

Annual Report  
United Israel Appeal of Canada  
August, 1991

# UIA

## AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

**W**e live in extraordinary times. In a period of 18 months since the beginning of 1990, more than 300,000 Jews have come to Israel to begin a new life. We witnessed the miracle of massive Soviet immigration after seven decades of suppression. We marvelled at the rescue of Ethiopian Jews, so magnificently carried out in 36 hours. We were filled with anxiety when Scud missiles were launched toward Tel Aviv.

Canadian Jewry, through the United Israel Appeal of Canada, was among the first to respond. The federations and campaigns mounted an extraordinary effort to mobilize our communities. People became aware of history unfolding in front of their eyes.

Today, we can justly be proud of what we have achieved. Our campaigns have raised \$102 million for "Operation Exodus." In addition, \$86 million was raised for the Regular Campaign, which has a major Israel-directed component. These results show what a committed community can accomplish.

But the real test is now. Hundreds of thousands have come to Israel. Now they must be integrated. Israel's very future depends on meeting the challenges of absorption. Housing, social services, language skills, cultural adjustment — the tasks are overwhelming. Above all, jobs are the crucial component in making absorption work.

I am confident that we in Canada will build on our extraordinary record so far, to do our utmost in the coming year, in the spirit of love for Israel which we all share.

*Julia Koschitzky*  
Julia Koschitzky  
President



## 18 Months of Exodus: 271,470 Soviet Olim

At the end of 1989, the message went out from Jerusalem: a massive number of immigrants from the Soviet Union is expected to come to Israel. At that point, the forecast was for 100,000 in three years. What happened, in fact, was that 184,803 arrived in 1990, and 86,667 arrived in the first half of 1991, bringing the total to 271,470 in an 18-month period.

The dream became a reality. After decades of suppression of Jewish identity and anti-Israel propaganda in the Soviet Union, Jews from all over that vast country have decided to begin a new life in the Jewish State. "Operation Exodus" was underway, making the past year one of the most dramatic and exciting in modern Jewish history. In December 1990, a peak number of 35,000 landed at Ben Gurion Airport.

As of July 1, 1991, the Soviet authorities put a new policy in place, requiring every person leaving the country to have a passport. As this is a time-consuming process, the short-range effect was a drop to a daily average of 330 in July. The long-range effect remains to be seen. The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), responsible for immigration, is confident that 1991 will end with more than 170,000 new arrivals, bringing the two-year total to more than 350,000.

## Throughout the Gulf War, Olim Kept Coming

As Iraqi Scud missiles landed in Israel during the Gulf War, so did Soviet olim. Throughout the war, there was not a single day in which olim did not arrive. The story was told of a plane on its way from Budapest to Tel Aviv. During the flight, the pilot was informed of a Scud attack. He returned to Budapest. Those who want to get off, he told the passengers, could do so. None did. He took off again, and a few hours later, they were issued their immigrant papers at Ben Gurion Airport.



But they were also issued gas masks and shown how to use them. This is reality in the struggle for survival. They accepted it, and sent out a clear message: "Saddam will not scare us."

## Cash Drive Prompted by Missile Attacks

An emergency cash drive for the Regular and Exodus Campaigns was the response of the Canadian Jewish community through UJA/CJA/UIA to the Persian Gulf War and the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel.

"This is an emergency to which we must respond," said Julia Koschitzky, UIA President. "Our identification and solidarity with Israel in this hour of need must be expressed in terms of concrete support." Announcements of the special cash drive were made at community mass rallies held in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Winnipeg and other cities, attended by thousands of people.

Emergency mailings of pledge cards were done by the campaigns and Hotline numbers were provided for people to call in their contributions.

Mendel Kaplan, JAFI Board Chairman, gave an example at the recent Assembly: "The Board visited Kiryat Gat 8 months ago. There was one pre-fabricated house at the site. We just visited it again and saw more than 1,000 almost completed units".

## Transit Stations A Remarkable Success

"During all these months, there was not one occasion when an oleh who wanted to come did not have a place on a flight" — this is how Mendel Kaplan, Chairman of the JAFI Board of Governors, summed up the remarkable success of the transit stations established by the Jewish Agency in Budapest, Warsaw and Bucharest. In the absence of direct flights from the Soviet Union, JAFI quickly moved to set up facilities to accommodate the immigrants for



periods of up to 24 hours in safety and comfort, and send them off again to their real destination.

The operation has proceeded without a hitch. A handful of highly resourceful JAFI emissaries, assisted by local personnel and working in cooperation with local authorities, devoted day and night to this high-pressure mission. Greeting the thousands of arrivals with "Shalom" at train stations, airports and even bus terminals, they gave Soviet Jews a feeling: "You are half-way home."

## JAFI Expanding in USSR, Eastern Europe



Among the dramatic developments in the past year is the expansion of Jewish Agency activities in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. What was unthinkable a few years ago is today an accepted reality: JAFI has officially recognized representatives and offices functioning in Moscow, Kishinev, Baku, Vilnius, Tbilisi, Kiev, Minsk and Odessa. Leningrad was scheduled to open. A representative is working in Tashkent.

Using Israeli emissaries (Schlichim), JAFI has initiated programs in the Soviet Union to teach Hebrew, Jewish tradition, knowledge of Israel, communal organization and preparation for Aliyah. Prior to being sent to the Soviet Union, these emissaries go through training courses. As effective as their activities are, so great is the need for their instruction and guidance, after decades of Jewish denial.

For example, here are just the main activities in the USSR reported for June 1991:

- Orientation seminars for engineers in Vilnius, Kiev, Minsk.
- One-week seminar for local youth counsellors and summer camp instructors (100 participants) in Moscow.
- Three-week seminar for local Hebrew teachers in Leningrad (400 participants)

In Eastern Europe, as well, there is an awakening of Jewish and Israel-oriented activity, especially in Hungary which has more than 80,000 Jews. The emphasis is on education and reaching the young generation. By the end of summer 1991, more than 1,200

participants in programs in Israel will have returned home to share their experiences, helping to place Israel at the centre of a now revitalized Jewish community.

Photo: Young Jew playing the recorder at Holocaust observances in Budapest.

## Housing Problem Being Solved

The housing problem, which appeared to reach a crisis less than a year ago, is well on the way to solution. There was a late start in the effort to build new housing on a large scale, but in recent months there has been remarkable progress in construction. New housing starts will at least double over the previous year, to more than 80,000. This despite the fact that the Gulf War caused a standstill earlier in the year.

Mobile-home sites are going up all over the country. In addition, a



substantial inventory of unoccupied existing apartments was put to use for rental to olim. Rundown apartments in publicly-owned projects were renovated. Also helpful was the fact that Russians were prepared to move two families into one apartment.

## Employment: Biggest Absorption Challenge

The main problem Israel is facing today regarding Soviet Aliyah is providing employment. For a small country, with limited infrastructure and resources, it is an unprecedented economic challenge. Reports going back to the Soviet Union about hardships in

finding jobs can cause, more than anything else, a decline in the number of arrivals. There is concern in Israel about rising unemployment among the Russians.

There are a variety of programs for vocational and professional retraining. 1,200 were trained so far in order to pass Israel's medical tests. 140 nurses and 180 dentists went through courses, as did 550 teachers, half of whom were scientists trained to teach in schools with increased student populations.

Since the beginning of the year, about 700 immigrant scientists found research and development posts in



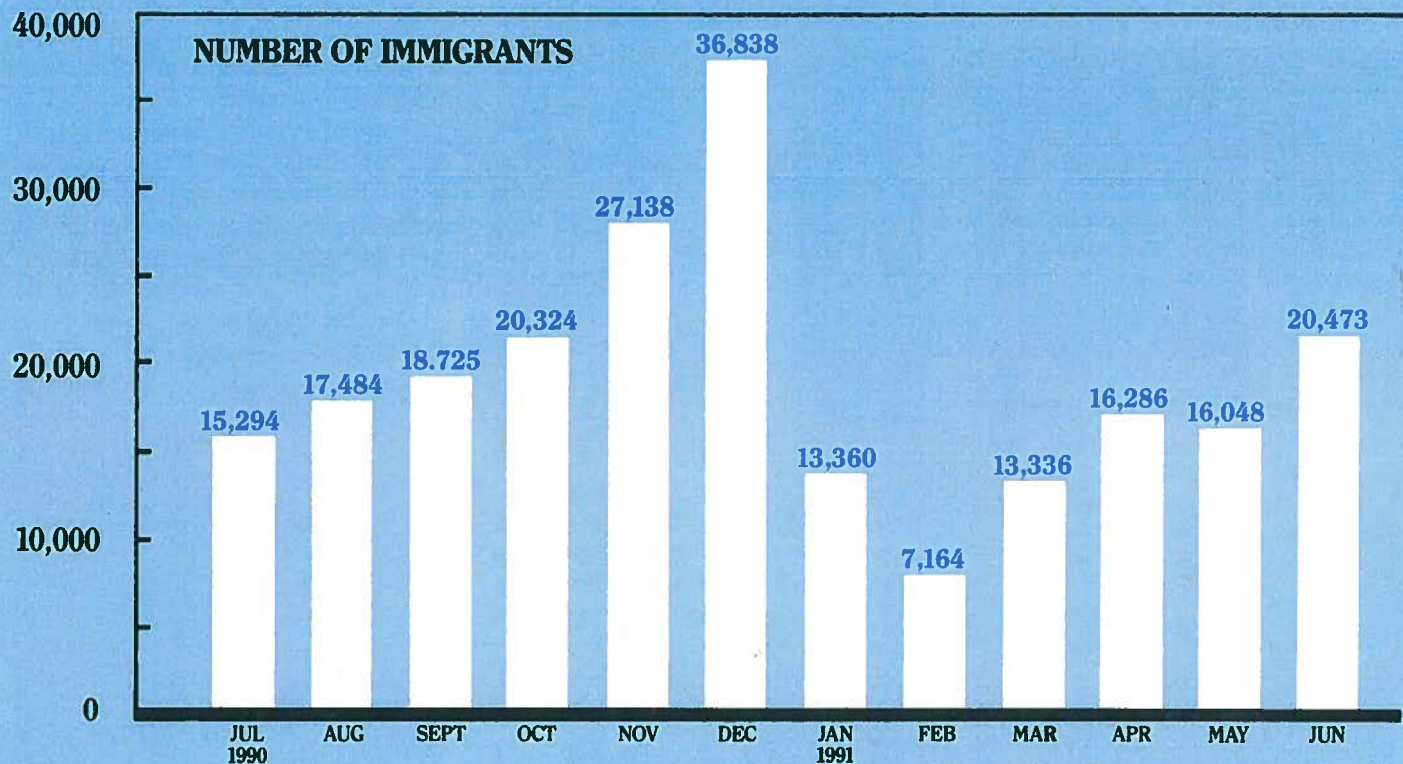
universities, industries and hospitals. Special "incubator" programs help scientists and people with market enterprise to develop new products. The Israel Industrialists Association reported that from January 1990 to May 1991, industry has absorbed 31,000 immigrants — 24% in metals and machinery, 19% in the food industry, and others in textile, electronics, etc.

But much more needs to be done in order to reap the tremendous economic benefit which this highly-qualified Aliyah can bring to the country. This is why "Project Opportunity" was established, to encourage investment in the Israeli economy. Jewish business people are being asked to help expand the economic infrastructure and create new jobs.

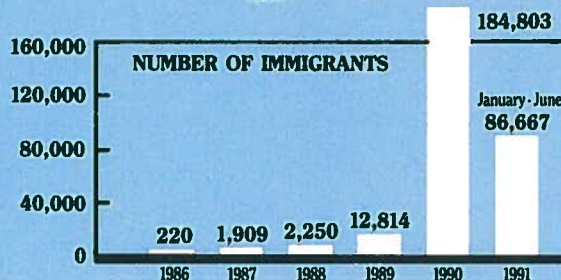
In the long run, said Mendel Kaplan, himself an industrialist, "We have an opportunity of taking Israel from second class economic status to a position providing a marvelous economic and social environment". Photo: Soviet olim being trained as insurance agents.

# MONTHLY SOVIET IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

July 1990 - June 1991



Annual Soviet Immigration to Israel



## Vocational Distribution

54% of the Soviet Aliyah (almost 150,000) have joined Israel's employable population to become part of the labour force\*. Among them:

Engineers	36,070
Doctors and Dentists	8,222
Nurses and para-meds	6,651
Writers, Artists & Musicians	7,185
Senior Technicians & Technicians	18,305
Industry & Construction Workers	23,987
Professionals in Humanities & Social Sciences	6,448

\*Arrived January 1990 - June 1991

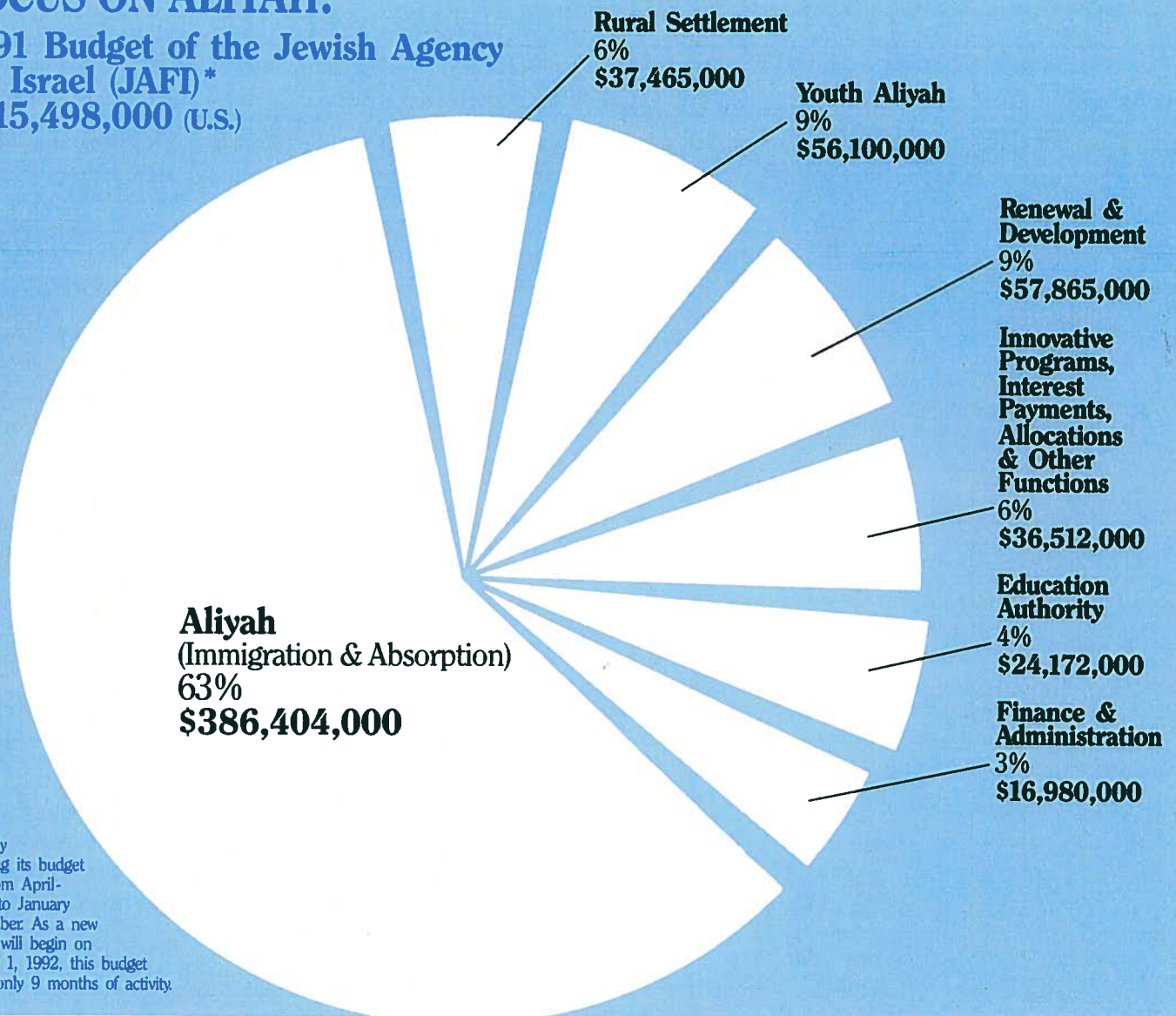
## Geographic Distribution

Following are some of the cities in Israel in which Soviet Jews have settled:

City	Soviet Olim	Total Local Population	% of Soviet Olim
Ashdod	8,972	76,000	11.7
Be'er Sheva	13,713	113,800	12.0
Carmiel	4,451	21,000	21.2
Holon	10,942	148,400	7.3
Haifa	35,700	223,600	15.9
Jerusalem	19,989	361,500	5.5
Netanya	16,908	120,300	14.0
Safed	3,008	16,600	18.1
Tel Aviv	29,971	310,200	9.6
Upper Nazareth	5,056	21,800	23.2

## FOCUS ON ALIYAH:

1991 Budget of the Jewish Agency  
for Israel (JAFI)\*  
\$615,498,000 (U.S.)



\* Note  
JAFI is currently changing its budget year from April-March to January-December. As a new budget will begin on January 1, 1992, this budget covers only 9 months of activity.

For the first time, Israel is spending more on Aliyah than on defence.

Three years ago, JAFI's Aliyah Budget was only 18% of the total. Massive immigration has brought the proportion to 63%!

The Aliyah Budget of \$386,404,000 includes an Operation Exodus Budget of \$208,304,000. It covers those programs which are exclusively for Soviet immigrants. Chief among them (58%) is the "Ticket Home": transportation of people and belongings, operation of transit stations in Eastern Europe, and assistance in the first phase of absorption.

Other JAFI departments also have programs to assist the absorption process: Youth Aliyah, Rural Settlement, Renewal and Development. These programs make the Aliyah-directed percentage even higher.

The absorption of olim from Ethiopia, including comprehensive social services, absorption centres, etc. is the responsibility of the Jewish Agency and will account for more than 40% of the regular Aliyah budget.

## It Costs...

- \$ 3,000 to send an Aliyah emissary to the USSR for 6 weeks.
- \$ 2,000 to re-train a Soviet scientist, mathematician or musician to become teachers in their fields.
- \$10,000 to support a Soviet researcher in a "start-up" program to develop a new product.
- \$ 3,500 to maintain an Ethiopian immigrant in an absorption centre for a year.
- \$ 2,700 to renovate a small apartment in a development town.
- \$ 4,700 to pay for one person from a country of distress, in a home for the elderly (one year).

**UJA/CJA/UIA DOLLARS  
FINANCE THE JAFI BUDGET**

## Federations Support Loan Guarantee

Responding to absorption needs, Jewish Federations in Canada, in association with the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) of North America, have endorsed the CJF Loan Guarantee Program, designed to assist Soviet immigrants in Israel.

The program is an innovative approach by CJF, by which it guarantees to Israeli commercial banks special loans made to Soviet olim. The total loan program in the amount of \$900 million will cover the Jewish Agency portion of the Agency/Government funding of basic living expenses for Soviet olim in their first year in the country. The program also allows for a Loan Reserve Fund to deal with defaultations on repayment.

Intensive consultations took place with all Federations in the U.S. and Canada, who subsequently agreed to indemnify the Council of Jewish Federations on a fair-share formula



basis for the full cost of the program.

Photo: Irena Yampolsky, a recent immigrant, works at Bank Hapoalim in a new program aimed at hiring Soviet olim. Irena is shown welcoming a couple who are depositing their first assistance cheque.

Simcha Dinitz told the JAFI Assembly about the price, in the millions, which Israel paid the Ethiopian authorities to get the green light. Dinitz flew to the U.S. to talk with some key people. "Don't worry," he was told, "the money will be available. Go ahead with the rescue".

## Coordinated Effort Key to Ethiopian Rescue



It took less than 36 hours in May to airlift 14,200 Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa to Israel. The dramatic rescue became known as "Operation Solomon". Once again a message was sent out to the world, as Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz put it: "No Jewish community, no Jew anywhere in the world, will be forgotten by the State of Israel".

The key to the flawless operation was the coordinated effort of a number of organizations. Under harsh and unpredictable conditions, the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), both supported directly by UJA/CJA/UIA dollars, worked intensively to help the 20,000 Ethiopian Jews congregating at the Israeli Embassy compound in Addis Ababa. There was a severe lack of basic housing and facilities. The strain was causing a deterioration of social and psychological conditions. JAFI and JDC stepped in to provide medical help and educational activity. For a while, in fact, the biggest Jewish day school in the world was being operated there to teach Hebrew.

The Israeli Air Force and a senior Israeli general undertook responsibility for the rescue. In Israel, thoroughly laid-out plans by JAFI's Aliyah Department were activated Ethiopians who came years before, and were now integrated, were recruited to help with the thousands of newcomers to the Promised Land.

Buses, absorption centres, hotels taken over for absorption purposes,

augmented staffs, everything was in place when the first planes landed. One El Al jumbo carried 1,087 passengers, an all-time record.

## JAFI Responsible for Ethiopian Absorption



Responsibility for first-year absorption of more than 17,000 Ethiopian immigrants who came to Israel in recent months has been placed with the Jewish Agency for Israel.

According to Arnon Mantver, Director-General of the Aliyah Department, immigrants who arrived during Operation Solomon have completed registration procedures and a battery of medical tests, and are starting ulpan classes. Mantver said that the operation cost JAFI \$150 million. This includes transporting the immigrants and supporting them during their first year in Israel. The 3,000 Ethiopians who arrived in the three months prior to the operation are included in this figure.

Historical circumstances have determined the predominance of women. Earlier immigrations, the civil war, disease and other factors have all contributed to the imbalance. These factors have also led to a large number of single parent families, as 680 of the total of 3,100 families are headed by only one parent, in most cases the mother. As there are also 1,100 singles, over half of the Operation Solomon olim therefore are not part of a family unit, nor do they have relatives in Israel.

## Greater Involvement in JAFI

In the past two years, the key role of the Jewish Agency in the vitally important area of Aliyah has substantially boosted its image, both in Israel and among Diaspora Jewish communities. Its success "on the ground" in responding to the many tasks of immigration has proven JAFI's flexibility and resourcefulness. At the same time, its active framework of interaction with Diaspora communities was vital for launching the special "Operation Exodus" campaign. This gave the communities a concrete means to participate.

That framework is provided by JAFI's Board of Governors, with its committees and sub-committees, meeting three times a year, and the Annual Assembly meeting in June, all in Jerusalem (June is both for the Assembly and the Board). These forums have become increasingly important for joint Israeli-Diaspora decision-making and networking, on issues which are important and urgent.



The Jewish Agency for Israel  
הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Canadian Jewish community is represented by delegates of the United Israel Appeal of Canada. Members of the Board of Governors are Phil Granovsky, who chairs JAFI's World Income Committee, Julia Koschitzky, and Sol Lederman.

In addition, UIA delegates to the June 1991 Assembly were: Neri Bloomfield, Donald Carr, Henry Koschitzky, Lester Lazarus, Allan Offman, Jack Rose, and Schuyler Sigel. Alternate delegates were: Joe Ain, Steve Ain, John Fishel, Yoine

Goldstein, Walter Hess, Joan Lazarus, Gerry Sheff, Lou Sklar, Doris Weiser and Harvey and Roslyn Wolfe.

Among recent JAFI decisions was the establishment of a Jewish-Zionist Education Authority, which brings together a number of units dealing with education in the Diaspora. On behalf of UIA, Henry Koschitzky chairs a Canadian advisory council.

Overall, greater involvement by community and campaign leadership in JAFI is an objective of the UIA of Canada. It is crucial for building in-depth knowledge and commitment.



Julia Koschitzky, President of the United Israel Appeal of Canada (right) is seen with Shirley Granovsky during a special "Operation Exodus" flight from Budapest to Tel Aviv, named in honour of Phil and Shirley Granovsky. The plane carried 320 Soviet olim as well as 130 participants in the Keren Hayesod annual conference. Granovsky is Board Chairman of Keren Hayesod. At the Centre is 11-year-old Louisa Orgova of Tajikistan.

## 1,214 Visit Israel On Missions

In the context of campaign, missions to Israel are the most effective tool. From April to May 1991, a total of 1,214 participants visited Israel on 30 missions assisted by the UIA of Canada office in Jerusalem, directed by Dr. Amnon Shinar. The type of mission

covers a broad range: Prime Minister's (senior leadership and contributors), community leadership, community solidarity, division and/or profession, youth exchange, March of the Living, etc.

In the past year, many campaign missions have arranged visits to Eastern Europe prior to coming to Israel. In Budapest, Warsaw and Bucharest, participants can witness the



transit operation for the Soviet immigrants on their way to Israel. This became an exciting element in the program, in addition to the Jewish past and the Jewish presence in these cities.

The UIA Jerusalem office is providing both programming and logistics expertise to all Canadian UIA/UJA/CJA missions. Dr. Allen Pollack's unique experience in mission planning, for Israel as well as Eastern Europe, assures a proper balance and maximum effectiveness.

In recent months, the UIA has drawn on the Melitz Institute in Jerusalem to provide scholars-in-residence for Canadian missions.

Programming in Israel focuses on themes relevant for the campaign, and it is changing to reflect new developments, such as Ethiopian absorption following "Operation Solomon". Specific communities visit their twinned Project Renewal neighbourhoods, and all missions meet with Israeli leaders and experts whom regular tourists never get a chance to meet.

The impact of missions translates into enthusiasm for the campaign. It invariably leads to higher financial commitments by participants.

Photo: Vancouver's Leadership Mission participants greet Soviet Olim at the airport.

## National Networking At Women's Institute



Focusing on Soviet Aliyah, the 1991 Leadership Institute of the UIA National Women's Division was held in Vancouver at the end of January, with more than 80 participants from across Canada.

The Institute was chaired by Sheila Engel, National Women's Division Chairman. Delegations came from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, and Ontario Region communities. A large delegation attended from the host community, Vancouver.

The Institute took place during the Gulf War, and a dramatic moment occurred when Dr. Allen Pollack of the UIA Jerusalem office, who came to Vancouver for the Institute, pulled out a gas mask and demonstrated its use. Nothing could have brought home the message more effectively.

The program was a successful mix of presentations, group exercises and social events. The session on the Mid-East situation was followed by an in-

depth presentation on the challenges Israel is facing with the massive Aliyah.

Of particular interest was a "tachles" workshop run by Lisa Morrison, Director of Women's Campaign of Toronto UJA. Professor Irving Abella, noted historian, spoke on issues facing Canadian Jewry today.

In summing up this event, Sheila Engel stated: "Our annual Institute is firmly established as the main occasion for women leaders in Canada to get together, learn from each other and foster a sense of belonging, around the theme of campaigning for Israel."

Photo: Sheila Engel (right) presents an award to Carol Oreck, Chairman of the Host Committee. With them is Walter Hess, UIA Executive Vice-President.

## Campus Campaign Finances Freedom Flight

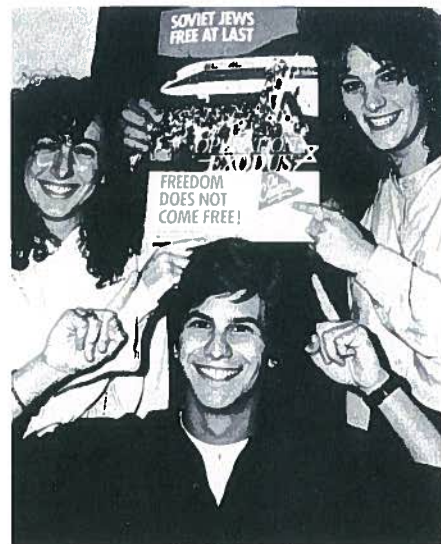
"Operation Exodus on Campus" was initiated and organized by UIA to reach Jewish university students across Canada with the Exodus message, and raise funds for a Freedom Flight of Soviet olim to Israel. An intense program of promotional, educational and fund-raising activities was

**Julia Koschitzky**  
President

**Charles R. Bronfman**  
Honorary President

**Philip Granovsky**  
Chairman of the Board

**Walter D. Hess**  
Executive Vice-President



undertaken. The target was surpassed. In Israel recently, a delegation of Canadian students greeted the flight which they helped to sponsor. Student leader Shawn Kendal was Chairman of the campus campaign. He is seen with two of his colleagues, Tannis Weinstein (right) and Michelle Shulman.

*Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, addressing the Keren Hayesod World Conference:*

"The media are speculating about our ability to meet the challenge; about the readiness of world Jewry to support Israel in her super-human efforts to absorb a million olim. The most effective answer would be a substantial increase in your contributions at this particular time. That would send a clear signal around the world that the Jewish people are united in its support for Israel at one of the most critical points in our history."

This Annual Report was produced by Reuven Rosenfelder

United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc.

המגבית המאוחדת לישראל בקנדה אינק

**UIA**

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