

Established in 1965 by Jack Tell

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

The Only English-Jewish Newspaper in Nevada
P.O. Box 14096 Las Vegas, Nevada 89114
Published Bi-Weekly in Las Vegas, Nevada
Per year \$12 — 2 years \$20
PHONE 702/876-1255

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Member of World-Union Press
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Now in the 23rd Year of Continuous Publication
Serving the Jewish Community of Nevada

Soviet Jewry's Cause Requires Jewish Unity

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

It was a confused and confusing week for the vital cause of the human rights of Soviet Jews.

It began with an announcement by two prominent Jewish leaders -- Morris Abram and Edgar Bronfman -- that they had just negotiated during a three-day visit to Moscow an arrangement for increased emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

They reported that unnamed Soviet officials promised that some 11,000 to 12,000 Soviet Jews with exit visas for Israel will be allowed to emigrate to the Jewish State via Rumania. Abram and Bronfman also disclosed that there would be an improvement in religious freedom for Soviet Jews.

Their dramatic announcement raised hopes everywhere in the Jewish world. Suddenly, within days, a Soviet spokesman denied that any such agreements had been concluded. The same thing happened with an Israeli announcement and an immediate Soviet denial that there would be an exchange of consular delegations shortly between Israel and the Soviet Union.

It is no secret that there are very sharp divisions within the Jewish community over the Abram-Bronfman mission, however well-intended. Despite Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's new glasnost (openness) policy, the Soviets are playing their characteristic manipulative games with human rights.

While the differences for the Soviet Jewry movement are real, it is urgent that Jewish unity be forged, for further disunity will only compromise the freedom of oppressed Soviet Jewry.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

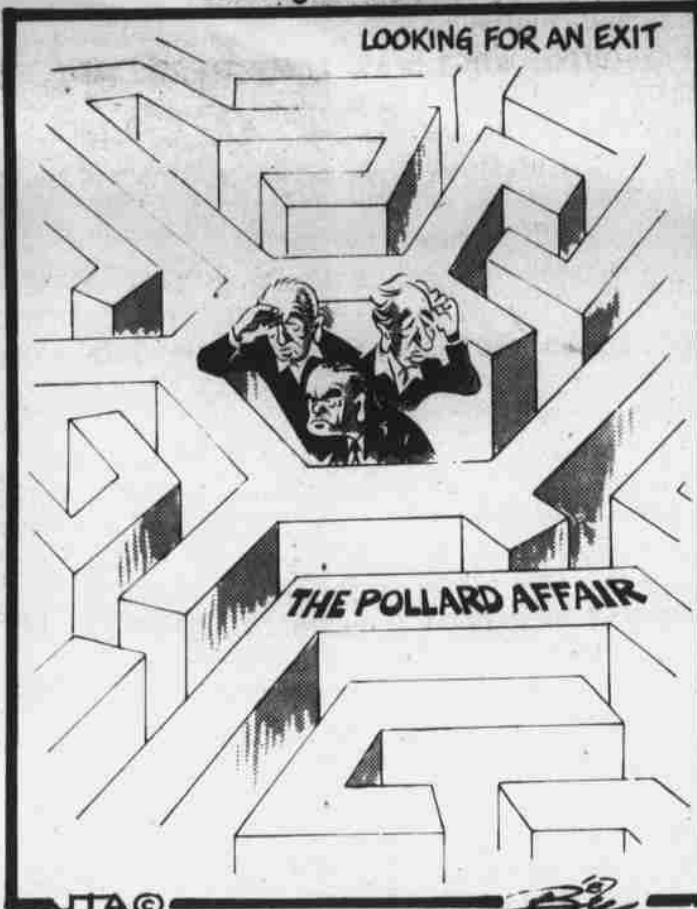
A World-Union Press Feature

Glasnost -- Has It A Meaning For Israel

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — "Glasnost" -- the Russian term for what may be interpreted as "open door" policy, in contrast to the pre-Gorbachev rigid and ever suspicious stance vis-a-vis outsiders, especially Westerners, beams a hopeful ray of light to the world.

Many Israelis as well as Jewry as a whole wonder what it may mean to them. They ask a number of questions, the first being whether it will lead to the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR.

Veterans Times correspondent Thomas L. Friedman reports from Jerusalem that "the Soviet Union may soon discover that it is much easier to break diplomatic relations with Israel --



as Moscow did in 1967 -- than it is to improve them..."

Explains Friedman: "The question of Soviet-Israeli relations is becoming a potentially explosive domestic issue in Israel -- potent enough that any Israeli Government seeking to resume diplomatic ties with Moscow will find itself confronted with a variety of internal political obstacles that could stall, if not block, the budding Soviet-Israeli detente.

"On a popular level," continues Friedman, "a highly active Soviet-Jewish lobby in Israel is increasing pressure on the Government not to restore any contact with Moscow until the Russians allow free Jewish emigration...On a political level, although both the Labor and Likud coalition partners favor resuming relations, they disagree on the terms..."

The release of an additional number of Jewish dissidents who had applied for visas to Israel, on the strength of wishing to rejoin relatives, might well be a sign of the reality of "Glasnost." But Chairman Gorbachev and the Kremlin still have much to do to be accepted in Israel as normal, decent and honest leaders of a civilized nation.

What they must do to that end? The answer is:

1. Stop violating the UN Declaration and allow Jews to emigrate freely.
2. Stop violating the Human Rights Convention on the issue involving the Freedom of Religion and allow the Jewish people in the USSR to worship freely in the language of their choice.
3. They must stop their annual unholy warfare in the General Assembly Credentials Committee calling for the ouster of Israel, linking up with such unsavory allies as Cuba, Libya, etc.
4. They must withdraw their support from the

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN
...Man of Many Talents.

One prostitute said to another, "Would you please lend me ten dollars until I get back on my back?"

terrorist and murderous PLO.

6. They must, in the company of the United States and of a growing number of other Member States -- who have actively embarked on a campaign to restore the good name of the UN -- support the repeal of the out-and-out anti-Semitic resolution of 10 November 1975 equating Zionism with racism.

6. They must reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel.

What are the chances for all or any of these calls to Gorbachev and the Kremlin being answered satisfactorily from the Jewish point of view?

With regard to the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR, the matter has become entangled in the internal struggle between Shamir and Peres on the question of an international peace conference. Until that is resolved no progress seems likely.

On the treatment of their Jewish population including the issue of emigration -- there are some signs of improvement. In the other areas much more depends on the relations between the two super-powers, the U.S. and the USSR, than on any other factor.

Let us remember that in the words of Isaiah "Jacob shall take root and Israel shall blossom and bud, and the face of the world shall be filled with fruitage;" with the break of spring, the redemptive Passover season, there is hope of renewal in the relations between individual human beings which may extend to the relations between nations as well.

And let us not forget: Isaiah has set the pattern for world peace!

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Two Arabs were wounded in East Jerusalem and an Israeli was injured in Hebron as demonstrations in support of several thousand hunger-striking Arab security prisoners erupted into violence recently. Thirteen arrests were reported as police used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators.

The hunger strike was called in the prisons to protest an alleged deterioration of conditions since a new prisons commissioner, David Maimon, took office. Arab sources said the strike was spreading. Israeli sources said it was sporadic. Maimon declared he would not give in to prisoners' demands.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

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