

Peres Meets With Soviet Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) — Premier Shimon Peres said after meeting with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze here that they had discussed "steps to arrive at full normalization" of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. He called their talk "an opening of the issues."

Peres said at a

briefing for reporters that he and the Foreign Minister had discussed three subjects: relations between their countries, Soviet Jewry and the chances of an international conference for Middle East peace. He said both had promised to "think about" what the other said and agreed to continue negotiations but

nothing definite was arranged.

Peres said he told Shevardnadze that "Jewish history will be richer if we find a solution to the problem of Soviet Jewry," and Communist history would not be the poorer for it.

Their meeting, in the South Lounge at UN headquarters, lasted an hour and twenty minutes. It had not been expected to run longer than a half hour. Present with Peres was his chief advisor, Nimrod Novick. Shevardnadze had only a translator with him. He spoke in Russian and Peres in English.

Peres said he found the Soviet diplomat to be "open, a thinking man, not dogmatic" and also humorous. Their discussions, he said, "symbolized the search for steps toward normalization (of relations) between Israel and the Soviet Union." However, he stressed, all the problems between the two countries cannot be resolved in the course of 80 minutes. "But we did begin a dialogue," he said.

Peres characterized the talk as informal and said the fact it was held meant an opening up of relations. Israel has had no diplomatic ties with the USSR since Moscow broke relations during the 1967 Six-Day War. Peres met

briefly with Shevardnadze at a diplomatic reception at the UN last year. In 1984, Israel Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir met at the UN with then Soviet Foreign Minister Adrei

Gromyko.

The Peres-Shevardnadze meeting was not on the agenda of Peres' current visit to the U.S. and caused him to postpone his return to Israel by one day. Ac-

ording to some sources here, it was arranged by the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Meir Rosenne.

Shevardnadze, who left the meeting separately, was quoted as saying his talk with Peres was "very serious" and included such matters as bilateral relations, questions related to the Middle East and some of the problems involved in an international conference on the Middle East.

Big Riviera Slot Winner



Paul T. Young, 53, of Pasadena, California, is all smiles after capturing the first place prize -- and \$50,000 -- in the Riviera Hotel and Casino's \$200,000 Pull for the Gold Slot Tournament, concluded recently. Presenting him with his money and award are (left) Riviera Slot Manager Hobert Fischer and Assistant Casino Manager Mickey Falba. Young, competing in his second slot tournament at the Riviera, said he's going to use his winnings to "buy a better brand of Scotch." He is a retired public relations executive for the Sante Fe Railroad. Young beat out 330 other tournament contestants for the top prize. The next Pull for the Gold Slot Tournament will be held at the Riviera on January 16-18, 1987. Information about the upcoming tournament can be obtained by calling 800-437-7951 or (702) 734-5110.

Dutch Royalty To Visit Israel

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Former Queen Juliana of The Netherlands will pay her first visit to Israel next month as the guest of the Jewish National Fund, accompanied by her husband, Prince Bernhard. They will arrive on October 14 for a week's stay, it was announced by the JNF.

Juliana will inaugurate a forest in Galilee in the name of her daughter, Queen Beatrix, the present sovereign, and will visit a forest planted years ago in her own name. She is also scheduled to dedicate a grove of trees at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in the names of two "righteous gentiles," residents of a Dutch village who saved local Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

Juliana will plant a tree herself at Moshav Kadesh Barnes in the Negev, which has been adopted by the Dutch as their own special project. Although officials here emphasize that the visit by the royal couple will be a private one, they are scheduled to meet with President Chaim Herzog, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem.

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