

**75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR****FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 75****ANGOLA BECOMES LATEST NATION  
TO FORGE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL****By Larry Yudelson**

UNITED NATIONS, April 16 (JTA) -- The People's Republic of Angola has joined the growing list of countries to have full diplomatic ties with Israel.

The move was announced by the U.N. ambassadors of the two countries at a ceremony Thursday at the Angolan Mission to the United Nations.

The step was agreed upon in January, when Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy met in Lisbon with his Angolan counterpart, Pedro de Castro dos Santos Van-Dunem.

This brings to 18 the number of African countries with ties to Israel. Following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, all but four African countries broke their ties with Israel. Angola, however, did not become independent until 1975.

An exchange of ambassadors remains to be discussed between the two countries. Israel's foreign service, and Foreign Ministry budget, has been strained by the rapid burst of diplomatic ties since the end of the Cold War.

In recent months, Israel has established relations with China, India and several newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

And on Thursday, Israel recognized the independence of the Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

As for the strain on Israeli resources, "it's a problem we like facing," said one Israeli diplomat, adding that negotiations are under way to establish ties with other African countries.

**PALESTINIANS' MEETING WITH ARAFAT  
IRRELEVANT, STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS****By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) -- The United States and Israel are looking the other way at a meeting Palestinian leaders from the administered territories had this week with Yasir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman.

When asked about the meeting, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States had the same reaction as Israel.

She then quoted a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as saying the meeting was "irrelevant" to the 6-month-old Middle East peace process.

The Israelis, she said, "pointed out in their statement the importance of the peace process. We couldn't agree more."

Arafat was in Cairo recovering from an airplane crash in the Libyan desert last week.

Among the Palestinians who met with him Wednesday were Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, who are not part of the peace talks but who do meet regularly with Secretary of State James Baker.

The delegation apparently did not include any Palestinians who are part of the official delegation to the bilateral talks with Israel, which resume April 27 in Washington.

Tutwiler said the fact that Husseini and Ashrawi met with Arafat would not affect Baker's future dealings with them.

"The PLO, as you well know, is not part of

these negotiations, and it is not relevant to us who the Palestinians do or don't meet with," Tutwiler told reporters.

"And the PLO, furthermore, as you know, is not an intermediary. They don't have a role. We don't have a dialogue with them," she said.

Tutwiler recalled that six months ago in Madrid, when the Arab-Israeli peace talks began, there were hundreds of PLO members there who met with Palestinians attending the talks.

"That's not any different in this instance, in my mind, than what has been going on" this week in Cairo, Tutwiler added. "We do not control who people do or do not talk to."

**HIGHER THRESHOLD DOES NOT DETER  
SMALL PARTIES FROM ENTERING RACE****By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- A recent electoral reform law in Israel, which was supposed to make it more difficult for fringe parties to win seats in the Knesset, has not deterred many of them from trying.

So far, 50 slates of candidates have been registered to run in the June elections, only 10 of which represent existing political parties.

The 40 new lists include one headed by Samuel Flatto-Sharon, a fugitive from justice in France who served one Knesset term 10 years ago and was later charged with election fraud.

Other first-time entries include an environmentalist Green Party, a Blue Party supporting direct democracy, a Revolution Party advocating "a national redemption emergency regime" and two Arab Christian parties.

By May 19 each must present the election board with the signatures of at least 1,500 supporters to get on the ballot plus a 23,000 shekel check (about \$9,600), which is not refundable if the party fails to secure a single Knesset seat.

Under the new electoral reform law, parties must win 1.5 percent of the total vote in order to be guaranteed a Knesset seat. Previously the threshold was 1 percent of the vote.

**PESACH IS STILL HARD IN RUSSIA,  
BUT AT LEAST MATZAH IS AVAILABLE****By Sandy Wolofsky**

MOSCOW, April 16 (JTA) -- For years, Rosa Shulinova and her daughter, Faigie Aminova, celebrated Passover in secret.

They would go to the synagogue on Bolshoi Bronnaya in the center of Moscow, where Jews huddled clandestinely around a small oven to bake their own matzah.

Then Rosa and her daughter would hurry home to hold a traditional seder, in secret with curtains drawn.

Those were in the old days. Times have changed since the demise of the authoritarian state which frowned on all religions, but most of all, it seemed, on the Jewish faith.

Celebrating Passover in Moscow is still hard, but for different reasons.

Matzah is readily available, thanks to the generosity of donors in the United States, Canada, Israel, France and Switzerland.

But like everything else, it is in short

supply, and getting it to the consumer is a formidable task.

For the second year, the Lubavitch movement is operating a supply network that sends 60 tons of matzah from overseas to central points in 100 cities and towns all over the former Soviet Union, where it is distributed to people by armies of volunteers.

In Moscow, Rabbi Berel Lazar supervises 30 men and women who pick up the matzah at the airport, collect the 10-ruble fee (about 10 cents) and distribute 1 kilo per family.

#### **'Makes Me Want To Cry For Joy'**

As Rosa and her daughter waited patiently in line outside the Marina Roscha Synagogue for their 1 kilo, they may have recalled what life was like for Jews here not too long ago, or the stories told by their parents or grandparents about the early days of the Soviet regime.

After the Revolution, all but one synagogue in every major city was shut down. Those allowed to stay open -- showplaces of Soviet "tolerance" -- were actually run by the Cheka, the secret police that preceded the NKVD and the KGB.

This particular synagogue, opened in defiance of the laws, became a center of Jewish resistance and a target of the KGB. When a mikveh was opened, the KGB tore it down.

Everyone who attended services was reported to the authorities. Not a few who showed their faces in shul disappeared.

Stories abound of worshippers fleeing to the nearby cornfields, where they hid for days.

These days, life has changed.

The Lubavitchers now have a yeshiva, where about 50 students are enrolled, evenly divided between men and women.

They have a Jewish day school with an enrollment of 175 children who are taught Russian, Hebrew and Jewish traditions.

A few waiting in line complained the matzah cost 10 rubles now while last year it was free.

But most rejoiced at merely being able to obtain matzah openly. "Seeing so many Jews together in one place, socializing together, preparing for the holiday together just makes me want to cry for joy," said one.

#### **ON THE STREET AND IN THE 'SHUK,' ISRAELIS PREPARE FOR PASSOVER**

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- Carrying bags brimming with meat, produce and even cleaner, Jerusalemites were in the final throes of their Passover preparations Thursday.

The streets and stores were filled with shoppers in search of affordable tomatoes or a new pair of shoes for the kids.

While some people began Passover preparations right after Purim, most seemed to have waited until this week to begin house cleaning. Most clotheslines were full, and many windows were thrown wide open to give blankets and pillows an airing.

Young children, on vacation for two weeks, filled the parks and playgrounds, while their older siblings took advantage of the break to hike around the country. For some kids, it was not all fun and games, however: Several were spotted hosing down the family car or sweeping the stairs free of "chametz."

This week, scores of college and yeshiva students, also on holiday vacation, took to clean-

ing houses, sometimes for money, sometimes not. Hundreds of soldiers and youth group members volunteered to help elderly city residents with their Passover cleaning.

Shoppers jammed the stalls at Machaneh Yehuda, the city's open-air market, despite the less-than-favorable prices on some produce.

A combination of stormy winter weather and a bit of holiday price-gouging inflated the price of cucumbers, tomatoes, strawberries and cauliflower. Still, compared to the price of food at most neighborhood supermarkets, the "shuk" was a bargain-hunter's delight.

At a mini-supermarket in the German Colony neighborhood, Miri Mitchell was shopping for pita bread. "My family doesn't like matzah," she explained, "and since we're not religious, I'll put some in the freezer for the week." Municipal laws prohibit the sale of bread during Passover.

But Mitchell, like virtually all Israelis, will attend a seder. "To me, the Pesach story is important from a historical standpoint," she said. "It stresses freedom and our release from bondage. A seder is a part of Israeli life."

To assist new immigrants during their first Israeli seder, the Absorption Ministry distributed thousands of Haggadahs in Russian and Amharic.

Through newspaper ads, and with the help of the various immigrant advocacy organizations, the ministry also invited the newcomers to seders being held around the country. Ads in the Hebrew and English press also urged Israelis "to invite a new immigrant family home for seder."

Many veteran Israelis are taking up the challenge, while others are themselves thankful to be invited out for the event.

At Burger Ranch, a fast-food hamburger restaurant near the city center, Atara Grodzinski sat with her two children and contemplated the cleaning still ahead of her.

"I've cleaned out the 'chametz,' but I still have to change over the dishes," she said. "All I can say is, thank goodness I'm not making the seder this year."

#### **PILGRIMS FLOCK TO JERUSALEM FOR EASTER IN RECORD NUMBERS** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- Jerusalem is teeming with pilgrims and tourists this week as the traditions of the three faiths that consider it a holy city converge.

A record 40,000 will be attending some 180 ceremonies, services and masses of the various Christian denominations celebrating Easter. Tens of thousands of them are already jamming the narrow alleys of the Old City, adding to the burdens of Jerusalem police whose task is to ensure their safety.

Catholic Easter celebrations begin with a colorful Good Friday parade along Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross.

It will coincide with Moslem noon prayers on the Temple Mount, Friday being the Moslem Sabbath, and with last-minute preparations by Jews for the Passover seder Friday night.

The unusually large number of pilgrims this year is the result of a series of visits by the heads of various churches, a Religious Affairs Ministry official said.

They include the head of the Patriarchate of Moscow, the archbishop of Canterbury, the Episcopal bishop of Canada and five Roman Catholic cardinals expected within the next few days.

## JEWISH DELEGATION PRESSES CHINA ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) -- The People's Republic of China has joined other countries in calling for Israel's complete withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Beijing refuses to accept that in the rest of the world, China is also seen as an occupier because of its control of Tibet.

Alfred Moses, president of the American Jewish Committee, made this comparison to Chinese officials during a recent visit to the Communist country by an AJCommittee delegation.

"I compared Tibet to the West Bank, and they said you can't compare the two," Moses said during an interview in his Washington law office.

When the Chinese maintained that the people in Tibet enjoy greater human rights than they did under the Dalai Lama, Moses said he replied, "I've heard that before."

He explained to the Chinese that "the Israelis say there are more human rights and certainly far greater economic progress in the West Bank than there were under the Jordanians.

"Whatever the Israelis do in the West Bank, they are going to be criticized for it because they are seen as occupiers by the rest of the world, just as you are seen as an occupier in Tibet," Moses told the Chinese.

He said they replied that Tibet is historically part of China.

"Israel has historical claims to the West Bank that go back 3,000 years," Moses countered. "They are religious, they are historical and there's also security components."

He tried to explain to them that the "Arab claims to the territory have to be balanced against Israel's security interest."

But the Chinese refuse to accept this argument. Like much of the rest of the world, he said, "there is very little sympathy for Israel" in China.

The four-member AJCommittee delegation visited China less than three months after Beijing established diplomatic relations with Israel.

China did so because that was the "ticket" for participating in the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East, Moses said.

But the Jewish group told the Chinese that they had to broaden their relations with Israel to the full gamut of contacts.

Moses was accompanied to China by Mimi Alperin of New York, chairwoman of the group's national executive council; Neil Sandberg, director of its Pacific Rim Institute in Los Angeles; and Stephen Lesser of Los Angeles, a member of the institute's advisory board.

This was AJCommittee's first visit to China. The organization has visited Japan 10 times and South Korea four times.

AJCommittee was scheduled to visit China in 1989, but it canceled the visit because of the Chinese government's crackdown on young dissidents in Tiananmen Square.

"We pushed the human rights issue very hard" in all meetings with Chinese officials, Moses said.

The Chinese answer was that they could not let their country of 1.1 billion people disintegrate as has the Soviet Union. They stressed that their main concern is first stability and then economic development.

But unlike the Japanese and Koreans, whose

view on the Middle East is basically economic because of their need for oil and markets, the Chinese do not need Middle East oil, Moses said.

Instead, the Chinese have taken basically a view of support for the Third World, which has also meant support for the Arabs. This may be changing now since the Chinese now realize their interests may differ from other Third World countries.

The Chinese officials said they have signed on to the Western view of not providing missiles and nuclear technology to the Middle East. They denied having shipped M-9 or M-11 missiles to Syria, although "it's not so clear" about Iran, Moses said.

While the government officials in Beijing knew little about Jews, this was not true of the Chinese they met in Shanghai, where the Jewish ghetto that had served as a haven for many Jews during World War II is being preserved, Moses said.

He said there is a good deal of interest in Jewish history by Chinese intellectuals. "They tend to be admiring of Jews and identify with Jews as people who suffered in World War II as they did," he explained.

They also point out that the Chinese and Jews are both known for their "business acumen," which is why the Chinese have frequently been called "the Jews of the Orient."

There is also a Sino-Judaic Institute in Shanghai, which AJCommittee plans to work with and support.

For AJCommittee, the trips to Asian countries are a chance to explain to people who know little about Jews what the American Jewish community is all about, Moses said.

"We brought a presence to China," he explained. "It is very important to bring to the Chinese physical evidence of American Jewry."

Moses said the Chinese were given "some sense of who we are and what we are about." This includes the significance of the American Jewish community in the United States and its effectiveness in bringing about changes on issues of concern to world Jewry, whether it be the emigration of Soviet Jewry, helping to put an end to the Arab boycott or support for Israel.

AJCommittee wants the Chinese to learn that American Jews are an influential group and a factor in world politics and to reinforce that notion incrementally, Moses said.

"This was not our last trip to China," he said. "We expect to have an ongoing relationship."

## ROMANIAN JEWS WIN HOLIDAY EXEMPTION

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Jewish students in Romania will be exempt from attending school on Jewish holidays, the World Jewish Congress has announced.

Education Minister Mihail Golu agreed to the request made by Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen at a recent meeting. Rosen heads the Federation of Jewish Communities, the WJC's affiliate in the country.

The exemption would apply to Jewish students in all schools through the university level.

Golu also promised to develop educational material that would, for the first time, introduce the teaching of the Holocaust in Romanian schools.

The subject of the Holocaust was forbidden for 50 years by the fascist and Communist regimes.

## ISRAELI COPS LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM GROUP OF NEW JERSEY'S FINEST

By Michele Chabin

KIRYAT ATA, Israel (JTA) -- Although dressed in casual clothes and sporting a tan, the 10 Americans who visited Israel's National Police Academy on Sunday were definitely not on vacation.

The men, all experts in law enforcement from the state of New Jersey, went to work just minutes after arriving. One by one, they stood before 50 Israeli police cadets seated in the classroom and described police techniques and procedures, American style.

But while New Jersey's finest, here on a 10-day exchange program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, came to teach Israel's police force about drug interdiction, handling people with AIDS, community policing and administrative techniques, they also came to learn.

The program, which is the brainchild of ADL and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, is "a way for the police to exchange information and training on a variety of topics," said ADL staffer Laura Kamm.

"New Jersey's experience with drug abuse and AIDS will be helpful to Israel, while the New Jersey police are eager to learn how Israel fights terrorism and civil unrest."

On a tour of the academy following the lectures, Sgt. Steven Rogers, a community relations officer from Nutley, N.J., observed that "Israel's police force is very professional. In many ways, it's superior to ours. For one thing, Israelis are better at training their command personnel."

At the academy's computer center, where programmer Koby Rosenberg demonstrated his easy-to-use instructional programs for veteran officers, the visitors shook their heads in admiration.

"This is amazing," said New Providence Police Chief James Venezia as he watched a computerized policeman try -- without much success -- to direct traffic. "How soon can we get this in English? My entire traffic force would benefit from this."

### Training Here Seen As Model

Sgt. Rogers of Nutley concurred. "In the U.S., a cop could conceivably spend his entire career without re-entering a classroom. We need more in-service training after the cop has been on the job awhile, and we intend to use the training here as a model."

All members of the contingent said they had spent time with their Israeli counterparts. For example, the three state troopers, Sgts. William Malast, Joseph Cannatella and James Kanz, received extensive training in terrorism and counterterrorism tactics.

"This kind of training is important," asserted Assistant Attorney General James Mulvihill, "because New Jersey will be a venue for national and international events in the near future, including World Cup Soccer. National and international events are sometimes the targets of terrorist acts."

On the other hand, Israel's police force has relatively little experience dealing with people known to be infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, said Yair Tsiptori, a cadet in the academy's officer training course with eight years of police experience.

"The Americans have a protocol on how to deal with the AIDS problem, and we need to develop one here as well. The problem will only get worse," he said.

One area in which Israel does have a great deal of experience is multicultural relations. While complimenting the local police on their outreach work, especially with elders of various ethnic communities, Paul Goldenberg, head of New Jersey's Office of Bias Crimes and Community Relations, said New Jersey had many hard-won lessons to offer as well.

### No Missile Attacks In Jersey

Goldenberg, who is Jewish, pointed out that there were nearly 900 hate crimes and bias cases in New Jersey last year, including 102 acts of anti-Semitism.

"I came here to share with Israelis my experience with raising cultural awareness and improving relations between the police and the community," he said.

"Israel has had to absorb 400,000 immigrants in the past few years, and that has created some tensions."

At the end of their visit to the academy, the Americans watched a videotape of police rescue operations following last year's Scud missiles attacks on Israel.

When the film ended, they again shook their heads. Peering back at the screen, John Conklin, an investigator in the Division of Criminal Justice, asked an Israeli officer, "How can your guys walk a beat with this hanging over your heads? New Jersey can be difficult, but at least we don't have to deal with missile attacks."

### ARGENTINE JUDGE BLAMES PRO-NAZIS FOR SHOOTING AT JEWISH CEMETERY

By Victoria Verlichak

BUENOS AIRES, April 16 (JTA) -- The Argentine judge investigating the shooting outside a suburban Jewish cemetery here last week says "Nazi sympathizer groups" were responsible.

But Judge Orfeo Maggio did not identify the groups, nor has any claimed credit for the attack. No arrests have been made.

The main entrance of the cemetery in Berazategui, south of Buenos Aires, was fired on during the evening of April 9. Two spent 9-mm bullets and shell casings were found at the cemetery gate. No one was hurt.

Maggio, who said the perpetrators acted with "seeming confidence," noted that the attack was carried out on the 50th anniversary of the first deportation of Jews to the Auschwitz death camp.

The Berazategui cemetery was vandalized last year on the 101st anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. The assailants desecrated 112 tombstones.

Judge Maggio, who was in charge of that investigation as well, said he is studying the relationship between the two incidents. He has received several death threats.

But the DAIA, the representative body of the Argentine Jewish community, called the episode "minor." It said the shooting was in a class with the bomb scares and telephone threats that began after a car bomb nearly demolished the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires on March 17, killing some 30 people and injuring hundreds.

**REMINDER:** The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Monday, April 20.