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: Remains of Herzls grandparents to arrive in Jlem in days for reburial

Remains of Herzl's grandparents to arrive in J'lem in days for reburial

• By ALEX CARSON

The remains of Shimon and Rivka Herzl, the grandparents of Theodor Herzl – the founder of modern political Zionism will arrive from Belgrade, Serbia, to be reinterred in Jerusalem beside their grandson on Mount Herzl in the coming days.

A high-level state funeral and burial ceremony is scheduled to

take place on August 5, coinciding with the 77th anniversary of Herzl's own reburial in 1949, when his remains were exhumed in Vienna and brought to Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog have both confirmed that they will attend the ceremony.

The initiative was led by World Zionist Organization Chairman

Yaakov Hagoel, in coordination with the Serbian authorities and the local Jewish community.

Hagoel secured the repatriation aided by an exhumation agreement with the president of Republika Srpska, Zeljka Cvijanović, during her visit to Mount Herzl on a WZO-organized trip to Israel in 2021.

Although the diplomatic arrange-

ment was made years ago, the transfer faced multiple delays over the subsequent four years due to regional security challenges and logistical hurdles.

Herzl's father, Shimon Loeb Herzl, was an Orthodox Jew who served in honorary leadership roles in the Zemun community in Serbia.

Influenced by his close ties to the town's spiritual leader and early

Zionist forerunner Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai, Shimon became an enthusiastic advocate for establishing a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. He and his wife, Rivka, helped inspire, guide, and influence their son's Zionist thinking and were instrumental in creating the movement that he later founded.

With the exception of Herzl's third daughter, Trude, who perished

during the Holocaust in Theresienstadt and whose exact final resting place remains unknown, the arrival and reburial of his grandparents will reunite the founder of Zionism with all his immediate family members.

These are his parents, his sister Pauline, two of his children (Pauline and Hans), and his only grandson, Stephen Theodor Norman, who rest together on the mount.