

**REPORTS CITE OLD BUG IN NEW GUISE:  
COMPUTERS SPREAD ANTI-SEMITISM VIRUS**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Jewish groups are highlighting the role of computer networks and other high-tech means of communication in promoting anti-Semitism.

"The growth area in 'antisemitica' in the 1990s is the dissemination of racist and anti-Semitic propaganda by electronic means," according to "Antisemitism World Report 1994," a 270-page document issued this week by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the research arm of the World Jewish Congress.

"This extraordinary growth in electronic fascism is one important feature of the increasing internationalization of the far right," said the report, a summary of anti-Semitic trends and incidents in 70 countries during 1993.

A similar finding is contained in a report to be published soon by the Project for the Study of Anti-Semitism at Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League and with the assistance of the Israeli government's committee that monitors anti-Semitism around the world.

"We view with great concern the international links of extremist groups," said Dinah Porat, director of the Tel Aviv project, in a statement announcing the pending report.

According to the Tel Aviv University report, increased international cooperation, facilitated by means such as electronic-mail networks, is creating new types of anti-Semitic activities and poses additional threats to the Jewish community.

**Electronic Fascism On The Rise**

The report registered with alarm the use by anti-Semites of such tools as video games and direct mail to spread their message, and the use of a computer diskette containing detailed instructions for preparing bombs.

The report from the WJC's Institute for Jewish Affairs noted that the electronic dissemination of anti-Semitic material, hardly mentioned in its 1992 edition, has become a major phenomenon.

Examples include the sending of anti-Semitic material through computer networks and bulletin board systems, the distribution of racist and anti-Semitic computer games, the production and distribution of video cassettes, racist telephone networks and hot lines, public access television channels and radio programs.

"In the Netherlands, for example, the ministry of justice reported that over 10,000 computer games, thought to have originated in the USA, were delivered to over 200 shops, but were seized by the police before they went on sale," according to the WJC report.

The WJC study also found that in Sweden, there are at least 15 to 20 active neo-Nazi computer bulletin boards.

And in Austria, the class presidents of two schools in Vienna were sent computer disks featuring propaganda denying the existence of the gas chambers, trivializing the Holocaust, or con-

taining crude anti-Semitic attacks on Austrian politicians and journalists, according to the report.

The WJC report also charged that an American neo-Nazi group, National Socialist German Workers Party-Overseas Organization, distributes its publication by computer to Austria, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

The same group has also created a computer screen-saver calling for the freedom of Gottfried Kussel, a neo-Nazi imprisoned in Austria.

"The use of electronic mailboxes and computer bulletin boards has enabled neo-Nazis to establish an international network more or less inaccessible to law enforcement agencies," said the report. Much of that material, according to the report, emanates from the United States which, unlike Canada and many European countries, has no ban on anti-Semitic or other hate speech.

The survey noted that authorities in various countries reportedly are seeking to devise electronic means of keeping such material off computer networks.

However, "this would mean restricting free access, which millions of general users would find objectionable," according to the report.

Addressing anti-Semitism in general around the world, the WJC report cited Romania, Turkey and Ukraine as the countries currently facing the greatest general anti-Semitic threats.

It showed a decline in political anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, a continuing improvement in Latin America and a mellowing in the Middle East of official attitudes toward Jews and Israel.

It expressed worry, however, over the entrance of a fascist party into the Italian ruling coalition and the dangerous rise of Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky in last year's Russian elections.

**EMISSARIES CONTINUE TO PRESS RUSSIANS  
FOR RETURN OF LARGE LUBAVITCH LIBRARY**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) --- Despite and even because of the passing of the Lubavitcher rebbe, Lubavitch emissaries are continuing to press the Russian government to return a Lubavitch library of more than 12,000 books and 300 manuscripts being held at the Russian State Library in Moscow.

The matter of the book was raised Tuesday during a meeting in Washington that some Jewish leaders held with visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Retrieval of the collection, which was appropriated by the Soviets in 1921 and placed at the former Lenin Library, was a priority of the Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who died June 12.

Although Russian President Boris Yeltsin and a Russian court ordered the books returned to Lubavitch as far back as 1991, only eight books have been given back to the Chasidic movement.

Seven of the books accompanied President Clinton on his return from Europe in February

and another one was returned personally by Vice President Al Gore, who was given the book during a visit to Moscow in December.

Gore gave the book to Lubavitch emissary Rabbi Boruch Shlomo Eliyohu Cunin, who delivered it to the rebbe before he suffered a stroke.

Cunin, who lives in Los Angeles, has been shuttling back and forth between Moscow and Washington for several years in pursuit of the Lubavitch library, engaging the help of U.S. government officials in doing so.

Cunin, who has met personally with Yeltsin about the issue, said he had discussed it with Thomas Pickering, U.S. Ambassador to Russia, just two days before the Lubavitcher rebbe died.

This week, the Lubavitch emissary and two of his sons, who are also pursuing the return of the books, pressed their campaign on Chernomyrdin through top U.S. officials.

Four senators, including the Senate majority and minority leaders, wrote a letter to Chernomyrdin on Monday, asking that he bring the books with him when he visited Washington.

The letter from George Mitchell (D-Maine), the Senate majority leader; Bob Dole (R-Kan.), the minority leader; Joseph Lieberman, (D-Conn.); and Frank Lautenberg, (D-N.J.) said the matter of the books is "of great importance to us."

"We have raised this issue on more than one occasion with President Yeltsin and former Ambassador (Vladimir) Lukin, both of whom assured us that the rest of the books would be returned in the near future," the senators wrote.

"Many other agreements have been made by the Russian government, yet only eight books have been released to the Lubavitch community," they wrote. Citing the rebbe's passing, the senators added, "Our sadness that the rebbe did not live to see the entire collection engenders an even greater resolve to bring about the return of the books."

However, the letter was sent after the prime minister had left for the United States.

At the meeting with Chernomyrdin on Tuesday, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an ecumenical organization that pursues religious rights issues around the world, raised the issue with the Russian prime minister. Schneier described Chernomyrdin as "sympathetic" to the cause.

Cunin said he believes there is anti-Semitism in the Russians' failure to return the books. He cited the Russians' recent return of books and artifacts to the Germans and to the Russian Orthodox Church.

However, a spokeswoman at the German Information Center here said Germany, too, had been promised the return of 500,000 artifacts and 5,185 books taken by the Red Army during World War II but had not, in fact, received them.

#### KNESSET MOVES TO REVAMP LAWS FOR FOREIGN ADOPTIONS

By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- The Knesset this week took a first step toward passage of a bill that will bring the procedures for adopting children from abroad into line with accepted international conventions.

In Israel, where the number of local children available for adoption has become increasingly

smaller, many couples have been adopting children from South American countries and also from Romania.

While most of these adoptions posed only minimal legal problems, some have resulted in international legal battles and human tragedies.

The proposed legislation seeks to remedy this situation by making Israeli adoptions conform with international norms.

In a related development, the Movement for Progressive Jewry, which is affiliated with the Reform branch of Judaism, announced this week the opening of a center for the conversion of adopted children of non-Jewish origin.

The center will work with the Reform movement's rabbinical courts both in Israel and abroad.

The issue of conversion is a problem for many parents adopting children outside Israel. Many are unwilling to become involved with Israel's official Orthodox rabbinate, but they realize that the Jewish status of their adopted children is of fundamental importance in ensuring their social integration.

According to a Reform movement spokesman, minors converted by the Reform movement outside of Israel have been registered as Jews by Israel's Interior Ministry. But those who are converted by the Reform movement's Rabbinic Court in Israel are not listed as Jews in the population registry.

#### ISRAEL LIFTS ARMS EMBARGO ON S. AFRICA

By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- The government this week lifted Israel's seven-year embargo on the sale of arms to South Africa.

The original ban, passed in March 1987, did not impose a full arms embargo. It allowed for existing contracts with South Africa to be honored but prohibited any new agreements from being signed.

On Sunday, that restriction was lifted by the Cabinet in recognition of the changes that have taken place in South Africa and in accordance with the easing of trade restrictions by the international community.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset last week that a delegation from South Africa had visited Israel last November to work out a cooperation agreement with the Israel Defense Force on pre-conscript paramilitary training.

This training would presumably be along lines similar to programs used in Israel for high school students.

Peres also said the new government of South Africa, led by President Nelson Mandela, was likely to step up military cooperation with Israel.

#### TEL AVIV 13TH MOST EXPENSIVE CITY

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA (JTA) -- According to a survey released here, Tel Aviv ranks No. 13 on a list of the world's most expensive cities.

The most expensive is Tokyo and the cheapest is New Delhi.

According to the survey, which was conducted by the Corporate Resources Group, a financial company, Tel Aviv is a more expensive place to live than Los Angeles, London, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, Amsterdam and Cairo.

## GERMAN COURT CONVICTS NEO-NAZI WHO DENIED THE HOLOCAUST OCCURRED

By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, June 23 (JTA) -- A state court in the southwestern German city of Mannheim has convicted Gunter Deckert, chairman of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party, on charges of inciting racial hatred.

Ruling on a case that has attracted much attention here and abroad, the court on Wednesday sentenced Deckert to a one-year suspended jail sentence and a fine of \$6,250.

Charges had initially been brought against Deckert after he served as translator at a rally in 1991 for Fred Leuchter, an American Holocaust denier.

In addition to translating comments made by Leuchter, Deckert had said that he supported Leuchter's theories, including statements that the Holocaust never took place.

Deckert had already been convicted and given a one-year suspended sentence on the charge on Nov. 13, 1992. But both he and the state court appealed the sentence, with Deckert wanting the case dropped entirely and the state prosecutor seeking a tougher sentence.

In March of this year, the Federal Court of Justice, Germany's highest appeals court, reversed the lower court's decision, saying that simply repeating another person's denial that the Holocaust occurred was not in itself a punishable offense.

It then sent the case back to the lower court to determine whether Deckert subscribed to Nazi ideology, which is a punishable offense.

## JEWISH PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER RETAINS IDENTITY AS HE TAKES TOP NATIONAL ROLE

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- In Peru, a predominantly Catholic country, it is a time-honored tradition that when Cabinet members take their appointed places, they kneel before the president and a large crucifix.

So when Efraim Goldenberg-Schreiber was named foreign minister last August, he offered to step to the end of the line of new appointees so as not to interrupt the flow of events. Goldenberg, a Jew, was not going to kneel before the cross.

President Alberto Fujimori would not hear of it and removed the cross especially for Goldenberg, replacing it for the appointees coming next in line.

This past February, Goldenberg was named prime minister, the first Jew to hold the post. Since he was first in line this time, the president withdrew the cross at the beginning of the ceremony, probably a first in Peru's history.

The story was one of several tales of being Jewish in Peru that Goldenberg told here Wednesday to a gathering of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress.

And among his accounts were assurances that Peru appears to be moving toward stability after years of military rule, economic woes and murderous terrorist attacks by two powerful indigenous groups, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and Tupac Amaru.

Goldenberg, a striking-looking 65-year-old

former business executive, spoke confidently about Peru's future.

He said that President Fujimori, a Japanese-Peruvian, had "done two good things for the country -- acted against hyperinflation and against terrorism."

He said, "it is now safer to walk on any street in Lima than in New York."

Goldenberg, who is on the board of the Lima Jewish community association, is the son of Russian-Jewish immigrants who came impoverished to the country.

He was born in the small Pacific Coast city of Talara, where there were only two Jewish families, and he was the only Jewish child. He attended primary school there, but his family moved to Lima in time for him to celebrate his bar mitzvah in the Peruvian capital.

His father, he said, was president of a Zionist organization, and his mother was president of Pioneer Women.

He attended high school in Peru and the National Major University of San Marcos between 1946 and 1952, earning a bachelor's degree in the humanities and a law degree.

Even before he had finished studying law, he entered the family export and fishery business and became a director of several enterprises.

His 92-year-old father still goes to the office, he said, and the business is being run by his son as he attends to governmental matters.

Goldenberg is married to Irene Pravatiner, also a child of Russian Jewish immigrants. Together, the two only children "decided to do something for the Jewish population" and bore five children, four daughters and a son, he said.

Asked about anti-Semitism, Goldenberg said it was not a major problem in Peru.

In fact, he pointed out, the government is quite mixed in this multiethnic nation.

Not only Fujimori, but Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka, the very popular speaker of Congress, come from non-indigenous ethnic groups -- in their case, Japanese families.

And he rattled off a list of names of government figures with clearly non-Hispanic names.

He acknowledged that about half of Peru's former Jewish population of 5,000 had left the country in recent years following a series of kidnappings by terrorists, after which families paid large ransoms.

But he said he had heard that many of those who fled are now considering returning.

And he reminded those at the meeting that "Peru was always very friendly to Israel."

Peru was "among the first to agree to vote to rescind the U.N. measure equating Zionism with racism, and the first to vote" at the United Nations in Geneva to consider anti-Semitism a human rights violation.

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**NOTE TO READERS:** JTA recently experienced mechanical problems with its printing equipment that may have delayed delivery of JTA publications. (Fax subscribers were not affected.) Our printing schedule has now returned to normal. If you are missing any copies of JTA publications, please call Ms. Katherine Cutler at JTA headquarters: (212) 643-1890.

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**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****PERUVIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY BOASTS  
JEWISH PRIME MINISTER AND ACTIVE LIFE**  
By Rochelle G. Saidel

LIMA, Peru, June 23 (JTA) -- This country has a Jewish prime minister, a mikvah that uses snow brought from the Andes and Indians baking challah every Thursday night.

And all this with a Jewish community of only some 3,000 people.

Peruvian Prime Minister Efraim Goldenberg-Schreiber, appointed to the position earlier this year, continues to play an active role in the Jewish community.

Some 15 years ago, the Jewish community in the capital of Lima, where nearly all Peruvian Jews live, was three times its current size.

Because of the protracted terrorist activities of Marxist guerrillas belonging to the Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path movement, and also for economic reasons, two-thirds of the Jewish population has since left for Israel, the United States, Canada, Venezuela or elsewhere.

This exodus particularly involved young people, who left for university studies abroad and did not return.

Jorge Gruenberg, president of Lima's Jewish community, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the terror has been virtually eradicated, and that he hopes the younger generation will soon begin returning.

Almost all the children in the community attend the Leon Pinelo Jewish School from pre-school through high school, and half of them subsequently go on to study in Israel for at least three months.

The school, with 450 children between the ages of two and 17, has a reputation as the finest private school in all of Peru, and as one of the best Jewish schools in Latin America.

About 25 percent of the school's pupils who have studied in Israel have subsequently made aliyah.

**Rabbi Was Sent In From Israel**

The vast majority of the community today belongs to the Orthodox Ashkenazic synagogue, Union Israelita del Peru. The congregation's rabbi, Yaakov Kraus, was sent here from Israel six years ago as the result of an arrangement with the Jewish Agency.

Kraus serves as the community's shochet, or ritual slaughterer.

He has also recently set up a center that houses challah-baking facilities, a mikvah, a kosher "minimart" with frozen meat and poultry and imported items, a small Jewish library and a cafe.

Every Thursday night, Kraus supervises as Peruvian Indians bake challah for the community. He said that about 15 to 20 women use the mikvah every month.

Because there is virtually no rain in Lima, Kraus brings snow from the Andes to fulfill the requirement of having running water in the mikvah.

The 1870 Synagogue, which Gruenberg heads, was the first Jewish congregation in Peru, founded in the year it is named for.

It was established primarily by German Jews, along with some French and English Jews, who

came to this western South American country for business reasons.

According to Leon Trahtemberg, principal of the Jewish school and a historian of the community, a yellow fever epidemic in 1868 that resulted in the death of about a dozen Jews was one incentive for founding the synagogue.

Beginning in 1875, there was a Jewish cemetery, and by 1880 some 300 Jewish people were members of the synagogue.

They met for holidays, bar mitzvahs, circumcisions and mourning. They also initiated social service activities for orphans and widows.

Most people in the original community were young men who had come to Peru for business, Trahtemberg said. They married Peruvian non-Jews, and by the beginning of this century the Jewish community had almost disappeared.

Some had assimilated and others had returned to Europe after the 1879-84 Peru-Chile war and ensuing economic crisis. The community consisted mainly of an older generation of Jews.

Beginning in 1910-1915, there was a Sephardic immigration that revitalized the community. Along with the Sephardim from Greece, Syria and Turkey, some Eastern European Jews also arrived from Russia and Poland.

The Sephardic and Eastern European communities began their Jewish life in Peru together along with the earlier German Jewish community, but by the end of the 1920s there were three separate communities.

**Huge Sums Paid For Visas**

During the 1930s, some 500 German-speaking Jews, 500 Sephardim, and 1,500 Jews from Eastern Europe arrived in Lima.

During World War II, it was almost impossible to enter, Trahtemberg said. But some 500 Jews were able to enter Peru after their families paid huge sums for visas.

In general, immigration to the East Coast of South America was easier than to the Pacific Coast during the war, he said.

In 1942, the three communities decided to unite in a Jewish association, to fight anti-Semitism in Europe and to send clothing, money and food to the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Since 1972, this organization, the Jewish Association of Peru, has conducted most Jewish activities that are of a non-religious nature.

There are three synagogues today; the Conservative 1870 Synagogue, a Sephardic synagogue and the Union Israelita del Peru Orthodox Ashkenazic synagogue.

In addition to the association, the synagogues and the school, the community also has a communal club, two old age homes, and groups such as the Women's International Zionist Organization and ORT.

Regarding the future of Peru's small Jewish community, Trahtemberg said, "There is potential to maintain Jewish life, both economically and spiritually, but anything can happen."

He said he feels there is at least one more generation of Jewish life here, but there is always the possibility that the rate of emigration or assimilation will grow.

He maintained that intermarriage has not been a problem because in most cases the non-Jew in a mixed marriage has converted to Judaism.