

**NEW PASSPORT RULES AND LACK OF JOBS
TO BLAME FOR SOVIET ALIYAH SLOWDOWN**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- The flood of Soviet immigrants arriving in Israel has dwindled to a mere stream since new Soviet regulations requiring all people going abroad to have Soviet passports took effect July 1.

No more than 1,000 landed at Ben-Gurion Airport during the past week, compared to 2,000 or more arrivals almost every day in May and June.

Last weekend was the first time in years that not a single immigrant landed.

Israeli officials say they were justified in voicing concern before the regulations took effect that the sudden massive demand for passports would overwhelm the Soviet bureaucracy, delaying the departure of Jews for Israel.

But they admit that the bottleneck is not the only reason for the suddenly diminished number of olim. Lack of jobs and affordable housing in Israel has caused many potential emigres to delay their departure.

Not a few of them have been advised to do so in letters from relatives and friends who came here in the huge wave of Soviet aliyah last year.

Soviet Jews who come here as tourists for a week or so to survey the scene are for the most part deciding not to immigrate for the time being.

Uri Gordon, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, said Sunday that agency officials now predict that no more than 5,000 passport-holding Soviet Jews will make it to Israel in July.

Gordon spoke in a telephone interview from Warsaw during a tour he is taking of transit centers in Eastern Europe, where Soviet Jews stop off en route to Israel.

Some Returning To Soviet Union

Meanwhile, an undisclosed number of Soviet Jews who immigrated to Israel in the past two years have returned to the Soviet Union in recent months because of absorption problems, lack of jobs in their professions and lack of housing.

Some who came here without Soviet passports are trying to obtain temporary laissez passer documents to return to their former homes.

There is also reason for concern that Soviet Jews, especially professionals, will be attracted to other countries seeking highly skilled people.

A typical case is that of a woman who came here from Soviet Georgia a year ago and works as a cleaning woman to make ends meet.

She says her husband did well as a dentist in their hometown, where, she claims, they owned a large house and two cars. But in Israel, her husband cannot find work because of the low regard for Soviet dental training.

The woman works mornings at a pharmacy and afternoons as domestic help in order to earn the \$300 a month her family pays for a two-room apartment on Herzl Street, in a rundown section of Tel Aviv.

She says she and her 21-year-old daughter regret coming to Israel. "Maybe we should go back, even though we have nothing left there because we had to sell everything before we

left," the woman said. They would return "if we could pay back the debts we have already amassed here," she said.

The woman said she has a house guest, a relative from one of the Baltic republics, who came on a Soviet passport and Israeli tourist visa.

She likes Israel, the woman said, but is uncertain about immigration because of the difficulty of finding a job in her profession as a construction engineer.

Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman and other officials say they are worried about a reported decision by the government of Brazil to allocate \$100 million to absorb immigrant scientists and professionals in that country.

They warn that if Israel does not take adequate steps, it not only will fail to attract trained professionals from the Soviet Union but will lose those who have already come here.

**ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS SOUR
OVER ARTICLE URGING SHAMIR OUSTER**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Israeli-Egyptian relations soured this week after a Cairo newspaper published an article urging the replacement of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It contended that any progress toward Arab-Israeli peace is impossible as long as the Likud leader remains in power.

The article was only the latest of a spate of anti-Israel pieces to appear in what Israelis consider a government-controlled press. It was sufficient for Foreign Minister David Levy to summon the Egyptian ambassador, Mohammed Basiouny, to lodge an official protest.

The envoy said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had already dissociated himself from the offending article.

Sara Doron, chairwoman of Likud's Knesset faction, denounced the piece as an intervention in Israeli affairs.

"It is perplexing that a country in which democratic processes are foreign should criticize an elected regime in a neighboring friendly country," she said.

Israelis may be even more disturbed by the surprise meeting Monday between Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

It was Arafat's first contact with a top-level Egyptian since the Persian Gulf War, which found the PLO and Egypt on opposing sides.

Arafat met the Egyptian prime minister in Benghazi, Libya. The PLO leader, who also met with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, stressed the importance of "Arab-Palestinian coordination."

Aside from the diplomatic tensions, Israeli-Egyptian relations are functioning smoothly.

Israel was pleased by the prompt release of a party of Israeli and American marine biologists, briefly detained by the Egyptians last week for entering restricted waters off southern Sinai.

Israelis also appreciate Egypt's cooperation in attempts to rescue two vacationing Israel Defense Force officers who drowned while scuba diving in the Red Sea off Sinai.

The bodies of Yitzhak Hayet and Doron Hirschman, both 22, have been recovered.

EMISSARY TRIES TO CONVINCE SHAMIR U.N. COULD FACILITATE PEACE PROCESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- A visiting U.N. envoy tried and apparently failed Monday to convince Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the United Nations would never impose its will on the Middle East peace process and only wants to help advance it.

Edouard Brunner, a Swiss diplomat acting as a special emissary of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, is touring the region to determine the state of the peace initiative undertaken by the United States.

He assured Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Sunday that is his sole purpose and there would be no U.N. interference.

Israel rejects any role whatsoever for the world organization, which it believes is biased in favor of the Arabs.

Shamir told Brunner that Israel has no faith in international peace conferences. The only way to reach peace agreements is by direct negotiations, he insisted.

According to Shamir, the problem lies with Israel's neighbors, notably Syria, which he said refuses to recognize Israel or "to utter the word peace."

"If people don't want the United Nations to be part of negotiations, it is not our business to impose ourselves," Brunner said.

The envoy added, however, that there are several U.N. resolutions which the world community needs to have implemented, in order to bring about peace.

SECOND ISRAELI IN TWO DAYS SHOT BY ARABS IN GAZA STRIP

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Violence related to the intifada escalated in the Gaza Strip with the shooting of two Israelis in two days by armed Arabs in the shadow of an Israel Defense Force observation post.

The victim Monday morning was 48-year-old Amnon Yahalomi of the Gaza Strip settlement of Dekel, who suffered bullet wounds in the neck, shoulder and arm.

More seriously wounded was Moshe Buchris, 53, of Ashdod, who was shot in the head and hand early Sunday morning while waiting by his truck to pick up Arab laborers at the entrance to Morag, a settlement a few miles from the Egyptian border.

Yahalomi was attacked in almost the same spot while Arab workers were climbing into his car. He spotted two Arabs nearby pointing a weapon at him and ducked, grabbing his own weapon. The assailants fired first and disappeared behind sand dunes.

Yahalomi reached the military post for aid before the soldiers could pursue his attackers.

Security sources consider the two incidents grave because rifles were used. Until recently, firearms were rarely encountered in the intifada. But lately their use has doubled in attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers alike.

Also unnerving was the fact that the attacks occurred virtually under the eyes of the IDF.

The shootings increased tension in and near the Gaza Strip. Jews on Monday stoned a bus carrying Arab workers home to the Gaza Strip from Ashdod. One Arab had to be hospitalized.

U.S. APPLAUDS LEBANESE ARMY'S EFFORT BUT DOESN'T DEMAND AN ISRAELI PULLOUT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- The Bush administration is encouraged by the Lebanese army's apparent success in disarming Palestinian fighters in southern Lebanon.

But it has not yet indicated whether it will press Israel to withdraw from the security zone it maintains along the border.

"We support the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Monday, apparently referring to both Israel's military presence and the estimated 40,000 troops Syria maintains there.

"We believe the security and safety of all the people of south Lebanon and northern Israel can best be assured by a strong, effective central government in Beirut and the extension of its authority throughout the country," she said, reiterating the longstanding U.S. position.

The Lebanese government has asked the United States to help convince Israel to withdraw from the security zone, a 6-mile-wide strip of land along the border that the Israeli army has patrolled since 1985, together with the South Lebanon Army, a Christian militia it trains and finances.

For several weeks, the central Lebanese army has been gradually extending its control southward from Beirut.

Government troops have now taken over the last positions held by the Palestine Liberation Organization in the port city of Sidon, which had not been under Beirut's control since civil war erupted 16 years ago.

The Beirut government argues that now that Israel's principal security threat is removed, there is no reason for it to maintain a presence in southern Lebanon.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir stated flatly Sunday that Israel would remain in southern Lebanon as long as the region continues to serve as "a base for anti-Israel terrorists."

Not All Groups Disarmed Yet

Tutwiler pointed out Monday that not all of the Palestinian fighting groups have been disbanded.

She said she could not confirm reports that the Lebanese army has disarmed the Abu Nidal group, an extremist Palestinian faction that has been engaged in some of the bloodiest acts of international terrorism.

Israel also has made clear that it has no intention of withdrawing while Syrian troops are stationed in Lebanon. It has warned the Syrian army against moving into the southern part of the country.

But it is unlikely that Syria will be pulling its troops out at any point in the near future. In May, Syria and Lebanon signed a Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination, which in effect legitimizes Syrian control over Lebanon.

It is also clear that the Lebanese army could not have successfully disbanded the various militias in southern Lebanon without the backing of the Syrian troops.

Israel may have made its own contribution to the Lebanese army's effort by reportedly agreeing not to bomb Palestinian terrorist bases in southern Lebanon while the Lebanese army was moving to disarm the Palestinian groups.

FORMER EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST URGES RENEWAL OF TIES WITH PLO

By David Kantor

BONN, July 8 (JTA) -- A former East German Communist leader is urging Germany to renew contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization that were maintained by the defunct German Democratic Republic.

Gregor Gysi, who met with PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Tunis this past weekend, said he would urge Germany to renew parts of the treaty the old Communist regime had with the PLO.

That accord, among other things, provided military training on German soil for Palestinian terrorists, possibly including the group that massacred the Israeli Olympic team in Munich in 1972.

"One could understand that some military and security provisions in the treaty would not be applied. However, there is no reason to cancel humanitarian parts of the agreement," Gysi said.

His proposal got a cold reception in Bonn. "Obviously, the now-united Germany does not intend to adopt the practices of the former Communist dictatorship in the eastern part of the country," an official here said.

In any event, officials point out that whatever agreements East Germany had with the PLO became void when that regime was dissolved as a political entity.

But the PLO has been pressing Germany since its unification last October to resume the various training and aid programs once provided by the GDR.

Gysi says Bonn should provide grants for Palestinian students or make medical help available to the PLO to treat its casualties.

Gysi heads the Party of the Democratic Left, or PDS, a far left-wing faction composed of many former members of Stasi, the notorious East German secret police.

An East Berlin office with close links to the PDS said to still be providing some forms of assistance to the PLO.

The party is successor to the old Communist Party that ruled East Germany. Gysi served briefly as its chairman after longtime Communist boss Erich Honecker was ousted.

Gysi, whose father was Jewish, visited Israel earlier this year and vowed to break with his party's anti-Semitic, anti-Israel traditions.

WANNSEE VILLA TO BECOME HOLOCAUST STUDIES CENTER

By David Kantor

BONN, July 8 (JTA) -- Berlin authorities announced last week that the villa in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee where Nazi leaders planned the "Final Solution" in January 1942 is expected to be opened in January 1992 as a Holocaust studies center.

Berlin, as a federal state and a municipality, will invest about \$3.7 million to restore the 77-year-old Wannsee villa, which will also become a memorial and youth meeting center.

The project is sponsored by a group called Remembrance for the Future, composed of representatives of the Interior Ministry in Bonn, the Berlin state, the German Jewish community, the Catholic and Protestant churches and the German Historical Museum.

An organization of victims of racial and religious persecution is also a member.

The restored villa is expected to be ready in time for the 50th anniversary of the Wannsee conference, which was presided over by SS chief Reinhard Heydrich.

It was there that the Nazi top brass, including high officials from all the key ministries of the Reich, gathered to discuss how to implement orders from Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering to find a "Final Solution" to the so-called Jewish problem.

According to the minutes of the meeting, which were retrieved by the Allies after the war, the Nazis committed themselves at that time to the annihilation of European Jewry as a major war aim, to be carried out regardless of military developments, even if Germany should face defeat.

Preliminary plans to convert the villa into a Holocaust memorial were announced in February 1987 by Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, following inspection of the site in September 1986.

In November 1987, a film recreating the events of the infamous conference was released. An international group of experts later convened to develop the plans for the memorial.

The idea to convert the villa into a Holocaust memorial was first suggested in the 1960s by a German Jewish writer, Joseph Wulf, who produced 18 books on the Third Reich in order to teach the German people their own history.

Wulf, who was a member of a Jewish underground organization in Krakow during the Holocaust, was sent to Auschwitz but managed to escape from the transport en route.

He returned to Berlin in 1952. Exasperated over the failure to fulfill his goal, Wulf committed suicide in October 1974.

The proposal to immortalize the villa was initially approved by West Berlin's former mayor, staunch anti-Nazi Willy Brandt, as well as his successor in office, Heinrich Albertz. But the idea fell through because of second thoughts by Albertz's successor, Klaus Schutz, who did not want "a macabre cult site."

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

ART FROM ISRAEL DISPLAYED IN ROME

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, July 8 (JTA) -- A major exhibition of contemporary Israeli art opened last week in Rome.

It features 40 works from a private collection that Tel Aviv University art historian Mordechai Omer described as the most important display of Israeli paintings ever seen here.

The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Parliamentary Association of Italian-Israeli Friendship and the Israeli Embassy.

The paintings, from the collection of Israeli businessman Joseph Hackmey, represent the work of eight artists.

While all have attained international stature, their paintings, whether abstract or representational, are distinctively Israeli, Omer points out in the catalogue.

The exhibition recently toured Peru, Germany, Belgium and Portugal and will go to Czechoslovakia from Rome.

The artists are Michael Gross, Moshe Kupferman, Ori Reizman, Aviva Uri, Raffie Lavie, Moshe Gershuni, Uri Lifshitz and Ofer Lelouche.

All except Lelouche and Kupferman were born in Israel.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
SYNAGOGUES HAVE TROUBLE ADDRESSING
SPECIAL NEEDS OF DIVORCED CONGREGANTS**
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- Ruth Cohen and her husband had been moderately active members of their suburban New Jersey Reform temple for more than a decade when they divorced.

Their two daughters attended Hebrew school, and both had Bat Mitzvah ceremonies there.

When Cohen and her husband split up, her husband moved out of the area, and her temple moved out of her life.

At a time when she needed the support of her congregation, Cohen felt deserted by her temple friends, acquaintances and even the rabbi.

After a decade of car-pooling, bridge games and friendships with couples from the temple, Cohen found her new status as a divorcee left her suddenly excluded from their lives.

When the end of the year came, she let her temple membership lapse.

Though her congregation has a retention committee to follow up on people who drop out of the temple, no one called her. Nor did anyone from the congregation call when her brother was killed in an accident six months later.

"It was as if I had vanished, as if I'd ceased to exist," she says.

"It's ironic," she adds bitterly. "The Reform movement is so big on outreach, and when I needed them, they didn't reach out to me."

Cohen's alienation from her temple community after her divorce is not uncommon.

"There is an almost universal absence of outreach efforts" to divorced congregants, according to Dr. Nathalie Friedman, a senior research scholar at Columbia University, who spoke at a recent symposium on Jewish feminism sponsored by the Commission on Synagogue Relations of New York's UJA-Federation.

'People Don't Know What To Say'

Just at the time when a congregant needs his or her friends the most, they often turn away, embarrassed or threatened by the divorce.

"People don't know what to say, what to do," says Rabbi Sanford Seltzer, director of the Committee on the Jewish Family for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the association of Reform congregations.

"When somebody dies," he says, "there are rituals and everyone pitches in. Divorce is threatening, especially if things are stressful in your own relationship."

While divorce is increasingly a fact of modern American Jewish life, attitudes toward the dissolution of marriage remain rooted in the traditional mores of an earlier era.

Synagogue life is designed to suit the needs of families. But families are no longer structured the way they were just a generation ago.

"The so-called conventional Jewish family is now in the distinct minority," says Seltzer.

Demographers estimate that about 18 percent of Jews who get married eventually divorce. About half of them marry again.

One recent poll, sponsored by the Graduate School of the City University of New York, indicates that 9 percent of adult Jews are currently divorced and 1 percent are separated.

"Our synagogues have been very much family oriented and young-person oriented," acknowledges Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice presi-

dent of United Synagogue of America, the congregational arm of Conservative Judaism.

Lillian Sherman has been chairman of United Synagogue's Singles Commission for the last decade. As she puts it, "the synagogue has always been a Noah's Ark, a two-by-two society."

"Singles are the same as they were when they were married: vital, productive people," Sherman says. "Synagogues must recognize this and make them feel comfortable."

'Element Of Denial And Fear'

Many feel the synagogue should serve as a critical source of help and support. But rabbis get little training in the theoretical and practical aspects of ministering to divorced congregants.

They "still take the intact family for granted," according to Friedman of Columbia University. They don't bring up divorce in their sermons for fear of making it acceptable or somehow tacitly encouraging it.

"We don't know how to deal with it," admits Seltzer of the UAHC. "There is a certain element of denial and fear. Pulpit discussions about it are not happening. Attitudes have not caught up with reality."

Some feel the synagogue should serve as a clearinghouse of information for the newly separated and divorced.

The synagogue should also help provide couples with alternate methods of conflict resolution, like divorce mediation, and "ought to take a stand on Jewish men who do not pay their child support or alimony," says Seltzer.

Women are the custodial parent in 8 out of 10 divorces involving children, researchers say.

In her 1989 study of divorced Reform and Conservative Jewish women in the Detroit area, Dr. Lynda Giles discovered that all of the women she interviewed wanted to get more involved in their congregations, but they "found themselves feeling alienated by their synagogues."

There is "absolutely discrimination" against divorced women within the synagogue community, Giles says, "some of it very open, some of it more subtle."

Divorced women "want institutions and agencies to help them, but with a sense of dignity, because these women often have to go and ask for financial assistance," she explains.

Rabbi's Permission Needed

Giles suggests "an organized intake process, so women don't have to go from (Jewish family services) agency to agency. Give them a ticket for a dinner rather than expect them to buy a bond. Offer free membership for a year and High Holy Day service tickets.

"Do it, so they don't have the feeling that they're lost," she urges.

The denominational movements are beginning to address the needs of this growing population.

The Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis has included a ceremony for divorce in its newly revised rabbi's manual.

A ritual of this type acknowledges the reality of divorce in American Jewish society, brings together the congregant and rabbi to mark an important life cycle event, and helps the congregant move through a painful time.

Another needed step, according to the UAHC's Seltzer, is for "both the pulpit and the pew" to make it "acceptable" for congregants to be divorced. People need to be "given permission to come talk to their rabbis about it," he says.