

**DEMJANJUK ARRIVES IN AMERICA,
BUT GOES IMMEDIATELY INTO HIDING**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk stepped foot on American soil early Wednesday morning for the first time in more than seven years, but he managed to avoid the protesters, placards and larger-than-life effigy of himself that awaited his arrival at Kennedy International Airport here.

The man acquitted of being the notorious Treblinka guard "Ivan the Terrible," who had spent the interim years in an Israeli prison cell, was quickly escorted off the El Al jet that carried him from Israel and was whisked onto an awaiting private plane.

The former Cleveland autoworker then flew to Medina Municipal Airport, about 40 miles south of his home in suburban Cleveland. By landing there, he avoided the crowd of reporters and possible demonstrators waiting to see if he would land at the main Cleveland airport.

His destination after the Ohio airport was kept secret. He did not return home, where 18 Jewish demonstrators, led by New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, awaited him.

Dressed in gray and white replicas of death camp uniforms, the demonstrators promised to return whenever Demjanjuk comes home.

Demjanjuk was accompanied from Israel by his son and son-in-law, longtime supporter Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio) and two bodyguards. Trafficant reportedly chartered the plane that took Demjanjuk from New York to Ohio.

The accused Nazi war criminal reportedly flew Israel's national airline because he needed a direct flight to the United States. France, which is a common stopover point for flights from Israel, had announced that it would not allow Demjanjuk to land on its soil.

Before takeoff in Israel, Kochava Eden, whose family perished in the Holocaust, walked off the plane when she discovered that she would be seated directly behind Demjanjuk.

One Final Appeal

The flight brought to an end the Israeli chapter of Demjanjuk's long legal battle. The Israeli Supreme Court on July 29 had overturned Demjanjuk's 1988 conviction and death sentence for war crimes committed at Treblinka. But until Sunday, it had barred him from leaving the country, while it considered legal appeals.

The court finally rejected the petitioners' arguments that he should be tried for war crimes allegedly committed at other concentration camps, including the Sobibor death complex in Poland.

In fact, Demjanjuk's flight took off minutes before yet another Supreme Court injunction could be delivered to his prison cell, ordering his continued imprisonment. A Holocaust survivor had made one final appeal to the court -- to no avail.

The way was cleared for Demjanjuk's return to the United States on Aug. 3, when the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ordered the Justice Department to allow his return while the court reconsiders the legality of his 1986 extradition to Israel.

The Justice Department is allowing Demjan-

juk into the country on a temporary basis under the attorney general's parole authority. But it has made clear that it will seek to have him deported again for lying about his wartime activities during his original attempt to enter the United States.

Jewish groups have vowed to keep up the pressure to have the native Ukrainian deported.

Because Demjanjuk did not enter the airport terminal at Kennedy, he could not see the few dozen protesters from the Anti-Defamation League and the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors who were assembled there.

Nor did he see the flames from the newspaper-stuffed effigy created by members of the militant Kahane Chai group, as they set it on fire inside the arrivals terminal.

Police, some holding rifles, quickly pulled the Kahane Chai members and the burning effigy outside the terminal door. Two arrests were made.

As Demjanjuk's dummy-body was consumed by orange flames on the sidewalk outside, blackened pieces of the effigy remained smoldering on the airport floor.

'Shouldn't Have Riots About It'

The small group of Kahane Chai members, some dressed in fatigues and combat boots, were the loudest protesters at the early-morning demonstration, chanting "Death to Demjanjuk," and "Rabin is a traitor, frees a Nazi Jew-hater."

Other demonstrators quietly held signs reading "No war criminals in U.S.," "Remember Sobibor" and "We seek justice for the 6 million -- keep Demjanjuk out!"

Sue Schulman, a New Yorker waiting at the arrivals gate for her son, who was on the same El Al flight as Demjanjuk, tried "shushing" the chanting Kahane Chai demonstrators.

"I don't like that they stir things up so much. None of us forget (the Holocaust), but we shouldn't have riots about it," she said.

"And the Israelis should have sent Demjanjuk back to the Ukraine. Let them take care of him."

Once he arrived, her son, Marc Schulman, said that the other passengers were "mostly annoyed" by Demjanjuk's presence. "It felt like the plane was 'tameh,'" he said, using the Hebrew term for unclean.

Members of Kahane Chai vowed not to let Demjanjuk alone anywhere he goes.

"We will not be silent until justice is served and he gets what he deserves," said Mike Guzofsky, associate director of the group. "This is just the beginning of the effort."

Other demonstrators, including New York activist Rabbi Avi Weiss, have said they will picket Demjanjuk's Cleveland-area home.

But Demjanjuk's hometown of Seven Hills last week hastily passed an ordinance prohibiting "unlawful picketing," to deal with anti-Demjanjuk protests.

The Cleveland chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union as well as Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz have promised to challenge the rule if any arrests are made.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv, and Marcy Oster and Vivian Witt of the Cleveland Jewish News.)

NEWS ANALYSIS:
U.S. COAXING SYRIA TO STAY INVOLVED AS ISRAEL PONDERES HOW FAST TO MOVE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- President Clinton reportedly has been on the phone a lot lately with Hafez Assad, using his vaunted abilities as a pitchman to get the Syrian president not only to recognize the new order shaping up in the Middle East but to help bring it about.

Clinton's persuasive efforts were directed at coaxing and cajoling the longtime Syrian leader to support -- or at least not oppose -- the momentous agreement signed in Washington between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The American president's main argument, according to reports of these conversations, was that Syria's turn would come -- and soon.

The Syrian track of the Middle East peace process, Clinton sought to assure his interlocutor, has not been relegated to the "back burner" as a result of the dramatic breakthrough between Israel and the Palestinians.

On the contrary, the United States has continued to believe in the necessity of a comprehensive approach to regional peacemaking, and is devoting its own energies toward ensuring that Damascus and Jerusalem move ahead as well.

As a tangible demonstration of the seriousness of Washington's commitment, Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher have launched into a vigorous orchestration of international economic support for the proposed Palestinian autonomous region.

The intensity of this American commitment has certainly not been lost on Assad.

Indeed, his initial reservations about the Israeli-PLO agreement appear to have been toned down, if not muted, in the wake of the determined American diplomacy.

True to his old form this week, Assad termed the Israeli-PLO accord "a painful surprise" and asserted, in an interview with the Cairo daily Al Akhbar, that Israel was the real winner in the deal.

But he also conceded that the prospects for comprehensive peace had improved as a result of the agreement.

Christopher Planning New Trip

Assad was reported to be planning a rare visit to Cairo at the end of the week for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak -- himself a strong supporter of the Israel-PLO accord, which he helped nourish in secret meetings with the parties and which he hopes to repeat on the Israeli-Syrian track.

Diplomatic sources say Secretary of State Christopher is planning to embark on a new round of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus after the Jewish holidays.

These sources say the secretary has urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to cooperate with the United States in assiduously avoiding any impression that Damascus is being "left out in the cold."

Cynics said the underlying U.S. concern was that Washington itself not be left out of the peacemaking loop, and that the Israeli-PLO accord had been as painful a surprise to the Clinton administration as to the Damascus regime.

A more charitable understanding of U.S. efforts suggests that American policy-makers genuinely fear for the fragility of the Israeli-PLO

agreement unless it is quickly shored up by progress on other tracks of the peace process.

The case of Jordan could be cited to illustrate that reasoning: Amman signed its own peace agenda with Israel the day after the historic White House signing ceremony between Israel and the PLO. But Jordanian officials immediately made it clear that a full peace treaty -- which is within the two sides' easy reach -- would have to await further progress on other fronts.

Everyone wants to see what happens with the Israeli-PLO accord, but the Arab parties seem unwilling to take steps of their own that might in turn help the accord be realized effectively.

In any event, what seems clear is that Washington is anxious to prod Israel and Syria toward significant and swift progress.

The United States accepts, in effect, Israel's basic demand that Syria provide a detailed and precise exposition of "the nature of peace" as seen from Damascus.

Washington wants to see all the same ingredients in that explanation as Israel does -- "a full peace" with an exchange of ambassadors, open borders and free trade.

Time For Dramatic Move On Golan?

But by the same token, the United States wants a far-reaching move by Israel on the territorial side of the equation. Here Damascus is demanding a clear-cut undertaking by Israel to provide a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

And here, of course, is the political rub.

For Rabin and his government, buffeted by fierce controversy at home over the deal with the PLO, a domestic storm centering on the Golan could be more than it can weather.

To a certain degree, indeed, the PLO accord took the right wing in Israel off guard: The fight they had been preparing for was over the Golan.

Throughout the country, posters and placards challenged Rabin's right to cede the strategic Heights -- when suddenly it turned out that the enormous concessions he was contemplating were in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Rabin himself indicated this week that he would prefer to consolidate the PLO agreement before turning to the Syrian front. In his talks with President Mubarak earlier this week, and later at a joint news conference with the Egyptian leader, Rabin stressed the need to test the agreement with the Palestinians through its implementation on the ground during the coming three to four months.

It seemed clear from his remarks that he would prefer to concentrate all of his attention on this fateful process rather than embark now on a second experiment with the Syrians, before he is confident that the gamble with PLO leader Yasser Arafat has paid off.

Some observers who claim to know the prime minister's thinking say the basic problem is that Rabin has not yet formulated his own "bottom line" on the Golan land-for-peace equation.

According to these pundits, Foreign Minister Peres, architect of the agreement with the PLO, is trying to convince Rabin that the best option, both domestically and diplomatically, would be to go for a deal with Assad now, too.

It is Rabin who, in the weeks ahead, will have to decide whether to encourage a vigorous American diplomatic effort on the Israeli-Syrian track, or whether to try to cool Washington's ardor until the Israeli agreement with the PLO has firmly taken root.

NOMINEE TO HEAD JOINT CHIEFS DENIES KNOWING OF FATHER'S PAST

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- President Clinton's nominee to head the Joint Chiefs of Staff told members of Congress this week that he "never had the slightest hint" that his father served in a Nazi-commanded unit during World War II.

Gen. John Shalikashvili said at his confirmation hearings Wednesday that he was "deeply saddened that my father had this tragic association."

After Clinton nominated the European-born career military man last month to the high-ranking Pentagon post, reports surfaced that Shalikashvili's father, a native of European Georgia, had collaborated with the Nazis during the war and had served in an ethnic Georgian battalion organized by the Nazis.

The battalion ended up under the command of the Waffen SS, Adolf Hitler's elite, armed guard.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles first discovered the information about Dmitri Shalikashvili, the general's father, who is now dead.

Jewish leaders contacted last month after the news broke said the revelations about the elder Shalikashvili should not bar the younger Shalikashvili from the Joint Chiefs position.

In his opening remarks before the Senate Armed Services committee Wednesday, Shalikashvili referred to the controversy over his father.

"Allow me to comment briefly on the recent, deeply disturbing reports that my father had been a member of the dreaded Waffen SS and that I, perhaps, withheld this information.

"I did not withhold this information, for I never had the slightest hint that my father was associated with the Waffen SS," the general said.

Shalikashvili said that while his father's official German record shows "uninterrupted service in the Georgian Legion under the German army, or Wehrmacht," in the last months of the war, he apparently was "associated with some Georgian unit that was under the control of the Waffen SS.

"I'm deeply saddened that my father had this tragic association," the general said. "To me, and I believe to all those who knew him, that is so absolutely out of character. To me, he was a kind and gentle man, and I loved him very much.

"He was a man who, perhaps, loved his native Georgia too much -- certainly a man caught up in the awful tragedy of World War II," the general said.

Wins Praise From Senators

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center, called Shalikashvili's remarks Wednesday "an eloquent statement, especially the general's candid repulsion with the fact that his father was associated with the Waffen SS."

"He should not be judged by the misdeeds of his father," Hier added.

Members of the Armed Services Committee, which is expected to vote to confirm Shalikashvili, responded supportively to his words.

"I very much appreciate and admire the statement that you made this morning about the revelations concerning your father's association during the Second World War," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), who is Jewish.

"The point here is not to react to anything

your father may have done before your family came to the United States, but really to react to what you have done as a citizen of the United States since your family came here," he added.

"And on that scale, it is quite clear that you have been a great citizen, a great soldier, and a great patriot," he added.

Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) said he was "deeply touched by your continuing and everlasting reverence for a father who allegedly made a mistake, but the son still stands by with affection for his father."

The Wiesenthal Center researched the elder Shalikashvili's past in response to a request from the publication Defense Daily, which first reported the revelations in August, after Clinton announced the nomination.

Once the revelations broke, some in the Jewish community expressed concern that Clinton had romanticized the Shalikashvili family's past when he announced the nomination Aug. 11.

At the time, the president spoke of how, at the age of 16, Shalikashvili moved to the United States with his family and subsequently climbed his way to the top of the American military hierarchy.

He also recounted how, when the general was 8 years old, his family had "fled in a cattle car westward to Germany in front of the Soviet advance."

But Jewish officials noted that only victims of Nazism, not those tied to the Nazis, fled in cattle cars.

SHAS LEADER REVERSES POSITION, SAYING HE'S READY TO STAND TRIAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- In a dramatic reversal, Aryeh Deri, head of Israel's Shas party, has announced he is ready to stand trial on fraud charges.

Deri, who stepped down last week as interior minister, even said he would encourage the Knesset House Committee, which meets Sunday, to waive his parliamentary immunity so that he can be prosecuted.

He explained Wednesday that he had decided on the move to refute allegations that he had convinced his party to vote against the government's historic accord with the Palestinians as a way of pressuring the government not to lift his immunity.

"I have no longer any interest in the Knesset immunity," he told reporters. "I will prove my innocence in court."

But political pundits suggested that the real reason for Deri's move was that he had concluded that the House Committee would lift his immunity sooner or later anyway. This way he could remain on the offensive, instead of being dragged unwillingly to court.

Deri's party of fervently Orthodox Sephardic Jews had vowed to quit the governing coalition after the High Court of Justice forced him to resign as interior minister, in the face of the charges against him.

But Shas has not done so yet, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was working Wednesday to convince the party to support the accord with the Palestinians or at least abstain during the Knesset vote, which was expected to take place Thursday.

Meanwhile, Deri's immunity is likely to be removed shortly after the Sukkot holiday, and a trial date will likely be set soon thereafter.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
MICHAEL JACKSON VISIT TO ISRAEL
WAS TASTE OF NORMALCY FOR TEENS**
By Michele Chabin

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- To Israeli teen-agers, Michael Jackson's visit here this week represented a whole lot more than a couple of rock concerts.

Long deprived of top-name entertainers -- who have stayed away in the belief that Israel is a non-stop war zone -- teens here have thirsted for the kind of ear-splitting concerts that their counterparts around the world take for granted.

If there is one thing Israeli youths have longed for, it is normalcy: to be able to travel wherever they want, without having to bypass countries that do not accept their passport; to be able to buy a stereo or a car at American prices, without the 100 percent import tax; to have the luxury of obsessing over which college to enroll in, not which army unit to join.

And while Michael Jackson may not be anyone's definition of normalcy, his local concerts certainly were.

Jackson was mobbed by enthusiastic Israeli fans from the moment he arrived here last Friday with a retinue of some 200 assistants, managers, bodyguards and stage hands.

Jackson devotees greeted the singer wherever he went with awe and admiration -- until Saturday, when a group of fervently Orthodox Jews gave him a less-than-friendly welcome as Jackson attempted to approach the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City.

The group, finding all the stir surrounding his appearance there unseemly, overturned tables and chairs in an effort to barricade the path of Jackson before he could reach the Wall.

Jackson ultimately turned away from the barricade to avoid a confrontation.

It was the lone sour note during his Israeli tour, which included a trip to Masada and a shopping spree in the Dizengoff Shopping Center here.

Jackson spent Monday -- put aside as a day of rest between his two concerts -- visiting two children's hospitals in the Tel Aviv area: Beilinson and Assaf Harofeh.

He spent some hours visiting the bedsides of young patients in the cancer and transplant wards, seeking to cheer them up.

He was careful to divide his visits between Jewish and Arab patients.

170,000 Concertgoers In All

According to ticket sales and police estimates, attendance at Tuesday night's concert in Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park -- estimated at 100,000 -- was even bigger than that at his first appearance Sunday, when some 70,000 fans turned out.

That's almost equal to the number who showed up at the demonstrations for and against the Palestinian autonomy plan. And while those demonstrations were free, concertgoers paid a whopping \$35 and up for the privilege of seeing Jackson live.

During Jackson's two appearances, the fans screamed and wailed, pushed and shoved to get a peek at their idol. They smoked pot and hashish.

They even drank down cans of Jackson's sponsor, Pepsi -- the very same Pepsi that for so many years adhered to the Arab boycott against Israel.

All of a sudden, Israelis, too, were the voice of a new generation.

Jackson left Israel for Turkey at midday Wednesday, after cutting short his last appointment here -- a planned visit to a basic training base for women soldiers in the center of the country.

He had hoped to record a new version of his hit song "We Are the World" with the Israel Defense Force military band, which would be incorporated into a video of various versions of the song recorded at stops around the world.

But Jackson left in a hurry, complaining at being "dogged and pestered at every step" by the scores of camera crews and photographers who followed him around.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv.)

**COURT ORDERS GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW
FUNDING POLICY FOR REFORM SEMINARY**
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- In a ruling that could have major ramifications for the status of non-Orthodox religious institutions in Israel, the High Court of Justice has ordered the government to explain why it has not funded the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College.

In its ruling this week, the High Court gave the State Attorney's Office 45 days to explain why the state has not provided funding for HUC.

The Religious Affairs Ministry had previously denied the college access to funds that had been reserved for Orthodox yeshivot.

Rabbi Uri Regev, who filed the petition for funding on behalf of HUC, believes the final ruling will have ramifications for the funding of other non-Orthodox institutions of learning in Israel.

According to Regev, the Religious Affairs Ministry supports 1,450 Orthodox yeshivot, but has denied HUC any funding at all.

The petition filed by Regev claims that HUC is entitled to state support on the same basis as Orthodox yeshivot and seminaries.

But the state responded to the petition by saying it could not support the college's co-ed instruction and the integration of religious and secular studies in its curriculum.

"We are very encouraged by the interim decision," said Regev. "It gives us an indication the court may not be satisfied with the legal arguments" driving the state's funding formula, which currently excludes all egalitarian and non-Orthodox institutions.

INFLATION RATE UP SLIGHTLY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israel's cost-of-living index rose by 1 percent in August, leading economists to predict that the annual inflation rate will hit 11 percent this year.

The 1 percent increase, reported last week by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, followed three months of significantly lower cost-of-living increases. The rates for May, June and July were 0.3, 0.2 and 0.1 percent respectively.

Although the latest increase had been anticipated by economists, it came as disappointing news to those who had hoped to keep the annual inflation rate at single digits this year.

According to the statistics bureau, the monthly cost of goods and services for the average urban Israeli family now stands at \$1,746. Excluding housing costs, the average monthly total comes to \$1,316.