

# A Unique And Sensitive Message From Sharansky

This message has been translated and published by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry as part of its "Letters From Chistopol Prison" series, with an introduction by former Prisoner of Conscience Joseph Mendeleovich. Single copies are available free from SSSJ at 210 West 91st Street, New York, N.Y. 10024. Following are excerpts --

Clearly faith and culture, intelligence, a sense of humor, cannot in and of themselves bequeath to man the spiritual endurance necessary for confronting the most difficult tests of life.

## UN Needs To Gain Israel's Trust

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's recently concluded nine day visit to five Middle East Nations produced nothing tangible in terms of results to the region's problems. Whether a breakthrough was expected is not certain. But the visit by de Cuellar to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Israel did provide the UN chief his first opportunity to huddle with the power brokers in the region and provided him with a first hand accounting of the long, seemingly endless conflict that grips that region.

It was in Israel that de Cuellar was told what he had already become aware of in his leadership role; that Israel's distrust of the international body is deeply rooted in the people and the government. While Premier Yitzhak Shamir is said to regard the Secretary General in high personal esteem, the United Nations was forcefully condemned for allowing its conferences and forums to be used as a platform for denunciations of Zionism, Israel and the Jewish people in language not heard since the days of Hitler's Germany.

Yet, de Cuellar is reportedly convinced that a convening of an international parley on the Middle East conflict sponsored by the United Nations could help facilitate discussions toward a resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute and an agreed settlement to the plight of the Palestinian people.

But the central barrier to such a conference remains Israel's distrust of anything the United Nations proposes, and does, including its peacekeeping operations in Lebanon. De Cuellar's first task on returning to New York should be toward achieving some degree of trust from the Israeli government and the Jewish people. This can only be achieved by bringing an end to the verbal abuse directed at deligitimizing and discrediting Israel and Zionism in UN forums. The UN leader should ask himself why Israel should ever trust a world organization that is on record as condemning its national movement and equating it with racism.

In Psalms and Proverbs one frequently encounters the phrase "fear of the L-ord." When I read the Psalms for the first time I understood these words to mean fear of G-d's retribution for transgressions we have committed. Yet, the more I read the more difficult it became to connect the literal meaning and the message which called out to me from the text.

What does King Solomon mean when he states "the fear of the L-ord is the beginning of knowledge" or King David by his saying "the

counsel of the L-rd is with them that fear Him and his covenant, to make then know it."

One begins to understand that fear of G-d is a result of an inner stirring brought about by the lofty Divine vision, by a feeling of submission and respect for G-d's essence, and especially by the instinctive, subconscious fear of man to expose himself as being unsuited for this lofty role and as being unworthy of being chosen for this task with his meager talents.

It is possible that this feeling (yirat shamayim in Hebrew) is the critical prerequisite for man's achieving inner peace and thus also the prerequisite for man's acquiring spiritual endurance. It is possible that fear of G-d is the one factor capable of conquering human fear, and thus, all that remains for us is to repeat the words of King Solomon, "The fear of the L-rd is the beginning of knowledge."

And if you ask me: From where does this fear of G-d come? Was it bequeathed to us from Heaven, or did it evolve in man as a result of some historical process?

I must confess that in my case this question does not exist; that is, for me, knowing there is no answer to it I am not actively searching for its source. Is it really important for us to know from where this religious feeling stems -- whether it was man himself who succeeded in overwhelming his natural physical instincts, or whether man was created with such sensitivities already implanted within his heart?

What is significant for me is that I feel a closeness to G-d in a most tangible manner. I sense its essence and domination over me. This feeling of closeness to G-d permeates all of my actions and has far reaching effects on my entire life.

(Editor's note: July 4th marked the 10th wedding anniversary of Anatoly and Avital Sharansky. She has not seen him since the day after their marriage when she was compelled to leave the USSR.)

## Arens Defends Navy Seizure Of Cypriot Car Ferry On High Seas

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The seizure by the Israel Navy of a Cypriot car ferry on the high seas and the detention of some passengers was defended by Defense Minister Moshe Arens before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Arens said the Panamanian-flag Allisur Bianco, enroute from Larnaca, Cyprus to Beirut was intercepted and escorted to Haifa on the basis of "intelligence information" to prevent terrorist attacks on Israeli targets.

Arens said there was a link between the seizure and Israel's sea-air bombardment of Aharib island off Tripoli the previous week. He briefed the committee on the four ferry passengers still being held. The ferry was allowed to proceed to Beirut with all but nine of its 63 passengers aboard. Five of the nine were released and went to Beirut by bus under

Red Cross auspices.

Navy Commander Zeev Almog said that terrorists are again preparing sea-borne raids on Israel and presently have more sophisticated equipment. He argued interception of a vessel on the high seas is allowable under international law on self-defense grounds.

Israeli officials have strongly denied media reports that one of the detainees is a notorious terrorist, Carlos, believed to have master-minded the massacre of the Israeli team at the Munich Olympics.



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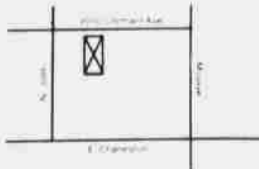
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