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**DEMJANJUK'S RETURN TO THE U.S.  
DELAYED AGAIN BY ISRAELI COURT**

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- Suspected Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk may have won the latest round in the American court system, but he still has more legal hurdles to clear in Israel.

On Thursday, Israeli Supreme Court Justice Theodore Orr ordered a further delay in Demjanjuk's deportation until the court could hear additional petitions calling for his trial here on new war crimes charges.

This latest development in the Demjanjuk legal saga follows an Aug. 20 ruling in which the high court gave petitioners 15 days to prepare arguments for a hearing before an expanded judicial bench.

The expanded panel would determine whether the retired Cleveland autoworker should be tried for crimes at several concentration camps.

On July 29, the Israeli Supreme Court acquitted Demjanjuk of being the so-called "Ivan the Terrible," the bestial gas chamber operator at the Treblinka death camp.

But at the same time, the court found there was compelling evidence that Demjanjuk had served as an SS guard at the Sobibor death camp and the Flossenburg and Regensburg concentration camps.

It was on these grounds that the petitioners, including Holocaust survivors and the World Jewish Congress, called for a new trial. They argued that Israel has an obligation to see the case through to completion.

**No Date Set For Hearing**

Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar assigned the petitions for a new trial to Orr, one of the few justices who has not yet been involved in the Demjanjuk case.

Orr did not set a date for a hearing on the petitions.

In the interim, Demjanjuk was to remain in Ayalon Prison near Tel Aviv, where he has been held since he was extradited to Israel in 1986.

Edward Nishnic, Demjanjuk's son-in-law, was quoted as saying that the high court instructed Demjanjuk's lawyer he had until Sunday to respond to the petitions calling for a retrial.

On Wednesday, a day before Justice Orr postponed Demjanjuk's deportation, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced in Washington that the Justice Department would not seek a Supreme Court ruling barring Demjanjuk's return to the United States.

The move marked a reversal of weeks of Justice Department bids to convince the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to reverse an Aug. 3 ruling ordering the government to allow Demjanjuk to re-enter the country.

Reno's decision paves the way for at least a temporary return by Demjanjuk to the United States, where he could face deportation proceedings once again.

But Holocaust survivors and their supporters here are hoping that Israel's Supreme Court will decide to keep him here so that he can be further prosecuted.

**ISRAELI CABINET TO DELIBERATE  
OVER PLO RECOGNITION AGREEMENT**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet is expected to meet within the next few days to consider the draft of a mutual recognition pact with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to reports here, the Cabinet could approve the draft at its regular session Sunday or perhaps even at a special meeting Friday.

Uri Savir, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, has been meeting with PLO officials in Brussels to work out the final language of a pact.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in Brussels on Thursday after a short stopover in Athens. Israel TV reported that Peres would join the secret talks there.

Both Peres and Savir were expected to return to Israel on Thursday night.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has meanwhile been touring the country to drum up support for both the recognition pact with the PLO and the agreement to initiate Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

Rabin's task was not made any easier by PLO leader Yasir Arafat, who was quoted in Morocco on Thursday as saying that the Palestinian flag will soon be flying over Jerusalem.

"The Palestinian state is within our grasp," the PLO chairman was quoted as saying at the Casablanca airport. "Soon the Palestinian flag will fly on the walls, the minarets and the cathedrals of Jerusalem."

Arafat no doubt employs such comments to win the backing of dissidents within the PLO and in the Arab world at large. But so far, his comments have not disrupted the optimistic appraisals voiced here about the proposed Israeli-PLO pact.

**Rabin-Arafat Summit In Egypt?**

Meanwhile, the semi-official Egyptian paper Al-Ahram reported Thursday that preparations were being made in Egypt for a summit between Rabin and Arafat.

According to the paper, the two would meet this month -- before the agreement on Palestinian self-rule is signed in Washington.

There was no immediate Israeli reaction to the Egyptian report.

The Knesset is scheduled to convene next week in a special session to vote on the declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule.

As the Knesset vote draws closer, questions have been raised regarding the impact the proposed agreement with the Palestinians will have on Israel's security.

Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday, Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, the Israel Defense Force deputy chief of staff, said that the withdrawal of Israeli forces called for under the agreement would severely hamper Israel's counterterrorist program.

He said the army had not been consulted during the secret negotiations on the agreement between Foreign Minister Peres and PLO officials.

Shahak said that even the IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, had not seen the draft agreement until Monday.

Shahak said that it was not yet known to

what extent the IDF would be able to carry out "hot pursuits" after suspected terrorists into areas covered by the self-rule agreement.

Also appearing before the committee was reserve Maj. Gen. Shlomo Gazit, a former chief of intelligence. He questioned the wisdom of a military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho within four months after the accord is signed.

Gazit said the PLO would need a far longer period in which to establish control in Gaza.

The Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported Thursday that the Shin Bet domestic security service and the PLO, one-time enemies, are planning to organize a joint committee to study ways of dealing with militants in Gaza after an Israeli army withdrawal from the region.

#### **PROGRESS WITH SYRIA AND JORDAN LIKELY IN WAKE OF BREAKTHROUGH** By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- The momentous breakthrough in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks is accelerating progress on the other negotiating tracks, with both Syria and Jordan predicting tentative agreements with Israel in the near future.

Syrian chief negotiator Mowaffak al-Allaf told reporters Thursday that he hoped a draft declaration in the long-deadlocked talks between Syria and Israel could be worked out by the end of next week.

His Israeli counterpart, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, voiced similar hopes earlier this week.

Progress is also expected in the Israeli-Jordanian talks, but officials from both countries called premature a New York Times report saying that Jordan and Israel were about to sign a declaration of principles.

The two sides have been close to an agreement for months, however, and it seemed likely that once the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel formalized their agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, progress with Jordan would not be far behind.

The Israeli officials indicated that overall, the talks were treading water this week, as negotiators waited for news about whether Israel and the PLO had agreed to recognize one another.

Both Syria and Jordan were reportedly concerned about an agreement being reached between Israel and the PLO without their knowledge and participation.

Israeli and American officials have been among those attempting to reassure Syria and Jordan that progress between the Israelis and Palestinians should be viewed not as a threat but as a useful catalyst for quick movement on the other negotiating tracks.

#### **Syria Expanding Definition Of Peace**

In recent months, any progress in the Israeli-Syrian talks has been stalled by definitions of terms.

The Israelis have been waiting for the Syrians to define what type of peace they are prepared to offer, while the Syrians have been waiting for Israel to say how far it is willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

But, in a positive indication for further progress, Rabinovich said earlier this week that Israel now believed Syria had expanded its definition of peace beyond just security arrangements.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, appearing Thursday on National Public Radio's

"Morning Edition" news program, said he did not think it likely that Syria would play a negative role in the peace process.

When asked whether he thought Syria would attempt to unravel the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Christopher said, "I don't expect that to happen, frankly."

And the Lebanese were expected to follow the lead of the Syrians.

Meanwhile, the Americans, who have been somewhat out of the peace process picture this week as much of the action shifted to Europe, were making plans to encourage international financial contributions to help the Palestinians.

Christopher said in his radio interview that most of the funds to assist the Palestinians in setting up basic services in the Gaza Strip and Jericho would come from sources outside the United States, however.

"The United States, I think, will participate in the matter, but the funds, I think, will primarily come from others," the secretary said, citing the Persian Gulf states and Japan.

#### **JUDGE SAYS SHAS OFFICIAL UNFIT FOR OFFICE, BUT RULING POSTPONED** By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- In a case that has implications for the stability of the Labor government, Israel's chief justice said this week that he does not believe Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Raphael Pinhasi is fit to remain in office.

But the High Court of Justice, which heard petitions Thursday calling for Pinhasi's ouster, postponed its final ruling in the matter until a later date.

Pinhasi, a member of the fervently Orthodox Shas party, is accused of alleged financial misconduct in his capacity as party treasurer. But charges against him cannot be presented in court until the Knesset lifts his parliamentary immunity, a move it so far has refused to do.

In stating his belief that Pinhasi should step down from office now, Chief Justice Meir Shamgar said, "We wish to live in a society with values we can accept."

"In the case of Deputy Minister Pinhasi, we are in a trap," Shamgar told Israel Radio, referring to the Knesset's refusal to lift his parliamentary immunity.

"If the situation continues, the public will draw the conclusion that this is an acceptable norm. It is not," Shamgar said.

If the court orders Pinhasi to step down, the government fears Shas will leave the governing coalition. That would weaken the government considerably and could, in turn, affect the course of the peace process.

The coalition's stability has also been threatened by the possible resignation of another Shas official, Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, who likewise faces charges of financial misconduct.

At least three of the court's five justices have made clear they think Pinhasi should resign.

Even though the law does not require it, they said they believe public morality demands it.

Attorney General Yosef Harish has argued that the gravity of the charges against Pinhasi make his removal imperative.

Pinhasi's attorney has argued that a court order for his client's removal from office would violate the will of the Knesset and undermine its immunity provisions.

## IMMIGRATION SURGES IN AUGUST AS CABINET APPROVES '94 BUDGET

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- August was a banner month for immigration to Israel, after a less-than-impressive July.

In all, 8,047 people made aliyah, including 6,113 from the republics that formerly constituted the Soviet Union. By contrast, only 3,939 immigrants arrived from the ex-Soviet republics in July.

Immigration from the republics to the United States was also up in August, with 3,364 newcomers arriving under the U.S. government's refugee program, according to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in New York.

A total of 40,994 Jews from the former Soviet Union have arrived in Israel so far this calendar year, and another 23,616 have arrived in the United States, according to the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The Israeli numbers are ahead of where they were at this time last year, but still disappointing compared to the huge influx of immigrants who arrived here in 1990 and 1991.

Some have charged that more immigrants would come if the government spent more money on job creation and immigrant absorption.

The issue came up during recent deliberations over the 115 billion shekel (\$40 billion) state budget for 1994, which was approved by the Cabinet last Sunday.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban, who was one of four Cabinet ministers to vote against the budget, said it would not adequately address the needs of new immigrants.

### Budget Said To Neglect Poor, Old And Jobless

Several other ministers bitterly argued that the budget failed to reflect the heightened priority assigned to immigration by the Labor government when it was elected last year.

They also claimed it fell far short of addressing the needs of the poor, the elderly and the unemployed.

But Finance Minister Avraham Shohat defended the budget plan. He said it increased social spending by 27 percent over such spending in 1993.

Shohat projects the budget will create 75,000 new jobs, that unemployment will fall to 9.6 percent and inflation will drop to 8 percent, conditions ripe for the successful absorption of immigrants.

Treasury officials also point to a 1.25 billion shekel (\$450 million) increase in funds allocated to the various ministries dealing with absorption matters, such as housing, education and employment.

Tsaban's ministry itself saw its budget increase by 11 percent or 124 million shekels (\$45 million).

He had sought a 154 million shekel (\$55 million) increase and vowed to continue to fight for it as the budget makes its way to the Knesset.

The Cabinet's budget plan also calls for a cut of 400 million shekels (\$145 million) in individual income taxes, and the elimination of the 5 percent income tax for absorption by the end of the year.

The plan sets the deficit at 3 percent of the gross domestic product.

## NEW ISRAELI ENVOY TO UKRAINE MEETS WITH PRESIDENT KRAVCHUK

By Jed Sunden

KIEV, Ukraine, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- For the first time since Ukraine declared itself an independent state, an Israeli ambassador has formally presented his credentials here.

In a reception ceremony Tuesday at Marinsky Palace, Zvi Magen formally met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Although an Israeli Embassy has been open here in the Ukrainian capital since last year, no Israeli ambassador had been appointed until now.

Magen, 48, is a native Russian who immigrated to Israel in 1957 during the "thaw" following the death of Josef Stalin. Magen served in the Israeli Army for 17 years and has worked in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office since 1987.

In the two years following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Israel and Ukraine have developed cordial relations, warming ties between two peoples that at best had been weak.

Earlier this year, Kravchuk made an official state visit to Israel and officially opened his country's embassy in Tel Aviv.

In June, Shevah Weiss, the speaker of the Israeli Knesset, made an official visit to Ukraine following an invitation by Prime Minister Ivan Plushch.

Weiss found himself in hot water after making a speech in which he made reference to old wounds between the two peoples, particularly those incurred by Ukrainian Nazi collaborators during World War II.

The Israelis blamed an interpreter's gaffe in translating the speech for creating an uproar in which 18 members of the Ukrainian Parliament stormed out of the hall.

Despite an attempt by the Israeli government to assuage hurt feelings among Ukrainians, a residue of mistrust lingers.

### Over 500,000 Ukrainians In Israel

Interestingly, relations between the two countries have not been affected by the case of John Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian native suspected of war crimes.

The Ukrainian government has taken no action in favor of Demjanjuk, who in July was acquitted in Israel of being the brutal Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

Nevertheless, a Ukrainian lay church leader said Israel's continuous holding of Demjanjuk could result in some actions by "certain elements" in Ukraine against Jews.

Referring to the Ukrainian government's hands-off policy toward the case, Ehud Eitan, charge d'affairs of the Israeli Embassy here, said, "Some people see Demjanjuk as representing the Ukrainian people, but neither government saw it that way."

Thousands of Jews from Ukraine have arrived in Israel since the latest wave of immigration from the former Soviet Union began in the late 1980s.

It is estimated that more than 500,000 former Ukrainian citizens have become Israelis.

Though the rate of emigration has dramatically dropped since its high point two years ago, the Jewish Agency and other Israeli organizations involved with facilitating aliyah still maintain offices in several Ukrainian cities.

Trade relations between the two countries have grown considerably in the past few years.

## JEWS JOIN PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS TO 'RUB ELBOWS' AND FORM COALITIONS

By Elizabeth Bernstein  
JUF News

CHICAGO, Sept. 2 (JTA) -- Jewish religious leaders were among the 125 groups who turned out for the historic eight-day Parliament of the World's Religions that began here last weekend.

Hailed as the greatest gathering of religious and spiritual leaders in history by its organizers, the parliament -- the first of its kind since 1893 -- was meant to be a celebration of respect for religious differences and a hopeful step toward understanding and cooperation.

According to Rabbi A. James Rudin, a participant, the parliament was "significant for Jews because Judaism is one of the world's great religions, and it is not just Christian-Jewish relations we've got to be concerned about."

The Jewish presence here "is confirmation that we are a world religion and had best begin to think in those terms," said Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

"The Jewish community helps itself by participating because permanent coalitions are being formed. These are alliances that Jews have to part of," he added.

"We are now rubbing elbows with people whom we have never before been in the same room with, much less spoken with," said Rabbi Herman Schaalman, a Chicago rabbi and one of 24 international presidents of the parliament.

"As we meet these people, we have certain things that we hope to accomplish," he said.

"Basically, we are trying to see how religious leaders and religious systems can address the critical issues of our day, such as violence, poverty, homelessness, etc. We hope to become friendly and talk with one another, and that in doing so we might be able to alleviate some of the conflict in the world," Schaalman said.

With this goal in mind, the religious leaders have come to Chicago from places such as Sri Lanka and Cambodia, India and Africa, the South Side of Chicago and America's Southwest.

The Palmer House Hilton, where the event took place, was packed with a colorful assortment of robes, turbans, yarmulkas, scarves, beards, shaved heads and saffron robes.

### Only Troubling Issue Was Farrakhan

"If you ever really wanted to see religious pluralism in the flesh, this is the place," said Rudin of AJCommittee.

According to Gene Anderson, director of the hotel's food and beverage operation, "the biggest challenge is to meet the dietary concerns of all these different religions simultaneously."

In total, approximately 6,000 people registered for the event, almost twice those expected.

There was no figure available for the number of Jews at the conference, but there were about 25 Jewish panelists and speakers.

These included Emil Fackenheim, a leading Israeli theologian; Rabbi Irving Greenberg, president of CLAL -- the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership; Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress; and Susannah Heschel, professor of Jewish studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

The only objectionable issue faced by the Jewish contingent was the scheduled appearance of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. He was

expected to give a major presentation titled "Faith: The African American Family," on Thursday evening. Speakers at such sessions are selected by the various host committees, and organizers of the parliament said that Farrakhan was invited to speak by the African American committee.

Local Jewish organizations, many of which co-sponsored the parliament, intended to convey their dismay over the inappropriate inclusion of Farrakhan to parliament officials.

According to Sir Sigmund Sternberg, chairman of the executive committee of the International Council of Christians and Jews and the only Jewish participant from Europe, "seeing Arabs, Indians, Christians and Jews sitting and talking to one another is very good news.

"For instance, at the parliament I have already had the opportunity to meet with Francesco Gioia, the archbishop of pontifical consul for interreligious dialogue and the Vatican's official representative to the 1993 parliament.

"We had a useful discussion on Jewish-Catholic relations. This conference gives us the opportunity to meet and talk with one another. Where else but in such a setting would this be possible?" Sternberg said.

### Officials Planned Paper On Ethics

The parliament, which has been in the works for five years, comes a century after, and was inspired by, a similar meeting that was held here as part of the Columbian Exposition of 1893. At that time, evolution was the thorniest issue on the agenda.

Topics of the hundreds of seminars and lectures at this year's parliament included the international refugee problem, the population explosion, religion and politics, homosexuality, nature, science, human rights, violence, business and UFOs.

In addition, officials planned to meet in private to draft a document on global ethics. The parliament was scheduled to close Saturday with a public ceremony in Grant Park that was to include a concert featuring folk-rock musicians Kenny Loggins and Arlo Guthrie and a speech by the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists.

Several Jewish organizations co-sponsored the parliament, including the local offices of the AJCongress, AJCommittee, the Anti-Defamation League and the local Jewish Community Relations Council.

According to Michael Kotzin, director of the JCRC, "When we agreed to become a co-sponsor, it was not without trepidation that interests of the Jewish community might be jeopardized through such an event.

"While most of our fears seem unfounded thus far, the recently announced inclusion of Minister Louis Farrakhan on the program is troubling," he said.

In spite of Farrakhan's scheduled address, Jewish leaders said that they have high hopes for the 1993 parliament.

"There will be structures developed locally, nationally and internationally to carry forward what was begun here," Schaalman said.

(Contributing to this report was JTA staff writer Debra Nussbaum Cohen in New York).

**REMINDER:** The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published Monday, Sept. 6.