the U.N. vote was compounded by the "outrageous guerrilla attack launched against Israel," Bush said at a joint news conference with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He was referring to the aborted seaborne attack by heavily armed terrorists from the Palestine Liberation Front on two crowded Israeli beaches over the Shavuot holiday.

The United States was the only one of the 15 Security Council members to oppose the resolution, but its vote was enough to kill it. The five permanent members of the council have veto power over all resolutions.

The resolution, introduced by the Arab bloc, called for a three-member commission of the Security Council to investigate the "policy and practices of Israel, the occupying power" and the "deteriorating situation" in the Israeli-administered territories and East Jerusalem.

The delegation was to report back by June 20, after which the council would reconvene to discuss "ways and means of ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians."

It was proposed May 25 in Geneva, where the Security Council convened for a special session to hear Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat address the upsurge of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a lone Israeli gunman shot seven Palestinian workers to death May 20 near Rishon le-Zion.

**Jewish Groups Praise Bush**

The United States originally expressed support in Geneva for a more-limited plan of sending observers to the territories on a temporary basis, but then reversed its decision, saying it would support an emissary sent by the U.N. secretary-general, as opposed to a Security Council delegation.

"We do not oppose the secretary-general sending emissaries to the Middle East," Bush reiterated at his news conference Sunday. "We do favor representatives of the secretary-general going there."

"United States policy is unchanged and is clear: We oppose new settlements in the territories beyond the 1967 lines," he said.

In New York, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations lauded the Bush administration for vetoing the resolution and President Bush for his "immediate and forthright denunciation" of the May 25 terrorist raid.

"When a deranged individual, acting independently, commits a heinous act that is unanimously condemned by all responsible parties in Israel, the so-called civilized nations of the world are nevertheless quick to tar Israel with the brush of collective guilt," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the 46-member umbrella group.

"Yet when a vicious terrorist operation, whose sole aim is to wreak havoc on innocent men, women and children enjoying a holiday at the seashore, is undertaken by a major faction of the PLO under the command of Yasir Arafat's chief assistant, these countries are silent."

**E.C. CONDEMNS TERROR ATTEMPT ON ISRAEL, CALLS FOR U.N. MEDIATION IN TERRITORIES**  
By Yossi Lempkovic

BRUSSELS, June 3 (JTA) -- The European Community has condemned the attempted terrorist attacks on crowded Israeli beaches May 30 and at the same time called for U.N. intervention in the Israeli-administered territories.

A statement issued here Saturday on behalf of the E.C.'s 12 member states called the status quo in the territories "not sustainable."

It added that the "United Nations can and should play a useful role in the present situation, particularly in relation to the protection of the population."

The statement added that the 12 nations "condemn without reservation all such acts, and they repeat their appeal for calm and restraint."

The E.C. statement said the E.C. "member states are resolved to step up their support for the observance of the human rights of the population of the occupied territories and have already commenced activities in this respect."

In Israel, Avi Pazner, chief adviser to acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, expressed Israel's disappointment with the E.C. statement.

Pazner criticized the E.C. for failing to be evenhanded, particularly in not addressing the harsh anti-Israel threats made last week during the Arab summit in Baghdad.

**FIREBOMBING REPORTED IN GALILEE**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA) -- Tension escalated Sunday between Israeli Arabs and their Jewish neighbors after a Jewish motorist reported a gasoline bomb attack on the road between Nazareth and Tiberias in Galilee.

The driver, who was not hurt, said his car was hit by a stone near the Golani junction approaching Tiberias. As he steered toward the attackers, two gasoline bombs were thrown at the car, he said. Both missed.

A trail led to the Israeli Arab village of Turan. This angered Jews living nearby, who threatened to counterattack. They charged that Israeli Arabs were adopting the tactics of the intifada.

Mayor David Gurfinkel, head of the regional council of Lower Galilee, accused the village leaders of Turan of knowing who was responsible for the attack and demanded they be turned over to the police.

**ISRAELI CURE FOR ALLERGIES?**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA) -- Scientists at the Hebrew University's School of Pharmacology in Jerusalem have succeeded in discovering the human body's allergy-response mechanism, Ma'ariv reported last week.

The discovery will allow researchers to propose methods of stopping allergic reactions such as running nose, coughing, red eyes, asthma and hay fever.

A team of researchers headed by Hebrew University Professor Francesca Levy-Shefer and Harvard University Medical School Professor Frank Austin has developed a method of discovering the operating mechanism of the mast cell, which releases several substances, including histamines, that cause allergic reactions.

## LIKUD MINISTERS LED BY SHARON PRESS SHAMIR TO FORM GOVERNMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA) -- A group of Likud ministers, goaded by the outspoken Ariel Sharon, are pressing Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Shamir to set up a narrow-based Likud-led government before his presidential mandate expires at midnight Thursday.

Their urgency is not only attributable to the fast-approaching deadline.

There was a flurry of media speculation over the weekend that Likud and the Labor Party are engaged in contacts with a view to establishing a "national emergency government" to preside for a limited period, presumably until laws are passed changing the electoral system and new elections are called.

David Magen, a Likud member of the caretaker Cabinet, told reporters after a meeting of Likud ministers Sunday evening that Shamir now has 61 "firm" supporters in the Knesset, the minimum he needs to set up a coalition regime.

He has only to formally advise President Chaim Herzog of this by midnight Thursday and can present his new government to the Knesset for approval sometime next week.

But another Likud minister, Ehud Olmert, was more guarded in his assessment of the situation. While he agreed that a narrow Likud government was attainable, "I don't think it will be as easy as some of my colleagues seem to think," Olmert said.

The one-vote margin claimed by Magen would depend on an Agudat Yisrael party break-away Knesset member, Eliezer Mizrahi. The remaining five Agudah seats are technically bound to support a Labor-led coalition.

Magen said he hoped and assumed the Agudah would not vote against a proposed Likud government and would join it at a later stage.

## SUMMIT REAWAKENS CONCERN OVER THE FATE OF WALLENBERG

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, June 3 (JTA) -- The unknown fate of Raoul Wallenberg was not a highlight of the Bush-Gorbachev agenda.

But there were many around the world who hoped the summit meeting that ended in Washington on Sunday would shed some light on the mystery of one of the humanitarian heroes of World War II.

A report by the International Committee of Inquiry Regarding the Fate and Whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg concluded that "the evidence is incontrovertible" that he did not die in 1947, as the Soviet authorities have consistently claimed.

The 1,200-page report is the basis for an International Helsinki Appeal to be launched at the forthcoming human rights parley of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe, which will convene in Copenhagen.

The report was presented to the annual assembly of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights in Moscow this weekend by the committee's chairman, McGill University law Professor Irwin Cotler.

Before leaving for Moscow, Cotler addressed an appeal to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to release Wallenberg if he is still alive, or at least make full disclosure of his fate and whereabouts.

In Washington, a letter urging President Bush to raise Wallenberg's fate with Gorbachev was signed by 27 members of Congress and sent to the president, at the initiative of Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.).

The letter pointed out that the young Swedish diplomat had been dispatched in 1944 to Hungary, an ally of Nazi Germany, at the specific request of the U.S. War Refugee Board.

Wallenberg's mission was to try to save as many Jews as possible in Hungary, the only Eastern European country where a Jewish community remained intact.

He succeeded to the extent that as many as 100,000 Jewish survivors credit their lives to his efforts.

When the Red Army entered Budapest in January 1945, Wallenberg disappeared and has not been heard from since.

In 1957, the Soviet authorities, silent until then, claimed Wallenberg had died of a heart attack 10 years earlier in the KGB's Lubyanka prison.

But the evidence presented was sparse and suspect. It was contradicted by other evidence, including reliable eyewitness reports that Wallenberg was seen alive long after his purported demise.

According to the report of the Cotler commission, which reviewed thousands of pages of documentary evidence and witness testimony, the evidence is "incontrovertible" that Wallenberg did not die in 1947, "compelling" that he was alive in the 1950s and '60s, and "credible" that he was alive in the 1970s and 1980s.

## SPAIN TO GIVE PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE TO DESCENDANTS OF EXPELLED JEWS

By David Kantor

MADRID, June 3 (JTA) -- Spain is awarding one of its most prestigious prizes, the Prince of Asturias Prize, to world Sephardic Jewry, the descendants of the Jews expelled from Spain 500 years ago.

The award was announced Friday by the Principality of Asturias Foundation in the northwest city of Oviedo, near the Bay of Biscay.

The presentation is made there annually by the Prince of Asturias, the son of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia, who is accompanied by his parents on the occasion.

According to the foundation, which was established in Oviedo in 1980, the prize is granted for solidarity, and can be awarded to an individual, group or institution in any country of the world.

While it recognizes efforts to transcend national boundaries in the interests of the brotherhood of man, it is also awarded for struggles against poverty, sickness or ignorance, and to individuals or groups which open new boundaries of knowledge.

The decision to award the prize to Sephardic Jewry, whose expulsion from Spain will be commemorated in a series of national events in 1992, is seen as an effort to renew Spain's dialogue with the Jews and improve ties with Israel.

The prize consists of a document, a distinctive symbol in the form of a sculpture by Joan Miro, and 5 million pesetas, the equivalent of nearly \$50,000.

It was not immediately known who will accept the prize on behalf of the Sephardic Jewish communities worldwide.