

**ON EVE OF CHRISTOPHER VISIT, PERES  
AFFIRMS SYRIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER GOLAN**  
By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stirred up anger among settlers on the Golan Heights this week when he said quite bluntly, "Syria's sovereignty over the Golan has been repeatedly recognized by Israel."

Addressing a gathering of the United Kibbutz Movement, Peres said he was opposed to any extension of settlements in the Golan, but favored the development of settlements in the Jordan Valley area north of Jericho.

Observers here interpreted Peres' remarks as an indication of Israeli flexibility over the Golan prior to the forthcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Christopher is scheduled to arrive here over the weekend in an effort to revive the stalled Israeli-Syrian talks.

Golan settlers reacted angrily to Peres. As one spokesman put it, the foreign minister's remarks were "a betrayal of the Zionism and the whole settlement effort."

Meanwhile, Israel on Thursday permitted the entry into the autonomous areas of senior Palestine Liberation Organization officials, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Ahmed Karia, better known as Abu Alla, a drafter of the Oslo peace accords.

Twenty of Arafat's personal bodyguards were also allowed in. Their entry had been held up in the wake of a mini-crisis, when four Palestinian terrorists were smuggled into the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians, two of whom were involved in the 1974 attack on a school in Ma'alot where 21 teen-agers were killed, had arrived along with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat when he returned to Gaza to take up residence on Tuesday.

Israel closed the Egyptian and Jordanian borders until all four had returned to Egypt.

Rabin said Israel would admit the four expelled terrorists if Arafat convenes the Palestine National Council in Gaza to renounce the clauses in the Palestine National Covenant that call for Israel's destruction.

Arafat had committed himself to the repeal of these clauses in Cairo when the Gaza and Jericho autonomy agreement was signed on May 4.

Meanwhile, Arafat laid the foundation stones for a neighborhood of 192 dwellings in Gaza being paid for by \$6 million in U.S. government funding.

**JEWISH GROUPS WELCOME CALL BY G-7  
LEADERS TO END ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**  
By Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- Jewish groups are hailing the call by the world's major industrial powers to end the Arab boycott of Israel.

The Group of Seven, meeting in Naples last weekend, issued a communique that made two references to ending the boycott.

In one instance, the call to end the boycott came at the end of a paragraph that said "economic development is essential to underpin the

peace process" and that referred to financial and technical assistance to the nascent Palestinian Authority operating in Gaza and Jericho.

The G-7 nations also "called upon the League of Arab States to end their boycott of Israel" in a reference that also urged a "comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and wider process of peace."

Praising the communique, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a statement: "We hail the G-7 statement for its clear and unequivocal call for an end to the boycott, marking the first time the G-7 has urged its termination without linkage to other issues."

In the past, the G-7 statements have linked the termination of the Arab boycott of Israel with Israel's halting of settlements in the territories, according to Stacy Burdett, assistant director of the ADL's Washington office.

She said the Jewish community and pro-Israel groups have consistently pushed to have the boycott "delinked from the peace process" and viewed instead as an economic issue that hurts the United States and the other G-7 nations.

Martin Raffel, associate executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, also called the statement "an improvement from last year."

However, he said that given the context and brevity of the references, the G-7 call could be seen "as still linked to the peace process."

Raffel also said the G-7 did not go far enough in denouncing the secondary and tertiary boycotts, which blacklist companies that do business with Israel.

Raffel said that the G-7 "should embrace the U.S. position and insist on a total end to the boycott" including the second and tertiary boycotts, which has "never been achieved."

**An 'Odious Form Of Economic Terrorism'**

According to Burdett, the termination of the boycott will be difficult to achieve if other countries do not pass and enforce strong anti-boycott legislation similar to that which exists in the United States.

U.S. Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Congressional Task Force to End the Arab Boycott, also welcomed the G-7 statement. "The G-7 statement demonstrates that the major trading nations will not tolerate this odious form of economic terrorism," he said in a statement.

In a July 6 letter to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, Schumer, along with 72 members of the House of Representatives, had written that "an important way for the United States to take the lead in working to end the Arab boycott is to press for the G-7 nations to issue a stronger statement than last year calling for unequivocal opposition to the Arab boycott."

In the letter, Schumer and his co-signers voiced their concerns about the Arab League's lack of action to end the boycott. The letter noted that a recent Commerce Department report showed that boycott-related activity is continuing at approximately the same rate as last year.

## JEWS WIN RIGHT TO MARCH ON TISHA B'AV

By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Israel's Supreme Court has approved two petitions granting Jewish groups the right to march around the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem and to enter the Temple Mount on the Tisha B'Av fast day, which falls on Sunday.

This represents the first time that the court has allowed the militant Faithful of the Temple Mount access to the site on the anniversary of the Temple's destruction.

The court also allowed a right-wing group, Women in Green, to march around the walls of the Old City en route to prayers at the Western Wall on Saturday night, when the fast begins.

The same access will apply to all Jews seeking entry to the Mount which, in addition to being the site of the First and Second Temples, is also the site of two of Islam's most sacred shrines, the Omar and Aksa mosques.

Police will limit the number of Jews allowed entry to the Temple Mount. Those entering will be forbidden to pray there or recite the kinnot -- the special dirges recited on Tisha B'Av lamenting the destruction of the First and Second Temples.

## HAIFA THEATER CANCELS REDGRAVE SHOW

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- The Haifa Municipal Theater has been forced by intense public pressure to withdraw an invitation to British stage and screen star Vanessa Redgrave to appear in two performances of the play "Brecht in Exile" next week.

The actress, a longtime fervent supporter of Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization he heads, has often and loudly expressed anti-Israel sentiments.

But following the signing of the Palestinian self-rule accord last year, she indicated an interest in performing in Israel -- but refrained from saying she had changed her mind about the Jewish state.

Expressing their firm opposition to any appearance by Redgrave, hundreds of subscribers canceled their memberships for the theater season, and the area around the theater building was covered with anti-Redgrave graffiti.

Less than a week before the scheduled performances of the docudrama about Brecht, fewer than 100 of the 1,600 advance-sale tickets available had been sold.

Haifa Theater head Oded Kottler, announcing the cancellation Wednesday, said that his decision to invite Redgrave had been the right one, but "as a public institution, we have to be sensitive to public feeling. The public was antagonistic and turned itself into a summary court martial."

## CROATIAN-ISRAELI SOCIETY ESTABLISHED

By Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Members of the Croatian-Jewish community, seeking to strengthen the cooperation between Croatia and Israel, have formed the Croatian-Israeli Society in Zagreb.

Maja Freundlich, vice president of the group, said in a statement that the group's "primary goal is to work toward greater cooperation be-

tween the State of Israel and the Republic of Croatia."

Although Israel has officially recognized Croatia, which declared its independence in 1991, there are no formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Freundlich said the organization currently has over 60 members, including representatives from the Croatian Jewish community, both in Croatia and abroad, as well as non-Jews.

The idea for the society originated with the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum's request for submissions to their archives from various countries involved in the Holocaust, according to Julia Busich, an adviser to the Croatian ambassador here.

The group then expanded to focus on the Croatian-Israeli relationship as well as other subjects, Busich said.

The society, which was officially registered June 24, plans to contact American-Jewish organizations and focus on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, tourism and academic research.

## EL AL PROFITS FOR 8TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- At a time when many of the world's airlines are reporting losses, El Al Airlines has reported a profit for the eighth year in a row.

Rafi Harlev, the president of Israel's national airline, reported Monday that in 1993 El Al had a profit of \$9.9 million on revenues of \$947.1 million. He said the number of passengers carried by El Al last year increased by 10 percent over the previous year, to a total of 2,145,000 passengers. The company also carried 185,000 tons of cargo last year.

In June, the government's privatization committee approved the sale of 51 percent of El Al Airlines to the general public, paving the way for privatization of the national carrier.

The actual sale of shares is expected to take place in October, when the once-ailing airline is to be taken out of the 13-year-long receivership under which it has been operating.

## RIGHTIST MEETING DISGUISED AS CONCERT

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, July 14 (JTA) -- The failure of police to prevent a meeting of extreme right-wing groups that was disguised as a rock concert has led to calls for the resignation of Interior Minister Elwin Ziel.

On Saturday, a group of about 900 right-wing extremists gathered in Rudersdorf, located near Berlin in the German state of Brandenburg, where, under the guise of holding a rock concert, they exchanged neo-Nazi propaganda and sang racist songs, illegal acts in Germany.

A local police commander has already been suspended for not preventing the gathering of extremists.

Prior to the gathering, the Brandenburg Interior Ministry said it had informed local police to use "all legal means" to stop the rightists.

The failure of the police to interfere has now prompted calls for action against Ziel, with members of the governing coalition adding their voices to the criticism.

**SOUTH AFRICAN REPORTS ALLEGE MOSSAD CONNECTION TO SERIES OF BRUTAL MURDERS**  
By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, July 14 (JTA) -- Allegations that the Israeli secret service was involved in several murders in South Africa have recently appeared in several newspapers here.

Johannesburg's Weekend Star reported in a front-page story that Mossad agents have been blamed by the South African police for two brutal murders linked to the supply of chemicals for nuclear-weapons technology to countries in the Middle East, particularly Iraq. A third death is also being investigated.

The police apparently also suspect a possible tie to the previous South African government or agencies working for it, according to the report.

Israeli Ambassador Alon Liel strongly denied the allegations.

The dismembered body of a British immigrant, Alan Kidger, a chemicals specialist and businessman, was found in the trunk of his car three years ago. He disappeared after receiving a suspicious telephone call.

In April 1993, a top chemical engineer, Wynand van Wyk, was bludgeoned to death on the 18th floor of a leading Cape Town hotel, also following an unusual telephone call.

According to the Weekend Star, "the disclosures are known to have caused a diplomatic furor between South African and Israeli officials."

In an interview with the paper, Liel denied the charges and expressed disappointment that the police had apparently made certain allegations to the media about the Mossad, but had not discussed the issue directly with the Israeli Embassy.

Liel said that whenever incidents occur about Middle East arms sales, the Mossad is the "prime suspect."

"It happens all over the world. Mysterious murder cases with international connotations are also attributed to Mossad," Liel said. "Unfortunately, we are getting used to it."

**AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER EDITOR ACCUSES JEWS OF MAKING THE COUNTRY 'LESS FREE'**  
By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, July 14 (JTA) -- The editor of the only daily newspaper in Perth, the capital city of the state of Western Australia, has accused the local Jewish community and its "cohorts" of making Australia "less free and democratic than it was."

Paul Murray, editor of the newspaper West Australia, made the comments in a letter to Doron Ur, president of the Council of Western Australian Jewry.

Ur had written a letter to the paper responding to an editorial attacking proposed anti-racism legislation. Ur's letter was not published by the newspaper, which also declined to publish other responses critical of its editorial line.

In response to Ur's argument that existing state anti-racist laws had not had a negative effect on freedom of expression in Western Australia, Murray wrote that "your powerful lobby has had a small win" over "democratic freedoms" and that "you and your cohorts have made this country less free and democratic than it was."

"Given the crusading nature of Zionism,

your motives are not above suspicion," Murray's letter said.

Ur demanded an apology, which Murray refused to give.

There are approximately 6,000 Jews among Perth's population of 1,200,000. The West Australian has a daily circulation of some 250,000, the third-highest circulation of any Australian paper.

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, while supporting public and vigorous debate on the merits of anti-racism legislation, has also protested Murray's "extraordinary" letter, which it said contained views that "would have been comical if not expressed by the editor of a metropolitan newspaper."

**HUNGARIAN POLICE RECOVER ARTIFACTS STOLEN LAST YEAR FROM JEWISH MUSEUM**  
By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, July 14 (JTA) -- Hungarian police have recovered most of a collection of Jewish artifacts stolen from the Jewish museum in Budapest last December.

Nearly 90 percent of the collection, valued at \$200 million, was recovered more than two weeks ago near the Romanian capital of Bucharest, according to Hungarian police chief Gen. Ion Pitulescu.

Speaking at a news conference last week, Pitulescu said the Mossad, the Israeli secret service, had helped Hungarian and Romanian police in tracking down the collection.

Two suspects in the case, Romanian citizens identified as Emilian Stefan and Nicolae Chirita, have been arrested in Vienna and Frankfurt, respectively, and Hungarian authorities are currently seeking their extradition.

Local reports indicate there may have been additional people involved in the robbery.

The collection, stolen last Dec. 12, consisted of more than 180 pieces collected since 1916, including gold and silver religious objects, paintings and carpets.

After being closed for several months, the Jewish museum, housed in the building of Budapest's main synagogue, was recently re-opened to the public.

Pitulescu said the collection would be returned to the museum within a month. Preparations are under way for a special exhibition of the stolen treasures.

**SWISS TO VOTE ON HATE LAWS**  
By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 14 (JTA) -- Switzerland will hold a public referendum in September on whether to enact legislation that will make it a crime to discriminate against ethnic groups or incite racial hatred.

A year ago, Swiss legislators passed the law, but a drive by right-wing groups has succeeded in putting the measure to a popular vote, scheduled for Sept. 25.

In seeking the referendum, extremist groups have argued that social persuasion, rather than coercive legislation, is the more effective way to promote tolerance.

The Swiss League to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism has already launched a campaign to prepare Swiss public opinion for a favorable vote.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****ON THE ROAD: TWO YOUNG ADVENTURERS DISCOVER JUDAISM ALONG THE BIKE PATH**

By Ruth E. Gruber

KRAKOW, Poland, (JTA) -- For the past two years Bobbi Hanaw and Marlin Lavanhar have been on an adventuresome quest to explore the world.

Along the way, they have discovered a deep sense of Jewish identity.

Hanaw, 26, from New Orleans, and Lavanhar, 25, from Highland Park, Ill., spent the past two years traveling thousands of miles throughout Asia by bicycle.

"We were trying to find anything we could about life, about all religions, trying to understand and explore life and lifestyles," Lavanhar said.

"But because of our Jewish heritage we have sought out Jewish communities and heritages wherever we were," he said.

Graduates of Tulane University, they both worked in Japan teaching English in order to save up money for their trip.

Beginning in Japan, they biked through China and across mountain passes into Tibet and Nepal.

They continued through India, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, southern China, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

They camped, or slept in caves, in the homes of local villagers, or sometimes in cheap hotels. They confronted alien cultures, languages, alphabets and food, and occasionally had run-ins with local authorities.

At the beginning of June, they flew with their bikes from the Philippines to Warsaw, where they began the next leg of their two-wheel odyssey -- Israel via East-Central Europe and the Middle East.

"Whenever we came across a Jewish community, we tried to get involved," Hanaw said.

The couple visited four distinct Jewish communities in India, and called on the Israeli Consulate while in Vietnam.

**'We Felt A Closeness'**

"Neither of us was brought up very religiously," Lavanhar said.

"But as we were traveling, so far from home, in alien cultures, when we came across Jews, we felt a closeness, a bond, a cultural bond even though we were from the other side of the Earth.

"It was like visiting relatives we had never met before, but there was an instant rapport, even in an alien culture; we had Jewish culture, the Torah, the holidays in common," he said.

Lavanhar said that as third and fourth generation Americans, they never felt that connected to Jewish life.

"We felt more assimilated as Americans, but through traveling we have found our historical connection," Lavanhar said.

The couple said that because of the burgeoning Jewish connection acquired on their journey, they now celebrate Shabbat every week, lighting candles in their hotel room or in their tent.

Sometimes they improvised. In Asia they used rice when they did not have bread for the

blessing. Instead of wine, a piece of fruit was sometimes used.

"It's part of my life now," Hanaw said. "It will never leave me. The candles are like an energy bond all around the world. That's why Jews won't fade away. Jews all over the world are celebrating Shabbat."

In Eastern Europe, where they both have roots, they plan to spend the next several months cycling through Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria.

"This is where our grandparents came from," Lavanhar said. "Now we are finding our own roots. Before, in Asia, we made the connection with Jewish history in a broader sense. Now, we want to explore where Yiddish culture comes from."

The couple plan to spend several months in Israel next spring, where they hope to study Judaism and Jewish mysticism. They plan to return to the United States in about a year and hope to travel around the country to Jewish communities to share their experiences and insights.

They also hope to raise money to help the tiny Jewish communities they visited along their route.

**SARAJEVO'S JEWS ASSIST WITH RELIEF AS NEGOTIATORS PUSH FOR BOSNIAN PEACE**

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 14 (JTA) -- With U.N. negotiators feverishly working toward a peace settlement in Bosnia, the president of the Jewish community in Sarajevo recently attended an unofficial peace conference here.

In an interview, Ivica Ceresnjes described how he travels through Sarajevo in a car that has a sign with a menorah prominently displayed, enabling him to pass all checkpoints.

"We show the world that Jews are not always victims, but can also help those of other religions," Ceresnjes said.

Ceresnjes said that some 520 Jews still live in the Bosnian capital, and an additional 300 live elsewhere in the former Yugoslav republic.

He said that the Jewish community in Sarajevo is getting assistance from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and from France, Holland and Belgium.

Funds donated to Sarajevo's Jewish community are also being used to help non-Jews living there, Ceresnjes said.

For his humanitarian work, last month Ceresnjes was named to the French Legion of Honor, the highest honor the French bestow.

Ceresnjes described the situation in war-torn Sarajevo as "frighteningly calm."

While the shelling of the city has stopped, he said, every day at least one person is killed and five others wounded by sniper fire.

Ceresnjes said that food prices in Sarajevo have dropped, but that hunger is on the increase because people have no money and because humanitarian help has recently decreased by a third.

The conference he attended was held under the auspices of UNESCO and the Swiss canton of Geneva.

U.N. negotiators in Geneva are currently attempting to get Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims and Croats to accept by July 19 a plan that will divide Bosnia along ethnic lines.