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**Natan Sharansky:
The Next Chapter Begins**

Natan Sharansky as he tours the Wiesenthal Center's Holocaust museum, accompanied by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley (at far right) and Center staff members Rabbi Meyer May (second from left), Rabbi Marvin Hier (on Sharansky's right) and Dr. Gerald Margolis (on Sharansky's left).

Less than a year after his release from a decade in the Soviet Gulag, Natan Sharansky delivered a powerful message combining concern, commitment and activism to the Wiesenthal Center's National Tribute Dinner.

The 1987 Wiesenthal Center Humanitarian Laureate admonished the 2,000 communal leaders who gathered at the Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel not to be misled "by the liberal public relations message [currently being] projected by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev." In underscoring the continuing plight of the 400,000 Jews seeking to emigrate from the USSR, the 38 year old Jerusalem resident reminded the audience that only 914 were able to leave in 1986. "The danger is that the West mistakes every

step Gorbachev takes for a real fundamental change," he said, adding, "It looks like the West wants to be deceived rather than to analyze what is really happening, looking at the bottom line, and seeing that on the question of human rights, not only is there no progress, but serious regression."

After touring the Center's Holocaust Museum the following day, Mr. Sharansky warned the Western media not to allow itself to be used by the Kremlin in its carefully orchestrated "public relations campaign to create the illusion of new liberal policies. Change for the better will come only if the West will be very firm, very realistic."
(See also page 9.)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: Center Identifies 74 Nazi War Criminals in U.S. • Prime Minister Shamir at the Center • World News Monitor • Ex-Nazi Denied Chairmanship of U.N. Human Rights Commission • Regional Reports • HBO Produces Wiesenthal Film • Beit HaShoah Groundbreaking in L.A.

trial in Phoenix on charges of conspiracy to commit armed robbery in order to finance a survivalist training center. Phil McComas, an undercover FBI agent who had infiltrated the group, discovered that they had also planned to bomb a Phoenix synagogue and local IRS office as part of a larger plot to ultimately overthrow the U.S. government. Federal authorities have also revealed that the Arizona Patriots had planned to blow up the Los Angeles headquarters of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

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"Prisons are full of racist groups. . . in such a climate, a persuasive leader can attract violent men who feel that society has done them an injustice." Professor Eckard Toy feels that the long prison terms handed out to members of white supremacist groups could actually result in the recruitment of even more dangerous people as future members. Toy's concern is compounded by the fact that the old guard leadership, which had generally contented itself with rhetorical racism, will soon be replaced by more militant radicals. Reports filtering down from the Pacific Northwest indicate that plots against the life of Aryan Nations founder, Richard Butler, have been discussed by disgruntled members of a splinter group.

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Ruling that a libel suit filed by the **Liberty Lobby** and its founder, **Willis Carto**, was "entirely lacking in merit", U.S. District Judge Robert Ward threw out a libel action against William F. Buckley who once contended that the *"Spotlight's distinctive feature is racial and religious bigotry"*. Ward, in ruling that Buckley's statement was protected by the Constitution and that Carto had lost similar cases before, also ordered the Liberty Lobby to pay Buckley's legal costs.

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A civic award named for **Raoul Wallenberg** was presented at New York's City Hall last January to the **Kootenai County community of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**. Invited to accept the award on behalf of their city were Rev. Bill Wassmuth, founder of a local taskforce designed to combat neo-Nazi propaganda (the Aryan Nations maintains its headquarters in nearby Hayden Lake), Undersheriff Larry Broadbent, and Mayor Ray Stone. Mr. Stone was a liberator of the Woebbelin concentration camp. . . . In a related development, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has responded to Mayor Stone's request to assist him in efforts to combat the racists in his area.

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Four men described as members of the **National Socialist American Workers Party** have filed suit against Torrance, California restaurateur, **Hans Rotter**, for summoning the sheriff after they refused his requests to remove Nazi paraphernalia they were wearing. Joseph Fields, Hal Follin, Stanley Witek, and Gene Loven had reportedly caused a disturbance a week earlier by rising to give the Nazi salute and by allegedly flooding the restrooms with racist stickers. Rotter's attorney Gerald King, in representing the German-born non-Jew, maintains that a proprietor has the right to protect his business. Championing the cause of the four plaintiffs is the American Civil Liberties Union. Trial is pending.

Complaints filed by Holocaust revisionist, David McCalden against the Simon Wiesenthal Center have been dismissed by a U.S. District Court in California. In an opinion filed last February, Judge Consuelo B. Marshall found allegations stemming from the cancellation of the "Truth Missions" proposed display and panel discussion at the California Library Association Convention in 1984, lacking in merit. One complaint, however, involving "Deprivation of Rights," was so vaguely worded, that Judge Marshall gave the plaintiff an additional 20 days to clarify his claim. At the same time, the court issued a stern warning to McCalden that he would be subject to sanctions should it find the amended complaints frivolous. Successfully arguing the Center's motion for dismissal were attorneys Steven Zipperstein and Jeffrey Mausner.

News from Overseas

"We are going to kill you because you are a Jew. You have ten more days to exist." Award-winning author, **Isidor Blaisten**, was forced to leave his home in Argentina after receiving continuous threats on his life from a group calling itself the **Argentine Nazi Force**. Blaisten, whose brother Enrique was murdered by right wing extremists some 40 years earlier, arrived in Israel in late November. Argentine authorities continue their investigation.

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Four men between the ages of 17 and 28 were convicted last December of setting fire to a centuries old synagogue in Buhusi, Rumania. Ringleader, Gheorghe Podoleanu, was handed a 7-year term, while the other perpetrators were given 4 and 5 year sentences. Jewish communal leaders have meanwhile voiced fears over the recent rash of antisemitic articles which have appeared in several widely-read publications. Although President Nicolai Ceausescu has repeatedly promised to quash antisemitism in Rumania, it is generally felt that the publication of such articles serves to set the stage for continued attacks on Rumania's 25,000 Jews.

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"This lie was invented by Jews and disseminated by Churchill." Invited to a documentary film symposium near Geneva, Switzerland, **Holocaust revisionist, Robert Faurisson**, was booed and heckled as he attempted to preach the now familiar canard that the Holocaust was a Zionist invention. Faurisson who had earlier been fired from his teaching post at the University of Lyons II and was convicted in France for defamation, has served on the advisory committee of the California-based Institute for Historical Review.

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"The real Holocaust, concentration camps, and war of massive Genocide. . . are not the ones that were fabricated, dramatized, orchestrated, and shown on T.V. . . they are not real and have nothing to do with Germany." Calling for the "abolishment" of the state of Israel, a pamphlet published by the Islamic Center of East Lansing, Michigan, has added itself to the growing number of "anti-Zionist" pieces centering on the denial or trivialization of the Holocaust. The recent upsurge of Holocaust revisionist material in the Islamic world bears resemblance to various revisionist attempts made by antisemitic organizations in the United States and Europe.