

**ISRAEL WELCOMES END OF SOVIET COUP
BUT URGES ALL JEWS IN USSR TO LEAVE**
By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21 (JTA) -- Israelis were elated Wednesday by reports that the coup by hard-liners in the Soviet Union had failed and that Mikhail Gorbachev had been restored to power as president of the Soviet Union.

But in view of the ongoing instability in the Soviet Union, Israeli leaders urged all Soviet Jews to emigrate and come to Israel as quickly as possible.

Indications that the coup staged by Soviet hard-liners Monday was beginning to unravel first emerged Tuesday, when reports from Moscow said two or three members of the eight-man emergency ruling committee had resigned or taken ill.

By Wednesday morning, the Soviet tanks and armored personnel carriers that had taken up positions outside the Russian parliament building and other key sites in Moscow could be seen leaving the capital in a steady stream.

And by early Wednesday afternoon, President Bush announced from his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine, that Gorbachev had been restored to power and would be returning to Moscow from his vacation home in the Crimea within the next 24 hours.

Here in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israelis welcomed that news "from the depth of our hearts." He said he had "prayed" that the situation in the Soviet Union would not degenerate into violence, "because history shows that in violent times, the Jews suffer."

Shamir made his remarks in radio interviews and to members of the United Jewish Appeal's Prime Ministers Mission, presently in Jerusalem.

Peace Conference In Doubt

He said he was glad he had chosen to withhold public comment about the coup when it occurred Monday, preferring to let events take their course before going on record with an Israeli reaction.

Shamir said it was too early to know whether events in Moscow would affect the Middle East peace conference that the United States and Soviet Union had hoped to convene in October. The prime minister said he hoped "no new obstacles" would appear, but he declined to elaborate.

Non-governmental observers speculated that the uncertain future of Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh might affect the conference schedule.

Bessmertnykh could be ousted because of his ambiguous behavior during the crisis. His claim that illness indisposed him after Communist hard-liners attempted to oust President Mikhail Gorbachev was not convincing to many.

Analysts here said Bessmertnykh had sat on the fence to see which side emerged victorious from the Kremlin power struggle before declaring his allegiance.

Israel Radio reported from Moscow that the Russian parliament, which opposed the coup, received hundreds of supportive cables and telephone calls from ordinary Israelis during the three days of crisis.

Earlier Wednesday, before news of the coup's failure had reached Israel, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon issued an impassioned plea for every Soviet Jew to come to Israel without delay.

"Every Jew should leave everything behind and save his life and be rescued in the one place where Jews have the right to defend themselves: in their homeland, Israel," the Likud minister told reporters here.

'Enough Room For All Of Them'

Prime Minister Shamir later backed Sharon's call, even when it became clear that the hard-line coup in Moscow had failed. "I feel this is the need of the hour," he said. "There is no doubt about it."

Both Shamir and Sharon said Israel is prepared to absorb every Jew in the world, including as many as can come here from the Soviet Union.

"We would like to have here all the Jews from around the world, and there is enough room for all of them," said Sharon.

Pointing out that at least 60,000 Soviet Jews now hold exit permits and valid visas for entering Israel, Sharon said, "I am calling all Jews in Russia to come to Israel."

He said his ministry could offer them 29,000 housing units "within a brief span of time."

Sharon heads the Cabinet committee on immigrant absorption, which is responsible for coordinating the massive aliyah from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Its members include the director generals of various ministries concerned with absorption, as well as top officials of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which coordinates immigration to Israel.

The committee met in urgent session Wednesday to discuss the new situation. Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz said a number of decisions were made at the meeting, but he was not at liberty to elaborate.

"The general decision was that we will continue to do everything in our power to facilitate the arrival of as many Jews as possible, in the shortest possible time," Dinitz said.

No Interruption Of Emigration

Immigration from the Soviet Union, which reached 200,000 last year, had leveled off somewhat this year. But now as many as 200,000 more olim than originally anticipated are expected to arrive in Israel by the end of the year because of the coup, sources said.

Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has continued unimpeded since the crisis in Moscow began on Monday. Yosef Tropiansky, who heads the Jewish Agency's aliyah team in Moscow, told Israel Radio on Wednesday that the Soviet authorities so far have not put any obstacles in the way of emigration.

The Jewish Agency reported Wednesday that some 600 Soviet emigres had arrived here overnight from Hungary, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

In New York, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said Wednesday it had learned that the number of Soviet Jews arriving at such Eastern European transit points had increased since the Moscow crisis began on Monday.

On that day, 278 Jews arrived on flights or

by other means of transportation from the Soviet Union, followed by 310 on Tuesday and 575 on Wednesday.

A limited number of Soviet Jews also arrived in the United States, according to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. It said 28 arrived Monday, another 18 came on Tuesday and a flight of 140 was expected Wednesday.

The National Conference reported that offices of OVIR, the Soviet emigration bureau, appeared to be functioning "more or less normally," and that the Moscow OVIR had issued passports Tuesday to 27 families planning to emigrate.

It said nearly 500 Soviet Jews had shown up at the Israeli Consulate in Moscow on Tuesday, seeking either Israeli entry visas or other consular services.

Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the National Conference, issued a statement Wednesday afternoon calling news of the reinstatement of the Soviet Union's constitutional government "a most welcome and satisfying development" following three days of concern about the "welfare and security of the Soviet Jewish minority."

"We are gratified by the news that throughout the crisis, Soviet Jews continued to emigrate and that those who remained in the USSR were able to maintain their regular religious, cultural and organizational activities."

NEWS ANALYSIS:

FAILURE OF COUP IN SOVIET UNION A NET GAIN FOR JEWISH MINORITY

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 (JTA) -- The failure of the coup staged this week by hard-liners in Moscow is likely to be a net gain for the country's sizable Jewish minority, Soviet experts and advocates for Soviet Jewry agree.

It is likely to embolden the restored government of President Mikhail Gorbachev to crack down on the same ultra-conservative elements within the Communist Party that have opposed emigration reform and other liberalized policies that have generally benefited Jews.

Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the episode will "probably increase the potential for emigration" from the Soviet Union.

There is a much greater likelihood that "the authorities will fully live up to their constitutional and international obligations" relating to emigration, Wenick said.

Activists point out that Soviet Jews will feel secure in the short term, but will wonder when such a coup attempt might occur again.

Soviet Jews will "start asking if there will be a next time," said Rabbi A. James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee, and who was a co-founder of the Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry.

Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said the nerve-racking events of this week would confirm that "the fears of Soviet Jews are justified, and I think that this will serve to spur on the aliyah."

But Adam Garfinkle, senior analyst at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, said that if Soviet Jews emigrate in larger numbers, it will likely have more to do with concern about basic survival this coming winter than any fallout from the coup.

He said Soviet Jews are having more difficulty than other Soviet citizens in "hoarding"

necessities in expectation of supply shortages this winter.

Such hoarding is often done by bribing those who transport goods throughout the country. But "it's harder for Jews to make bribes in the Soviet Union because (suppliers) just don't trust them," Garfinkle said.

A New Outpouring Of Nationalism?

On the other hand, he said, some Soviet Jews "will imagine that there is a prospect for fundamental reform" that would make the Soviet Union "a more habitable place."

A State Department expert on Soviet Jewry called the failed coup an "absolute watershed in Soviet politics, basically because the bad guys were exposed and defeated."

As a result, the Soviet government will move in a more "peaceful, democratic direction," which will be "better for everybody," the official said.

But in the aftermath of the coup, the country's republics may be granted greater autonomy, and that may unleash a new outpouring of ethnic nationalism.

Wenick of the National Conference said he expects Soviet Jews to "get caught up in the middle of that," and is especially concerned about anti-Semitic sentiment in the Ukraine and Moldavia.

Garfinkle agreed that those two republics in particular have the potential for electing as their leaders conservatives who could be anti-Semitic.

Soviet Jewry analysts were divided in their assessment of the failed coup's impact on anti-Semitic groups, such as Pamyat, that emerged as Gorbachev lifted restrictions on free expression.

Cohen of the Union of Councils said that Jews won't feel more secure until the Soviet courts impose tough penalties for "hate crimes" committed against Jews.

She said that aside from a two-year prison sentence given to one Pamyat member for disrupting a January 1990 meeting of liberal writers in Moscow, there have been no attempts to prosecute members of the anti-Semitic group.

Hope That Pamyat Will Be Discredited

Dan Mariaschin, director of international and public affairs at B'nai B'rith International, said that Pamyat and other anti-Semitic groups had not aired any "overt expressions of anti-Semitism during the coup."

"It could have been that the Pamyat forces and others were waiting" for the outcome of the coup, he surmised.

Mariaschin said his hope is that, like the conservatives who failed to topple Gorbachev, Pamyat will be "discredited as well, because they are part of the non-democratic forces."

The State Department official said Soviet Jews, like other minorities, could easily remain targets of hatred if the country's enormous economic, political and social problems are not solved. "Non-official targeting of violence is possible," he said.

But Jack Matlock, who just stepped down as U.S. ambassador to Moscow, told ABC News on Wednesday that if the restored Soviet government continues "to move toward constitutional rule, you will find that the ability of these right-wing forces to stir up people and to appear to be a threat will be reduced."

"They won't, of course, disappear; they will still be a problem, but I think they will be a marginal problem," he said.

**SOVIET JEWS OVERJOYED BY COUP'S END
BUT SAY THEY CAN 'NEVER FEEL SECURE'**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 21 (JTA) -- Moscow citizens in general and Jews in particular were jubilant Wednesday at the news that the so-called "emergency committee" that seized control of the Soviet government on Monday had been pushed out of power.

"I've lived in Moscow for 20 years, and I never saw this situation -- people kissing each other in the Metro, people crying," Alexander Schmukler, president of B'nai B'rith in the Soviet Union, said in a telephone interview from Moscow.

"It's a national celebration of the great victory," he said.

"The army has left Moscow. There are no tanks, no military trucks, no soldiers. It looks like a holiday."

The Soviet Jewish community had overwhelmingly backed the pro-democracy forces, led by Russian republic President Boris Yeltsin, that resisted the hard-line coup.

Schmukler said the community had presented a statement in support of Yeltsin to members of the Russian republic's parliament at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

That was just one hour before military forces began firing on the Russian parliament building, known popularly as "the White House," initiating violence that left three people dead.

The statement of support, signed by the presidium of the Vaad, the Soviet Union's confederation of Jewish organizations, was also released to a Munich radio station and broadcast all over Europe.

A few minutes after the statement was broadcast, the Vaad began receiving "tens of calls from different Jewish organizations" outside the Soviet Union endorsing the group's stance.

The statement condemned the hard-line junta's "blatant violation of democratic norms," Schmukler said, and appealed to leaders of other national movements to cooperate in the struggle "against the fascist putsch."

"We were the first national organization to openly support the Russian government and president during very dangerous times," he pointed out.

Excited But 'Not Feeling Safe'

That may become a valuable claim, Schmukler said, since Moscow's Mayor Gavrill Popov has already prohibited activity by local chapters of two organizations that supported the "emergency committee": the Association of Veterans and the Liberal Democracy Party.

Popov has also sent a letter to Yeltsin, asking him to prohibit the publication of newspapers -- mostly Communist -- that supported the coup.

Jews in the Soviet Union feel elated about Gorbachev's return to power, and while they feel more secure than they did two days ago, "we can never feel secure here," Schmukler said. "The situation is not stabilized, and we don't know when it will be."

"Thousands and thousands" of Soviet Jews who had put off their emigration because of the absorption difficulties their friends and family members are having in Israel will now flock to the Jewish state as quickly as possible.

As Schmukler put it, "Troops in Moscow's

streets are a worse problem than Israel's absorption."

While the Israeli Consulate in Moscow has not been crowded since the coup began, Schmukler attributed that to the curfew imposed on Moscow this week and the fact that there was no way to get into the city from other locations.

Lines of Soviet Jews who want to leave will form around the downtown building in the next few days, he promised.

Schmukler confirmed reports that OVIR, the Soviet agency responsible for issuing exit visas, has offices around the country open and working.

Anti-Semitic organizations, such as Pamyat, were not heard from during the three days of hard-line rule, Schmukler said, probably because they "did not have the opportunities or the time" since the takeover began.

Schmukler voiced relief that the "emergency committee" had not organized or provoked anti-Jewish pogroms to try to destabilize their political opposition. It is a card they could have played, he said.

Still, "we are not feeling safe," he said. "Of course we are excited if Gorbachev comes back and constitutional law starts to work, but we do not know what will happen tomorrow."

**VICAR INVITES PLO OFFICIAL
TO ADDRESS HIS CONGREGATION**

By Anna Sacks

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Aug. 21 (JTA) -- A Church of England vicar who says he is "for Israel and for Palestine" has invited the London representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to address his congregation at a religious service Dec. 15.

The invitation was extended by the Rev. Tony Crowe, rector of St. Luke with Holy Trinity in Charlton Village, to Afif Safieh. Safieh has accepted the invitation.

"I have heard Mr. Safieh speak many times and have been impressed by his eloquence, stature and diplomacy," said Crowe, who is an active member of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

"He is a man of integrity and I expect him to speak out against injustice and in favor of peace and reconciliation," Crowe said.

Noting that Safieh is a practicing Roman Catholic, the vicar said he would not have been invited if he were not a Christian, because the occasion is a religious one. He said he consulted his congregation beforehand and no one objected.

Crowe, 57, conceded that the PLO lost credibility after it supported Saddam Hussein of Iraq in the Gulf war. "But we have to encourage moderation, and Mr. Safieh is a moderate," he said.

"I am for Israel and for Palestine because I believe Israel will only survive if Palestine is recognized," Crowe said.

A spokesman for the Council of Christians and Jews said he was not surprised that a PLO official would preach to the congregation because "Rev. Crowe has a well-known bias."

But Gordon Dulieu, press officer for the Diocese of Southwark, said: "The Rev. Crowe is not indulging in political tub-thumping but trying to find the best way toward exploring these difficult moral issues."

"The diocese visited the Holy Land last year and we do not take sides," he said.

**FATAL BROOKLYN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
SPARKS WIDESPREAD RACIAL VIOLENCE**
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen and Jackie Rothenberg

NEW YORK, Aug. 21 (JTA) -- Thousands of black-hatted, bearded men surrounded the black-draped coffin of 29-year-old Yankel Rosenbaum as it was carried down Crown Heights' main thoroughfare Wednesday in a mournful procession.

The coffin contained the remains of a young Lubavitcher Hasid stabbed to death Monday night during a black-Jewish melee that continued to boil in the racially mixed neighborhood Tuesday.

On Wednesday morning, the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council reported that, in addition to the murder of Rosenbaum, the previous night had seen 18 Hasidim injured, 50 Jewish-owned cars vandalized, a Lubavitch "Mitzvah tank" destroyed and 60 Jewish homes damaged.

Compounding the tragedy was the fact that the murdered Talmudic student, a native of Australia, was in no way involved in the incident that touched off rioting in a neighborhood that is no stranger to ethnic strife.

It began after a car driven by a Hasid, 22-year-old Yosef Lifsh, jumped a curb and pinned seven-year-old Gavin Cato to the wall of an apartment building at the corner of Utica Ave. and President St. at about 8:30 p.m. Monday.

Gavin was killed instantly. His 7-year-old cousin, Angela Cato, suffered a broken leg.

Lifsh's car had been part of a small motorcade escorting the Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, back to Crown Heights from a visit to his wife's grave at a Queens cemetery.

When Lifsh fell behind the rest of the motorcade, he ran a red light, hit another vehicle and lost control of his car, which swerved and jumped the curb.

An ambulance from Hatzoloh, an ambulance service sponsored by the Hasidic community, was the first to arrive at the accident scene. It was followed by a city ambulance.

'Take Your Guys And Leave'

Jewish residents said the Hatzoloh driver was told by the police to "take your guys and leave" -- referring to the three Hasidim involved in the accident -- while the city ambulance crew ministered to the children.

But the rumor quickly spread among blacks that the Jewish ambulance sped off with the Jews, leaving the injured black children unattended.

Angry shouts filled the air. Gangs of black youths began rampaging through the neighborhood.

Some three hours later, Rosenbaum's car was stopped at an intersection a few blocks from the scene of the accident, where he was assaulted by a gang of about 40 black youths.

At 11:35 p.m., Rosenbaum was stabbed once in the chest. He died a few hours later.

Representatives of Jewish organizations stressed that while both deaths both tragic, one was accidental and the other a deliberate murder.

"What did we do to the black community? Did we torch a black house? Did we mug a black couple?" asked Rabbi Shmuel Light, associate director of the Crown Heights JCC.

Light and Rabbi Shmuel Butman, another spokesman for the Hasidic community, recalled that when a black driver killed a Jewish child in an accident last year, the Jews did not riot or respond with violence and vandalism.

After Rosenbaum's funeral on Wednesday, knots of Lubavitchers angrily discussed the

rioting. They said that Lifsh had saved two black children from a fire last year, earning a commendation by the Fire Department.

"But the black community didn't give him a medal after that, and now that he accidentally killed someone, they want to arrest him," said Rabbi Shimon Hecht.

Rev. Al Sharpton and Alton Maddox, two radical black leaders who almost invariably show up at black-white confrontations, came to Crown Heights at about 6 p.m. Tuesday to lead a rally near the scene of Gavin Cato's death.

The rally quickly degenerated into rioting. The windows of nearby stores were smashed and some were looted. One of the hardest hit was the Korean-owned Sneaker King.

'Cops Were Pulling Out Their Guns'

Gangs of blacks roamed the streets of Crown Heights all Tuesday night, pounding on the doors of Jewish homes, hurling bottles and rocks at windows and at passing cars, and reportedly assaulting Hasidim they encountered.

Many Jewish families barricaded themselves in their homes, and many Jews, afraid to walk from their parked cars or subway exits to their homes, asked for escorts.

Some were assisted by the police; others by the Guardian Angels, a multi-racial group of young volunteers that offers subway riders and pedestrians protection in dangerous neighborhoods.

"Cars were smashed and firebombed. There was a lot of verbal abuse going back and forth from both sides. Cops were pulling out their guns and pointing them at people, telling them to leave" the area, said Sebastian Metz, who identified himself as the Guardian Angels' international coordinator.

Some of the blacks were from outside the area, he said. "They had a whole rap down to instigate things. They knew just what to say."

The violence raged from late in the afternoon into the early hours of Wednesday.

"It was like Kristallnacht," said Rabbi Hecht. "People were afraid for their lives."

On Wednesday, the site of Gavin Cato's death had become a shrine, with flowers, candles, the child's picture and a small blue teddy bear.

Above the photograph was a sign asking, "Where is the 'white' Jewish man who was taken away in the 'special' ambulance -- unhandcuffed and escorted by the New York Police Department's finest? While the Baby was lying dead under his car with his bicycle, and his cousin was pinned to the wall! At Eastern Parkway and Kingston -- Lubavitcher?"

'This Is Not Palestine'

A handwritten piece of cardboard next to the sign read: "We black and strong. This is not Palestine. We want Justice. No Justice, No Peace."

New York Mayor David Dinkins visited the neighborhood Monday night for several hours. But city officials did not attend Rosenbaum's funeral.

While black residents prepared for a second Sharpton-led rally Wednesday afternoon, Jews were preparing for a third night of violence.

Rabbi Jacob Goldstein, chairman of Community Board 9, said that "we told the cops either they take care of business or we will-- and they won't be happy if we will."

Saura Bermanson, a Lubavitch woman, said she would not repair the windows of her home smashed by stones Tuesday night because "tonight, there will be more."