

**JEWISH OFFICIAL WENT TO AMMAN,
BUT SAYS IT WAS A PRIVATE VISIT**
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, denied news reports Thursday that on a visit to Amman, Jordan last week he delivered to Jordanian officials "a proposal" from Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

In a telephone interview, Hoenlein said that he went on a private visit to Amman on Jan. 11, at the invitation of Roscoe Suddarth, the American ambassador to Jordan.

"It was a private trip," he said. "I did not carry with me any proposals from Shamir."

But Hoenlein did say that he met with the prime minister prior to his Amman visit and that during the 18 hours he spent in Amman, he met with top Jordanian officials, including Minister of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh.

The Israeli afternoon daily Maariv reported Thursday that Hoenlein conveyed a verbal message to the Jordanians and told them that American Jewry will stand behind Jordan and assist it in mustering American support for its requests if Amman softens its stands on the peace process and agrees to conduct direct negotiations with Israel.

"This is not correct," Hoenlein said. "Because I went on a private visit, I did not represent American Jewry."

Denies White House Link

Hoenlein also disputed Maariv's report that he was accompanied to Amman by Max Green, President Reagan's adviser for Jewish affairs. He said Green's visit was not connected to his.

Hoenlein said that upon his return to Israel from Jordan, he met with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres; Yosef Ben Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office; and other Israeli officials, and briefed them about his meeting in the Jordanian capital.

In Jerusalem, Ben-Aharon said Wednesday night that Hoenlein did not travel to Jordan as an envoy of Israel.

Hoenlein said that he went to Israel two weeks ago to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Presidents Conference in Jerusalem at the end of February.

Hoenlein's visit was the first of two missions to Amman made by American Jewish figures this month.

A delegation of the American Jewish Congress met with Jordanian leaders in Amman on Wednesday and Thursday, as part of a mission aimed at promoting peace in the Middle East.

The group spent Monday and Tuesday meeting with Egyptian officials in Cairo, and was scheduled to arrive in Israel on Friday for meetings throughout the weekend with Israeli officials.

The delegation is headed by Theodore Mann, AJCongress national president, and Henry Siegman, the group's executive director.

A similar mission was organized in 1985 and included stops in Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

(Tel Aviv correspondent Hugh Orgel contributed to this report.)

**SOVIET URGES U.N. BODY TO PUSH
INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE**
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union proposed here Thursday that the U.N. Security Council meet at the foreign ministers level to discuss the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The proposal was made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The letter, dated Jan. 19, was circulated here Thursday.

A senior Israeli official said Thursday there was "nothing new" in the Soviet proposal, which Israel rejects as it has done in the past.

Shevardnadze suggested that the 15 members of the Security Council "proceed to consultations" on the Soviet proposal.

The Soviet official contended that there is growing support for an international conference as the only realistic way to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, in view of the "popular uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He urged that the Security Council "immediately be involved in the practical process of setting up and putting in motion the mechanism of the international conference on the Middle East, which should be designed to find, on the basis of multilateral efforts, a reasonable balance among the interests of all the parties and to ensure lasting peace and security in the region."

Shevardnadze proposed that initial consultations be held by the five permanent members of the council: the United States, Soviet Union, People's Republic of China, England and France. "Conclusions and recommendations arrived at during such meetings could be considered at a formal meeting of the council," he said.

The Soviet Union has been supporting the idea of an international conference on the Middle East for several years. Israel and the United States have opposed the idea.

But in the last year, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been calling for such a conference, providing that the Soviet Union re-establishes diplomatic ties with Israel, which Moscow severed in the course of the 1967 Six-Day War.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel opposes an international conference and the issue has become a major point of disagreement between Peres' Labor and Shamir's Likud blocs.

**SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS
REPORT ON PALESTINIAN UNREST**
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The Security Council will meet here Monday to discuss Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report on the unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The report, requested by the Security Council in its Dec. 22 resolution condemning Israel's for its handling of the riots in the territories, will be made public here Friday and will include the recommendations of Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding, who has just returned from a visit to Israel and the territories.

According to diplomats here, several Arab foreign ministers are planning to attend the Security Council meeting next week, at the conclusion of an Arab League meeting in Tunis this weekend. This will be the fifth Security Council meeting on the Mideast situation since mid-December and the fourth on the unrest in the territories.

According to sources here, Perez de Cuellar will suggest in his report that the Security Council undertake a new peace initiative to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The report also suggests, according to the sources, that the United Nations send observers to the territories, to oversee the treatment of the Palestinians by the Israeli government. Israel is opposed to the idea.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, rejected out of hand last Friday a proposal made by the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, Aleksander Belonogov, that the United Nations send observers to the territories.

"It is not acceptable to us. The U.N. does not intervene in internal security matters," Netanyahu said. "Would Great Britain agree that the U.N. would send troops to Northern Ireland to supervise the peace there?"

U.S. DEPLORES ISRAELI POLICY OF BEATING ARAB TROUBLEMAKERS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Charles Redman on Thursday deplored Israel's beatings of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We are disturbed by the adoption of a policy by the government of Israel that calls for beatings as a means to restore or maintain order," Redman said.

Redman apparently was referring to orders given this week to Israel Defense Force soldiers patrolling the West Bank to take the offensive against demonstrators and to beat them vigorously when they are caught.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters during a visit to Ramallah on Tuesday, "We will act with force, with strength, with blows to stop violent demonstrations."

Redman said the Reagan administration believes that Israel "can carry out its responsibility to maintain order in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through the use of human measures which do not result in additional civilian casualties."

"We also call on the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to preserve order and avoid acts of violence," he said.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DEMANDS HALT TO EXPULSIONS, REPRISALS

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, France, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The Parliament of Europe "demanded" Wednesday that Israel stop expelling Palestinian civilians and halt all reprisal action" in connection with disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The 520-member assembly, which is the legislative body of the 12-nation European Community, declared itself "shocked and alarmed by reprisal action carried out by the Israeli army." It warned that by maintaining a military regime in the territories, the Israeli government is creating

a situation of revolt.

The resolution was prompted by Israel's expulsion on Jan. 13 of four Palestinian activists from the West Bank and deportation orders still pending against five other Palestinians.

"Reprisal action" apparently referred to the curfew and blockade imposed on refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, whose residents have had their water supplies and food shipments cut off, as well as their electricity and telephone services.

The vote, by a show of hands, supported a joint resolution introduced by the Christian Democrats, Socialist and Communist parties and the ecological movement. Only the Liberals, headed by Simone Veil of France, a former president of the European Parliament, refused to endorse the resolution.

It was announced, meanwhile, that the Parliament will vote Feb. 6 on ratification of four new economic and financial protocols signed by Israel and the 12 European Community nations. The vote, which had been scheduled for Jan. 18, was postponed at the urging of Israeli diplomats, who feared measures in the administered territories would adversely affect the outcome.

Failure to ratify the agreements would be a severe blow to Israel's prestige in Western Europe. But deputies here warned Thursday that unless the situation in the territories improves and Israel "shows some good will," the protocols will not be ratified next month.

ARMY CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT OF THE UNREST ON SOLDIERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Senior officers of the Israel Defense Force are concerned about the long-term effects on soldiers of violent confrontations with Palestinian demonstrators in the Gaza Strip, Haaretz reported Thursday.

They are especially anxious over how the soldiers will react to their new orders, which restrict the use of lethal force but require them to pursue stone-throwers and severely beat them. Many of the Arabs who hurl missiles at troops are teen-aged or younger.

Teams of military psychologists have been sent into the field to investigate how the soldiers are responding. It is feared that some of them will take advantage of the orders to pummel demonstrators and, to release their tensions, apply force where it is necessary.

The IDF has been massively reinforced in the Gaza Strip in recent days and many of the soldiers sent there are from branches of the military that do not perform the tasks of infantrymen.

Several Air Force personnel were seen in the Gaza Strip Wednesday on patrol duties with IDF infantrymen, Haaretz reported.

Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the southern region, which includes the Gaza Strip, said Wednesday that there is no central body coordinating the disturbances there, although "residents of the Gaza Strip receive instructions and orders from broadcasts by Radio Monte Carlo and Radio Baghdad."

According to Haaretz, Mordechai spoke of an Islamic religious revival in the territory, strengthened by events in Lebanon and in Iran. He said Palestinian youths in the Gaza Strip are using mosques as centers for incitement and as refuge from pursuit, because the IDF is under strict orders not to enter mosques.

NEW ENVOY TO AUSTRIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO KURT WALDHEIM

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The new United States ambassador to Austria, Henry Anatole Grunwald, an Austrian-born American Jew, presented his credentials Wednesday to President Kurt Waldheim.

The ceremony, overshadowed by Waldheim's Nazi past, which has caused him to be declared persona non grata in the United States, was brief and in strict accordance with diplomatic protocol. The two men reportedly had a short discussion of bilateral and international political matters.

The news media were excluded from the ceremony, but Waldheim spoke to reporters afterward.

Asked whether U.S.-Austrian relations are still strained by the U.S. Justice Department's decision to place him on its "watch list" of aliens who may not enter the United States in private capacity, Waldheim suggested that the arrival of the new ambassador could pave the way for normalizing relations between the two countries.

Grunwald declined to comment on his meeting with Waldheim. In a pre-recorded television interview broadcast Thursday, the American envoy said he saw his task as explaining U.S. policies to the Austrians and Austrian policy to Washington. He did not refer to the Waldheim case.

The Austrian president's wartime activities are under investigation by an international panel of historians who will try to determine the veracity of charges that Waldheim, as an intelligence officer in the German army in the Balkans during World War II, was involved in the deportation of Greek Jews and played a role in atrocities against civilians and partisan fighters in Yugoslavia.

The panel was scheduled to announce its findings this month, but now says it will not deliver its report until Feb. 9, or possibly later.

At his confirmation hearings before the U.S. Senate last year, Grunwald said he would keep his contacts with Waldheim on the official level only. He said he would attend all meetings and receptions required by protocol, but not events where he might meet Waldheim socially.

Grunwald's predecessor, former Ambassador Ronald Lauder, maintained a similar distance. Lauder, who also is Jewish, served in Vienna for only 18 months.

Grunwald, born in Austria in 1922, fled with his family when the country was incorporated into the Third Reich in 1938. In the United States, before finishing high school, he took a job in the mailroom of Time magazine. He retired last year as editor in chief of Time Inc., a major American publishing empire.

Grunwald told reporters of his new assignment, "This is no homecoming for me. Austria is a foreign country, which I like and am very interested in. Still, my home country is America."

PROVISION EXEMPTING ISRAEL FROM NEW AID RULES IS KILLED

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, recently killed a Senate attempt to exempt Israel and members of NATO from legislation requiring stricter accounting of U.S. economic aid, well-

placed Capitol Hill sources said this week.

The plan to exempt Israel from the regulations was backed by Sens. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Robert Kasten (R-Wis.), the chairman and ranking Republican of the Senate counterpart to Obey's subcommittee.

The exemption plan was contained in the Senate version of the 1988 continuing resolution, but was later dropped from the final version of the resolution, which was adopted shortly before Congress adjourned in December.

A Capitol Hill source attributed the exemption's demise to Obey's opposition in negotiations between House and Senate conferees to iron out differences in their versions of the continuing resolution.

"Obey went ballistic," said that source, who also predicted the issue "will be revisited."

Obey's office did not return phone calls Wednesday and Thursday.

Obey is a key member of Congress on legislation affecting Israel and is regarded as an independent thinker, especially on budget issues.

As the Foreign Operations Subcommittee chairman, he opposed a recent plan to refinance the debts of foreign aid recipients, which became law in December, and could save Israel \$2 billion over 20 years.

The legislation requiring new accounting of U.S. aid took effect last February. It applies to all foreign aid recipients, although Israel was not affected until October 1987, when it received all of its \$1.2 billion in economic assistance for the 1988 fiscal year.

The regulations require countries receiving aid to provide the State Department with a list of "separate accounts" from which they draw the money.

Israel has so far refused to do so, arguing the regulations would cause it an accounting nightmare, an Israeli Embassy official said.

In the interim, the money has been frozen in the Central Bank of Israel, earning the same rate of interest as U.S. Treasury Bonds, the Israeli official said.

He explained that Israel currently monitors the \$1.2 billion by using customs records and that it uses the money entirely to buy U.S. exports. He termed the new legislation "virtually impossible" for Israel to implement.

A congressional source said the "separate accounts" law is aimed at past aid abuses by El Salvador and the Philippines.

The source said that the accounts plan would set Israel back to the 1970s, when there was an elaborate U.S. and Israeli bureaucracy to closely monitor U.S. aid.

He said that network was largely replaced by a system of "spot checks," and noted that a General Accounting Office report a few years ago found that Israel was using the foreign aid properly.

The Israeli official complained that the new law requires Israel to set up a new system to record that "this specific dollar can be used for that specific transaction."

In other words, an Israeli importer would have to get "a specific dollar from the Bank of Israel (to make a specific purchase)," the source said.

He said Israel is consulting with the State Department, and the issue could be raised in February, when a joint U.S.-Israeli economic working group is scheduled to hold its regular semiannual talks.

100TH CONGRESS APPROVED BILLIONS FOR ISRAEL, OTHER JEWISH CAUSES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The term "milking" is often used pejoratively when referring to congressional appropriations. But Holocaust studies in Poland will actually get a boost this year from sales of U.S. dairy products.

This is happening because in 1987 -- a year of unprecedented U.S. congressional support of Israel and Jews -- Congress voted to give surplus milk and cheese to Poland, so long as \$500,000 of the money the Polish government earns from the sale is used for Holocaust studies at Polish universities.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee termed the first session of the 100th Congress "a benchmark in legislative activity strengthening the U.S.-Israeli relationship." It had called the 99th Congress two years of "unprecedented cooperation" between the two countries.

Congress will have another chance to deal with policies on Israel and other Jewish issues when it convenes Monday for the second session of the 100th Congress.

The first session assured Israel will continue to receive \$3 billion annually in military and economic grants in 1988 and 1989, meaning no effect so far from the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction law.

Additional congressional measures benefitting the Jewish state, beyond the \$3 billion, include:

- A debt refinancing plan for foreign aid recipients that will save Israel an estimated \$2 billion over 20 years. The plan, approved late in 1987, is expected to be worth \$150 million to Israel in 1988 by converting high-interest loans to low-interest loans.

- \$34 million to construct a Voice of America transmitter in the Negev.

- \$25 million for refugee settlement in Israel.

- \$4 million for joint Middle East regional development programs involving Egypt and Israel. In previous years, \$5 million had gone for that purpose, but Congress is giving the remaining \$1 million as scholarships for Israeli students studying in Arab countries and Arab students studying in Israel.

Military measures include:

- Requiring the Pentagon to buy \$38 million of remotely piloted vehicles (drones) from Israel.

- Permitting Israel to spend \$400 million of the \$1.8 billion in military aid for projects inside Israel.

- Providing the U.S. Air Force with \$8 million to continue testing Israel's Popeye air-to-ground missile. The Strategic Air Command is thinking of mounting the Popeyes on its B-52 bombers.

- Funding a U.S. Army study to evaluate Israeli tank munitions, which could lead to U.S. purchases of that equipment from Israel.

- Continuing U.S. payments for multinational peacekeeping forces in the Sinai and Lebanon.

- Prohibiting aid to countries supporting terrorism, including Syria, Iran, Libya and South Yemen.

Nonmonetary measures passed by Congress relating to Jewish issues include:

- Closing a loophole in a previous measure requiring the United States to suspend participation in any United Nations entity that excludes Israel from membership, except for the Interna-

tional Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards program and the U.N. Security Council.

- Expressing opposition to the 1975 U.N. General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism and calling on the administration to seek repeal of the measure.

- Renewing the prohibition against U.S. diplomats negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization and prohibiting funding to U.N. functions benefitting the PLO, such as the U.N.'s Palestine Day.

- Expressing its sentiment that the Soviet Union should not be allowed to participate in an international Middle East peace conference so long as it fails to renew relations with Israel.

- Allowing U.S. Jewish military personnel to wear skullcaps.

On another front of interest to Jews, Congress approved nearly 150,000 tons of food aid to Ethiopia in 1987, 115,000 of which was in emergency aid. Unresolved is the fate of a bill that would impose sanctions on Ethiopia for its human rights violations.

But 1987 also saw some legislative and administrative actions that were not wholeheartedly endorsed by the Jewish community, such as the cancellation of Israel's Lavi jet fighter.

The State Department and Congress ordered the closing of the PLO's Washington office, but a fight is brewing over the status of its U.N. observer mission. Congress ordered it closed, but the Reagan administration is worried about the diplomatic results if it should close it.

A New York-based Jewish organization, Ozar Hatorah, received \$8 million to build yeshivas for Sephardic Jews who are refugees now living in Paris and its suburbs. The allocation came from the U.S. refugee aid budget even though it is questionable how poor the beneficiaries really are. Jewish newspapers including The Washington Jewish Week and the New York Jewish Week have written editorials criticizing the designation.

The State Department, as Congress was about to adjourn, unsuccessfully sought \$23 million to upgrade conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jordan did receive \$18 million in aid, most of which is to be used on the West Bank.

Saudi Arabia received \$1 billion in arms, although only after Congress forced President Reagan to eliminate 1,600 Maverick air-to-ground missiles from the package. The modified deal provided the Saudis with 12 new F-15 warplanes, as well as upgraded electronics and tank parts.

Bahrain received 70 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. That sale was approved by the Senate even though its Appropriations Committee earlier voted against it.

On the domestic agenda, action has not yet occurred on a bill that would impose criminal penalties for damage to religious property and injury to persons in the free exercise of their religious beliefs. That measure, known as the Hate Crimes bill, passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A bill that would require the Justice Department to gather statistics on hate crimes is also pending.

Other major domestic issues of special interest to Jews, expected to arise in the next few months, are the Senate's vote on Judge Anthony Kennedy's nomination to the Supreme Court, its consideration of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and legislation on child care, health care, housing, welfare reform, immigration and sanctions against South Africa.