

**LONG LINES AT MOSCOW CONSULATE
ATTEST TO RESURGENCE OF ALIYAH****By Charles Hoffman**

MOSCOW (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews again lined up outside the Israeli Consulate here last month, as immigration to Israel began to bounce back to levels reached prior to the war in the Persian Gulf.

A total of 14,609 immigrants arrived in Israel in March, 13,336 of them from the Soviet Union, according to Israeli officials. That is double the rate in February and about the same as January, though significantly less than the record 35,000 Soviet Jews who made aliyah in December.

In New York, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that the March total brings Soviet Jewish aliyah to 33,860 so far this year. That compares with a total of 17,717 Soviet Jewish olim during the first quarter of 1990.

Jewish Agency officials expect some 20,000 Soviet immigrants to arrive in Israel during April.

An Israeli official said that the consulate here issued about 900 visas a day last month, compared to between 400 and 500 during the war. To process immigrant visas, consular officials work from 9 a.m. until early evening or later--as long as it takes to handle the traffic on a given day.

The consulate is located on Bolshaya Ordinka Street, fairly close to the center of Moscow. The relatively new building used by the consulate stands next to churches and other buildings from the pre-revolutionary period, some of them occupied by diplomatic missions.

On the sidewalk next to the consulate, a bazaar has sprung up to serve the needs of prospective immigrants. Vendors spreading their wares on tables offer Hebrew teaching aids, Russian-Hebrew dictionaries and luggage for the trip to Israel. Books for learning Hebrew that once had to be smuggled into the Soviet Union now fetch good prices here on the street.

Some distinguished rabbis from Israel, including Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, visited the consulate early last month to get a first-hand report about procedures for validating claims of Jewishness by applicants for immigrant visas. The rabbis were satisfied that procedures had been tightened so that forged documents would be more easily detected than in the past.

30 Percent Of Mixed Nationality

A consular official said that visa applicants have to bring original copies of their birth certificates, which state the nationality of both parents.

Under Soviet law, a person whose parents are of different nationalities can choose to be registered under one of these nationalities when they reach 16. There are many people who are registered in their "internal passports" as non-Jews, but who have a Jewish parent. Such people may enter Israel, along with their spouse and children, under Israel's Law of Return.

Likewise, a person whose only link with the Jewish people is a Jewish grandparent may also qualify under the Law of Return.

The rabbinical delegation was told that about

30 percent of the families receiving immigrant visas are of mixed nationality. In some of these cases, however, the mother is Jewish, so the children are as well, according to traditional Jewish law. The actual percentage of non-Jews entering Israel as immigrants is therefore not clear, as far as visa applications are concerned.

Consular officials have been worried lately about the sudden spurt in the number of Jews applying for immigration visas to Germany, which recently began issuing them to Soviet Jews on a selective basis. Once word of this leaked out, hundreds of Jews began lining up outside German consulates in various Soviet cities.

Moreover, synagogues in several cities, including Moscow and Kiev, have begun issuing certificates of Jewishness, for a substantial fee, that are required when applying for German visas.

Synagogue officials said that the German consulates would rather have the synagogues determine who is Jewish rather than make this judgment themselves.

In New York, meanwhile, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society reported that 2,477 Soviet Jews immigrated to the United States in March, up from 1,713 in February and about 1,300 the month before.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**IN ADOPTING NEW SECURITY MEASURES,
ISRAEL HAD ITS IMAGE ABROAD IN MIND**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet appears to have balanced security concerns with political considerations in deciding Sunday to tighten restrictions on Palestinians in the administered territories.

Apparently concerned about Israel's image abroad, the Cabinet flatly rejected demands by its most militant right-wing members for total war against Palestinian activists.

It decided instead to enforce existing policies and tighten security restrictions, including limits on Palestinian access to Israel proper from the administered territories and deportation for alleged troublemakers.

That course, strongly backed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, was adopted by a majority of ministers in face of mounting public rage and fear over the spate of seemingly random attacks by Arabs on Jews, mainly inside Israel.

Six Israelis were murdered during March, five in stabbing attacks in Israel proper and one by gunfire in the West Bank. There were at least nine non-fatal stabbings in Israel last month.

The latest occurred last Thursday, when a 74-year-old Jewish man was knifed in the Moslem Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

While a considerable segment of the public might favor harsher measures to curb the immediate menace of Palestinian violence, most of the senior ministers, convening as a ministerial security committee, took a broader view.

Foreign Minister David Levy charged that the proposals by Cabinet hawks amounted to collective punishment of the Arab population, which "would besmear Israel's reputation and is politically impractical."

Defense Minister Moshe Arens cautioned that

Israel must carefully weigh its response to the attacks to prevent "heavy political damage."

Shamir, clearly in control, managed to isolate the three ministers who demanded radical solutions. He prevented discussion of their proposal to deport the entire local Palestinian leadership.

Idea To Bar Unmarried Males Scrapped

He also refused to discuss an idea originally floated by Police Minister Ronni Milo, a relative moderate among Likud politicians. Milo wanted to bar entry into Israel of single Palestinian males under age 30, because they fit the profile of the typical assailant.

The Cabinet instead upheld the policy of deporting Palestinian "instigators," whether or not they personally commit violent acts.

Not only terrorists but their families will be severely punished. The homes of known assailants will be demolished.

The ministers also decided to limit the entry of Palestinian vehicles from the territories into Israel proper.

Ha'aretz reported Monday that the ministers were considering a complete ban, which would force Palestinians with jobs in Israel to use public transportation. Presumably, that would make it easier to screen them and detect suspect moves.

Palestinians with criminal records or records of security offenses will be barred from Israel unconditionally. Palestinians found in Israel without official authorization will also be permanently barred.

These policies have been in effect for some time.

One problem is that they reduce the Arab work force on which much of Israel's construction and service industries depend, though with the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants, the labor shortage could be easily remedied.

But there is also an ideological problem affecting a strong segment of the Likud constituency. The restrictions on movement reinforce the de facto separation of Israel from the administered territories, much to the chagrin of Greater Israel advocates, who consider the territories as much part of "Eretz Yisrael" as Tel Aviv.

Deportation too has its drawbacks. Long an active policy, it has invariably drawn irate protests -- though never economic or political sanctions -- from the United States.

As it is, the United States was not too thrilled with the relatively moderate measures the Israeli Cabinet adopted.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday that Israel "ought to be looking for ways to develop dialogue and trust with Palestinians, not imposing new restrictions."

Boucher said the U.S. Embassy in Israel would be discussing with the Israeli government the new restrictions as well as a recent order to shoot to kill Palestinians who attack Israelis.

Mass Deportations Rejected

But right-wing ministers in Israel maintain the existing security measures have not worked and the ones adopted Sunday do not go far enough. They urged the government not to settle for ad-hoc measures against terrorists but to launch an all-out campaign to end the intifada once and for all.

Proponents of this view included Housing Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud, Agriculture Minis-

ter Rafael Eitan of Tsomet and Rehavam Ze'evi of the Moledet party, who holds no portfolio.

Among other things, they urged the deportation of hundreds of Palestinian activists, including the entire leadership in East Jerusalem, which is part of Israel under Israeli law.

The three ministers would ban all political gatherings of Palestinians, close down Palestinian newspapers in East Jerusalem and deport the relatives of terrorists.

At one point Sunday, Foreign Minister Levy accused them angrily of "performing a security striptease for the media."

Opposition to the new measures also came from the other side of the political spectrum. Shevah Weiss, acting chairman of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, said the political damage caused by the toughened measures outweighed their security benefits.

According to the Laborite, the only answer is to revive the political process.

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

IDF CHIEF OF STAFF LEAVES POST WARNING ABOUT THREAT FROM IRAN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- Israelis were warned by their highest-ranking military leader Sunday that Iran now poses the greatest menace to their security, including a nuclear threat.

That was the judgment expressed by the outgoing Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, in his final television interview as an active officer of the IDF.

Shomron formally handed over the accoutrements of his office to his successor, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, in a series of rituals and ceremonies Monday that ended a 35-year IDF career in which he reached the highest level possible for an Israeli soldier.

Shomron said the damage done to Iraqi forces in the Persian Gulf war altered the military balance of power in the region. He explained that the battering of Saddam Hussein's army as it was driven from Kuwait deprived Syria, a sworn enemy of Israel, of strategic depth.

That, plus the end of the "Soviet umbrella" over Damascus, reduced Syria's immediate threat to Israel, Shomron said.

But it also removed a check on Iranian ambitions and the spread of the Iranian-led Islamic revolution, he warned.

Barak, newly promoted from major general, became the IDF's 14th chief of staff in ceremonies Monday morning at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Office. The two generals and their wives were received by President Chaim Herzog at a ceremony in the presidential residence.

Later, they drove to Tel Aviv for another handing-over ceremony at General Headquarters, where military units representing the land, sea and air arms of the IDF were drawn up in ranks.

Barak, who had been Shomron's deputy, is a 49-year-old career officer who served as head of the Planning Branch at General Headquarters, as chief of military intelligence and as commander of the central sector, which includes the West Bank.

Born on Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon, Barak has been in the IDF since 1959. He has served in elite units during his 31-year military career, is a combat veteran of the 1967 Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War of 1973, and has taken part in secret military operations that are still classified.

11 GERMAN INDUSTRIAL EXECUTIVES TO BE TRIED FOR ASSISTING IRAQ

By David Kantor

BONN, April 1 (JTA) -- Eleven German industrial executives will stand trial in the near future for supplying Iraq with facilities, equipment and materials to produce poison gas in violation of the export laws, according to the state prosecutor in Darmstadt.

Georg Nauth said bills of indictment have been handed down in court. Their preparation involved taking testimony from 300 witnesses and studying about a ton of documents, he said.

The trials are to begin in a matter of weeks, or months at the latest. The executives represent three firms, Pilot Plant, Karl Kolb and Wet.

According to Nauth, the executives advanced a \$17.5 million deal with Iraq in a conspiratorial atmosphere and with full knowledge of the use to which the Iraqis intended to put the equipment they made available.

At least one of the accused, Peter Leifer of Wet, has confessed to his role, Nauth said.

But Heinrich Weiss, president of the German Industrial Association, complained Monday that German industry as a whole was being besmirched.

He accused the news media of launching an irresponsible campaign against leading companies, arousing widespread speculation that has damaged Germany's reputation abroad as a serious commercial partner.

Weiss urged the government to provide the public with accurate information about the status of the investigation into illegal exports.

He urged that Germany be allowed to follow United Nations or NATO guidelines with respect to sensitive exports.

German industry should not be bound by the tough restrictions imposed in France, Britain or other countries, he said.

CANADIAN REVISIONIST ARRESTED, FINED FOR ANTI-JEWISH INCITEMENT IN GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, April 1 (JTA) -- Ernst Zundel, a Holocaust revisionist who resides in Canada, was arrested in Munich last month and has been fined for incitement against Jews and denying the Holocaust.

Munich police confirmed that he was charged with several other illegal acts under German law and fined 31,500 marks, the equivalent of \$18,500.

Zundel is in custody, police said, though he is free to leave the country upon payment of the fine. He also has the option of appeal.

He has been visiting Germany and went to Munich last week for an international rally of neo-Nazi activists outside the prestigious German Museum.

The 52-year-old Zundel, who is of German origin, runs a printing business in Toronto that grinds out neo-Nazi tracts claiming the Holocaust was a Jewish hoax.

His publication and distribution of a booklet "Did Six Million Really Die?" led to charges under Canadian law of "spreading false news" about the Jewish people, for which he was sentenced in 1985 to 15 months in jail.

Zundel won a new trial on appeal and was convicted for a second time in 1988 and sentenced to nine months in jail.

He is presently free on bail pending a second appeal.

ISRAELI PLAN TO ENCOURAGE EXPORTS MAY BE BITTER MEDICINE FOR INDUSTRY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli government unveiled sweeping new plans Monday to open domestic industry to the chill blast of foreign competition.

The plan to encourage imports, presumably putting Israeli producers to the test, was hailed by government officials as the most important economic program in the past decade.

But it sent shockwaves through the Histadrut, Israel's trade union federation, and the Industrialists Association, which rarely see eye to eye on most issues.

Both have voiced grave misgivings. They said the plan would make it difficult for them to reach agreements with the government on wage and price policies designed to boost employment and peg inflation.

The new plan was approved by a special ministerial committee acting with full Cabinet powers. It provides for an initial, administrative step on Sept. 1, just four months away.

On that date, much of the bureaucratic red tape binding imports will be removed. The procedure for obtaining import licenses from the government will be dramatically simplified.

The more fundamental economic dimension of the plan will unfold gradually in five to seven years. During that period, customs duties on imports will be reduced steadily to the point where no imported commodity will bear a duty higher than 12 percent.

Government officials said Monday that almost all of Israeli industry will be exposed to free foreign competition by the end of five years. The exceptions are the textile and timber industries, which require longer protection. Their tariff barriers will come down only after seven years.

Rise In Unemployment Expected

The officials conceded that the plan contains some bitter medicine. Certain industrial enterprises will be hard hit, causing increased unemployment and dislocation in some instances.

But officials contend the overall plan will promote efficiency and increase the productivity of Israeli industry as a whole, putting it on a competitive basis at home and abroad.

The long-term result will be to boost employment opportunities for immigrants and others in existing and new industrial concerns, they said.

However, the chairman of the Industrialists Association, Dov Lautman, said the program fails to grapple with "the one really basic challenge facing the country: the need to absorb the olim and provide them with employment."

He accused the government of tackling the economy in piecemeal style without an overall philosophy. Lautman has recently called for a steep devaluation of the currency, coupled with a tough policy on wages and prices.

The new plan harmonizes with Israel's desire to integrate as closely as possible with the European Community.

Previous agreements between Israel and the E.C. provided for gradual tariff reductions. These will now be extended to other parts of the world.

Treasury officials said they expect pressure from industrial lobbies to block or scale down parts of the plan. They predicted, however, that the government would stand firm, since the decision has broad Cabinet support.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
DAYS OF AUSCHWITZ CONVENT NUMBERED
AS BUILDING OF NEW CENTER PROCEEDS**
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- Progress is continuing in the construction of an interfaith prayer and education center to replace the controversial Carmelite convent on the site of the Auschwitz death camp in southern Poland.

Construction of the center, which began in February 1990 after a three-year delay, is expected to be completed next year, putting to rest an issue that for years poisoned Catholic-Jewish relations.

The new complex, which is to include a cloistered convent, a research facility, and a meditation and conference center, should be inaugurated in May or June with the opening of the first building, Bishop Henryk Muszynski, chairman of the Polish Episcopal Commission for Dialogue With the Jews, announced during a recent visit to the United States.

The center will be located across the road from the present convent and not visible from Auschwitz, the death camp regarded by world Jewry as the consummate symbol of the destruction of Jews during the Holocaust.

Between a dozen and 20 nuns from the Carmelite order currently occupy a former theater at Auschwitz, a building used by the Nazis to store the Zyklon-B pellets used to kill an estimated 1.6 million Jews at the death camp.

To the dismay of Holocaust survivors and much of world Jewry, the nuns have inhabited the building since 1984. But they are expected to move into their new convent when it is finished.

"The Vatican has told us that the head of the Carmelite order has written to the nuns informing them that they'll be moving out when the new convent is completed," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

One of the buildings is said to be nearly completed, the foundation and walls of another have been poured, and the foundation of the third has been laid, according to Steinberg.

Issue Is 'Basically Resolved'

The water and electricity were connected a month ago. And now that the winter is over, the pace of construction is expected to pick up, he said.

The Vatican has contributed some \$144,000 toward construction of the new complex, and the Catholic churches of Western Europe are said to be aiding the effort as well.

Still, finances are a potential stumbling block.

"We are now short of funds," the Rev. Stanislaw Musial, secretary of the Polish Episcopal Commission for Dialogue With the Jews, said in an interview last week during a visit to New York.

Nevertheless, "the convent issue is basically resolved," according to Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of interreligious affairs for the Synagogue Council of America, a body representing Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis and congregations.

The issue is "now one of time and how (the new complex) is used once it's established," he said. "The people responsible are doing their best to keep the promise they've made. The most important thing is their commitment to getting it done."

"It's not a fevered issue right now, because it's getting done," agreed Rabbi A. James Rudin, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

"The nuns will move, and we won't hear anymore about them, because they will be in their cloister," he said.

'We Must Clean Our Hearts'

The Polish Episcopal Commission on Dialogue With the Jews, together with the Archdiocese of Krakow, has created a commission to plan what will take place in the new Auschwitz Center for Information, Education and Prayer, as it is being called.

Two American Jews have been invited to be part in the center's International Programmatic Council: Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of interfaith affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Henry Siegmán, executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

The first meeting of the Programmatic Council will take place Sunday in Krakow.

Rev. Musial hopes that when it is completed, the Auschwitz center will serve as an educational institution to give context to what visitors to Auschwitz will experience.

We hope "the young people will pass through the center before visiting the camp," he said.

After World War II, Auschwitz "became a symbol of (Polish) martyrology. The path of the Jews was played down," Musial admitted. "It became a museum of horrors, of the techniques of killing, and a banalization of the whole problem."

No framework for understanding Auschwitz was ever provided, and that is what the new center hopes to accomplish: to create a center for information "about the start of the problem, of the Hitlerian ideology and of the indifference of many states," said Musial.

The center also will serve as a forum for interreligious meetings and dialogue.

Its completion will be an important step for Polish Catholics' own religious reconciliation with past anti-Semitism, just recently recognized by the church to be sinful, according to Musial.

"We ask for pardon," he said. "We must clean our hearts. We have to free ourselves from this heaviness," he said. "We were not (in Auschwitz) when the Jews were suffering there, so we don't have the right to be there now."

ISRAEL'S SMALLEST COIN WITHDRAWN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- The agorah, Israel's lowest-denomination coin, was officially withdrawn from circulation Monday.

The tiny copper-and-nickel disk cost more to mint than it was worth, the Bank of Israel explained.

It took 100 agorot to equal one shekel, Israel's basic unit of exchange, which is worth about 46 U.S. cents at current rates.

The agorah therefore was valued at less than half a U.S. penny. Israeli shopkeepers preferred not to accept it, and their customers didn't want it in change.

Israel's smallest coins now are the 5- and 10-agorah denominations.

But while the single agorah is no longer in circulation, banks and major businesses will continue to figure their profits and losses down to the last agorah.