

**ARAFAT'S HISTORIC VISIT WINDS DOWN
WITH VOW TO RETURN TO LIVE IN GAZA**

By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat's historic visit to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho is scheduled to end Tuesday afternoon when he crosses the Allenby Bridge into Jordan.

But Arafat's departure from the autonomous districts will be only temporary, according to Nabil Sha'ath, a senior Arafat aide who will serve as minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian governing council.

Arafat will be back "in about 10 days. He is going to live in Gaza," said Sha'ath.

"He is just leaving for a visit to Paris, and then he will be coming back to his base -- Gaza, back home," Sha'ath said.

Arafat's departure to Jordan will bring to an end a five-day visit to the newly autonomous Palestinian regions that was marked by adulation among Palestinians and a combination of hope, fear and anger among watchful Israelis.

Arafat is set to arrive in Jericho from Gaza in a helicopter made available by Egypt. His bodyguards made their way to Jericho on Monday afternoon, traveling through Israel in special convoys.

After speaking in Jericho's central square on Tuesday, Arafat is scheduled to swear in the 18 members of the Palestinian governing council over which he presides.

The council will have responsibility for Palestinian affairs in Gaza and Jericho until elections are held later this year.

The association of settlers in Judea and Samaria gave notice Monday evening that they would cover roads leading to Jericho with nails in an effort to prevent Palestinians living in the West Bank from going to Jericho to hear Arafat.

Arafat arrived in Gaza from Egypt on Friday afternoon. That day, he addressed crowds in Gaza City from the old Parliament building which until recently served as headquarters for the Israeli army in Gaza.

'We Shall Rebuild Our Institutions'

His speech, which was marked by conciliatory references to Israel and to Palestinian foes of the Israeli-PLO peace initiative, included references to his oft-repeated desire to visit eastern Jerusalem to pray.

The central square in Gaza was only half full for Arafat's initial speech, although the crowds grew in size and enthusiasm during later appearances throughout the weekend.

The "peace of the brave" signed last September in Washington must be cultivated assiduously, Arafat reminded both his Palestinian audience and listeners in Israel, which had removed its troops from Gaza a month earlier.

"We shall rebuild our institutions that the occupation destroyed," Arafat told his audience. "We want to build a homeland of free men, a homeland of democracy, freedom and equality."

Among other highlights of Arafat's visit to Gaza were a trip to dedicate a juice factory in Gaza that had been partly funded by the Italian government and that represented the first economic enterprise in Gaza to result from the peace initiative; the convening of the Palestinian governing council for a largely celebratory session; and triumphal processions through several refugee camps in both the northern and southern sections of Gaza.

His Gaza visit also included receptions for dignitaries and delegations of all varieties, including a group of Israeli Arabs.

The visit touched off a weekend of demonstrations in Israel.

On Monday, the Knesset voted down no-confidence motions brought by right-wing political groups seeking to condemn the government for permitting the Arafat visit.

Responding to the prime minister's stinging criticisms of massive right-wing demonstrations over the weekend, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu attacked what he termed Rabin's "verbal hooliganism," a charge that caused Rabin to leave the Knesset chamber in anger.

Earlier, in response to opposition demands that he personally reply to the no-confidence motion, Rabin said he did not choose to reply to those "who harbored in their ranks those who call me a traitor and a murderer."

Rabin was referring to posters throughout Jerusalem that labeled him a traitor as well as to the cries of "Rabin, murderer, traitor!" that punctuated speeches at a right-wing protest rally attended by tens of thousands of demonstrators Saturday night in Zion Square.

On Sunday, Rabin lashed out at the right after the rally ended in a rampage through eastern Jerusalem.

His barbs were directed at demonstrators from the rally who vandalized Palestinian shops in eastern Jerusalem and stoned a U.S. Consulate building to denounce Arafat's visit.

At least nine Israelis were injured and more than 50 reportedly were arrested.

"We are witnessing the creation of a vicious circle of partnership between the murderers of the Hamas and our extreme right-wing that is intent on destroying the peace process," Rabin charged at a Labor Party forum.

He vowed that neither Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the peace process nor members of the Israeli right will succeed in disrupting the Israeli-PLO initiatives.

**U.S. TRANSFERS CONTROL OF NAZI FILES;
QUESTIONS OF ACCESS STILL PLAGUE MOVE**
By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, July 4 (JTA) -- Questions of access still remain following last week's controversial transfer to the German government of the Berlin Document Center, the world's largest collection of materials documenting activities of Nazi officials during World War II.

The files, which were assembled by American occupation forces after the war, comprise some 75

million documents and include more than 10 million Nazi Party membership cards and over half-a-million personal documents of Nazi storm troopers.

Since 1945, the files, overseen by the United States, have been a crucial source of information for historians, Nazi-hunters and prosecutors.

On Friday, amid assurances from German officials that access to the files would remain unchanged, the United States officially handed control of the center to German authorities.

The handover took place after the entire collection of files had been copied to microfilm, with the copies to be housed in the U.S. National Archives in Washington.

Although the agreement to return the documents to German control was signed in Berlin in October 1993, discussions of the subject began as early as March 1967.

The talks became deadlocked in 1968 as a result of American concern over private scholars' access to the documents. Negotiations resumed in June 1979.

The ceremony marking the handover took place three months before the last American soldiers are scheduled to leave Berlin.

Despite the microfilm copies, however, Jewish organizations and members of Congress have expressed concern about access to the files.

At issue is continued access to the center in Germany while the National Archives completes the preparations necessary to make the microfilm copies available in Washington.

In Washington, Bill Cunliffe, director of the Center for Captured German and Related Records at the National Archives, confirmed that it will take up to two years to have all the documents available to the public, although some of the files will be available as early as December.

Cunliffe disputed reports that not all of the documents were copied before the handover of the center to the Germans.

He said that the "front and back of every file was meticulously" copied and that the copies are of "very good quality."

Some Potentially Controversial Changes

Aware of protests in the United States over the decision to give the German government control of the center, the new directors in Berlin insisted that nothing will change under German control.

But they did outline some potentially controversial procedural changes for those wishing to access the center's files.

The German authorities said they plan to extend the center's operating schedule by two hours, adding that they will try to speed up requests for information.

But they also will make it difficult for researchers to obtain information on suspected Nazis if the person has not been dead for at least 30 years.

Siegfried Buttner, vice president of the German Federal Archives, said it will be possible to obtain information on living persons, but that the person will first be notified and asked for his or her permission to release the documents.

If permission is denied, the information could still be given, but an applicant will have to supply good reasons for requesting the information, he said.

Buttner also said that certain details of a person's file might be withheld.

For example, he said, information on a woman still living who was not involved with Nazi war crimes, but who is mentioned in connection with a leading Nazi official such as Joseph Mengele would be removed from Mengele's file before it is handed over to researchers.

Two days before the documents were transferred to German control, Chancellor Helmut Kohl assured the World Jewish Congress of continued access to the files.

"On behalf of Federal Chancellor Kohl, I wish to confirm to you and (WJC President) Edgar Bronfman the assurances which the chancellor provided to you when you met in Bonn on May 2 regarding access to the documents," German Ambassador Immo Stabreit stated in a letter hand-delivered last week to WJC Secretary-General Israel Singer.

On May 2, Singer met with Kohl and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, both of whom assured him that the same rules of access in effect under the Americans would apply after the document center fell under German control.

Last week, Bronfman expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the handover took place.

"The controversy over the transfer of the Berlin Document Center has ended in a manner which preserves the integrity of scholarly access to these valuable papers, which the demands of history place upon us," Bronfman said.

Call For A Monitoring Group

Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, also voiced satisfaction with the German assurances.

But he said his organization would nonetheless support a decision by U.S. Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) to establish a group to monitor the accessibility of the documents in the German facility.

Concerned over the possible two-year period before all the copied files will be available for inspection at the U.S. National Archives, Schumer has called for the formation of a monitoring group that will include members of Congress, Jewish organizations and non-Jewish historical groups.

"Is the search for Nazis to stop for two years because the U.S. rushed to give back control of these files to the Germans before we have copies?" Schumer asked in a statement.

"I am outraged and frustrated over the way this transfer is being handled. Survivors and scholars must get to these files," the congressman said.

The monitoring group will request documentation from an American liaison in Germany regarding the accessibility of files at the Berlin Document Center.

The group will also seek information regarding overall operations at the facility to make sure that Germany does not move documents from the Berlin center to other areas of the country.

"The monitoring group is a must," Schumer said. "An understanding of the past is crucial to comprehending its consequences in the present. If we do not learn from the past then 'never again' is an empty promise."

(JTA staff intern in Washington Michael Shapiro contributed to this report.)

NEW JERSEY MAN WHO EDITED NAZI PAPER DURING WWII LOSES HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP

WASHINGTON, July 4 (JTA) -- A federal judge has revoked the U.S. citizenship of a longtime resident of New Jersey who was editor of an anti-Semitic and an anti-Allied powers newspaper in Hungary during World War II, the Department of Justice announced last week.

Ferenc Koreh, 84, a native of the Transylvania region that was annexed by Hungary in 1940, did not contest the charge against him that certain articles published in the publication Szekely Nep in 1941 and 1942 were both anti-Semitic and opposed to the Allied powers.

Koreh, who lives in Englewood, N.J., a town where many Jews live, was charged with "advocacy and assistance in persecution."

U.S. District Court Judge Maryanne Trump Barry in Newark, N.J., found that because of his wartime activities, Koreh had been ineligible for the U.S. immigration visa he received in 1950 and that his 1956 naturalization as a U.S. citizen was therefor illegally procured.

Koreh is a retired producer and broadcaster for Radio Free Europe.

The case against Koreh was filed June 20, 1989, by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark.

The 10-count complaint included charges that Koreh was also press officer in Hungary's Propaganda Ministry and an editor of the anti-Allied weekly publication Vilaglap.

A Hungarian court convicted Koreh of war crimes in 1947. The articles published under Koreh's tenure as editor of Szekely Nep blamed the outbreak of the war on world Jewry, blamed Hungary's social and economic ills on its Jewish minority and "called for harsher restrictions and punishments" against Jews, the court's 29-page decision said.

Barry ruled that such articles were "poison" and "condition(ed) the Hungarian people in that region to accept Hungary's efficient persecution of Jews in all aspects of their lives."

She found that the some 164,000 Jews who lived in the region served by Szekely Nep were affected by the paper's anti-Semitic "climate of opinion" in which "the persecution of Jews was acceptable to the Hungarian people and that persecution (was) thus facilitated."

Many of the Jews in that area were later deported to Nazi death camps, including Auschwitz.

CONGRESSMAN, JEWISH GROUPS SUPPORT APPEAL TO HIGH COURT OVER DEMJANJUK

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 4 (JTA) -- A New York congressman and four Jewish organizations have filed briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting an appeal of a lower court's ruling in the case of accused Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk.

These friend-of-the-court briefs support the May 24 petition by the Justice Department to overturn an appeals court decision that charged prosecutors with fraud for withholding potentially exculpatory evidence in the Demjanjuk case.

In that petition, lawyers for the depart-

ment's Office of Special Investigations argued that the government had acted in good faith at Demjanjuk's 1985 deportation trial before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

If the fraud charges are overturned by the Supreme court, the government may stand a better chance of deporting the retired Cleveland autoworker a second time.

Demjanjuk was returned to the United States last year after the Israeli Supreme Court overturned his conviction in that country for crimes against humanity. He had been sentenced to hang.

The Israeli high court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to prove that Demjanjuk was the notorious "Ivan the Terrible" who committed war crimes at the Treblinka concentration camp.

Demjanjuk had been extradited to Israel following the Cincinnati court's original deportation order in 1986.

Since returning to this country over the objections of OSI, he has been living at his home in the Cleveland suburb of Seven Hills, where a Jewish group led by activist Rabbi Avi Weiss has been staging periodic demonstrations.

One of the recent friend-of-the-court briefs was filed June 21 by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), the World Jewish Congress and Holocaust Survivors in Pursuit of Justice. It charged that the three-judge panel of the Cincinnati court sought to perpetuate a "vicious stereotype" of Jews.

The appeals panel had written in its ruling that it was "obvious from the record that the prevailing mind set at OSI was that the office must try to please and maintain very close relationships with various interest groups because their continued existence depended on it."

The WJC said in a statement, "All of the interested parties named by the court were Jewish individuals and organizations."

The other brief, filed June 23 by the American Section of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and joined by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, contends that the 6th Circuit's "standard unjustifiably casts doubt on the Office of Special Investigations."

It states, "If this court were to leave the panel's decision unreviewed, the American public, the international community, and the survivors of the Holocaust -- as well as the Department of Justice attorneys who have been branded as perpetrators of 'prosecutorial misconduct' -- would effectively be deprived of any appellate review whatsoever of the panel's determination."

JEW FOR JESUS OPENS IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, July 4 (JTA) -- A branch of Jews for Jesus has been established in Amsterdam.

Calling itself Beth Yeshua, the group of so-called messianic Jews meets weekly for Sabbath services.

The group's leader is a Dutch-born Jew who believes that the opposition of many Jews to Jews converted to Christianity is a remnant of "ghetto mentality."

The establishment of the group is notable because attendance at mainstream Christian churches in Holland is on a downward turn and has become the bastion mostly of the elderly.

Most Christians in Holland attend a church service only for Christmas and Easter.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**RUSSIAN JEWS TODAY THINK TWICE
ABOUT PACKING THEIR BAGS FOR ISRAEL**
By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW, July 4 (JTA) -- At midnight inside Sheremetyevo Airport here, families moving to Israel shuffle into line at the check-in counter, their worldly belongings stuffed into hemp bags wrapped with rope, their cardboard boxes bulging at the sides.

They linger for a few last minutes with relatives, anxiously clutching their pets, their passports -- and the classic emigrant's dream.

"I just hope life in Israel will be better for our family," said Larisa Naftalieva, 36, who worked as a kindergarten teacher in Dagestan, an autonomous republic within the Russian Federation. All her relatives except her sister are already in Israel, and the two siblings stand side by side, tears welling in their eyes.

In the last five years, about 500,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union have taken these same parting steps and become Israelis, many of them known for their high level of education and limited knowledge of Judaism.

But now this wave, which peaked in 1990 with the departure of 185,227 Jews to Israel, is starting to lose force.

Chaim Chesler, the head of the Jewish Agency here, predicts that the number of emigrants to Israel this year will probably decrease by about 10 percent, from 69,191 in 1993 to about 62,000 for 1994.

"People are thinking twice about leaving, and this is a new situation," said Chesler, who oversees scores of Zionist educational programs and provides transportation for olim.

"The sense is that half the source of Jews has already left and now we are working to get the rest," he said.

The recent shift is the result of important changes in the factors that contribute to emigration, according to observers.

While political mayhem and economic crises still plague Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and other now independent states, this is no longer entirely true for Russia, home to about 700,000 Jews.

A Sense Of Stability In Russia

"There is a sense of stability in Russian political and economic life," explained Alexander Libin, immigration officer at the Israeli Embassy.

"People are learning to manage in a new situation, and Jews are the first ones to learn to reconcile themselves with the new economic game," he said.

And while everyday living may be improving slightly for some here, Jews hear from their friends and relatives how arduous it can be to find decent housing and employment in Israel.

"In the past, people didn't need information about life in Israel, they only needed information about how to get there," said Yulia Bentsianova, who oversees the Tehiya Information Center for potential emigrants to Israel.

"Now the situation has changed. People know what is waiting for them. They want to know how they can transfer money to Israel, how to sell their apartments," she said.

"Three years ago, people were leaving the country out of desperation," added Lev Schiogo-

lev, a former refusenik who moved to Israel in 1987 and then came back to Russia temporarily to work for the Jewish Agency.

"Now, psychologically, it is a very interesting group. Many are old people going to live with their children. Others are young people who can't realize their profession here," he said. "And in Ukraine and Central Asia, the economic crisis is much deeper. In those places people can barely eat."

He then added, smiling wryly, "It is also a pleasure to note that a small portion are going to Israel because they are Jewish."

Among that minority is Larisa Naftalieva of Dagestan.

"The Jewish community is not very big, but I was involved in it. I'm very attached to our nation, and it's important to me that Israel is a Jewish state. Even in our small town, the Jews tried to be together and support each other."

Her passion for Israel contrasted sharply with that of a mother recently visiting the Tehiya Information Center with her two daughters.

One of the daughters has a large burn scar on her face, and the family wants to move either to Israel or America so she can undergo cosmetic surgery.

"We have to wait for two years to go to America, but we can go to Israel immediately," said the mother, identifying herself only as Anna.

Afraid To Not Find Good Jobs

"However, I think Israel greets people who arrive very badly, and unemployment is very bad. My husband is an aircraft engineer, and I'm afraid he won't find a good job in Israel," she said.

Another person in the information center, Lev Moskovkin, a geneticist, said he decided a year-and-a-half ago to move to Israel, but has delayed the move because of illness in his family.

During this time, his thoughts about moving changed, he said.

"My first feeling was release, a feeling of freedom. But then I got more information. I'm still firm in my decision, but I know I will not get a good job in Israel," he said. "I know I won't have the ability to live like the intelligentsia in Moscow."

For others, moving to Israel is not even a consideration.

"I still feel a lot of affection for this country, no matter what is going on here. I am very connected to the culture and feel I belong," said Esphir Vainer, a teacher in Moscow who has relatives and friends living in Israel.

She said that although she is not involved in the Jewish community, she would not move even if she were.

"There is anti-Semitism, but on the other hand people are now free to express their Judaism, to go to synagogue if they want. This is really a change," Vainer said.

Another clear indication of the changing times is the growing number of Jewish tourists visiting Israel from the newly independent states -- a sign that incomes are rising and people now take a look at the Jewish state before moving.

Chesler said a significant number of these tourists are deciding to stay. "We have a window of opportunity for the next three to four years, but we will have to work very hard to do well."