

**STATE DEPARTMENT STILL UNDECIDED
WHETHER TO ALLOW ARAFAT TO VISIT U.S.**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- The State Department continued to maintain Thursday that it had not made any decision whether to allow Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to enter the United States in order to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

"We will severely scrutinize any application for a visa in light of applicable law and other regulations and other pertinent circumstances," said Charles Redman, the department spokesman.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering that admitting Arafat would encourage his terrorist organization and damage hope for Middle East peace, according to a statement released by Shamir's office Thursday afternoon.

In New York meanwhile, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said late Thursday that it has "not at this moment taken a position on the visa."

A spokesman for the conference, a coalition of 48 national Jewish organizations, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they will be "in consultation with the United Nations, the State Department and other officials" while they ponder their own decision on the matter.

Not A Head Of State

The conference, however, has already urged the United Nations not to invite Arafat to address the General Assembly, as the PLO chief has requested.

"This request must be denied," conference Chairman Morris Abram declared in a statement Wednesday.

He pointed out that Arafat is not a head of state but leads an organization which the United States has formally declared to be terrorist.

Redman said that the United Nations has asked the United States "to facilitate the issuance of a visa to Arafat."

But he stressed that the State Department does not have as yet an application for a visa.

This appears to contradict a statement by the United Nations Wednesday that it presented a visa application for Arafat and his party of advisers and bodyguards to Herbert Okun, the deputy U.S. representative to the United Nations.

Secretary of State George Shultz, in a letter last week to 51 senators who wrote him urging that Arafat be denied a visa, also did not reveal what the State Department would do.

But he stressed that he has "no desire whatever to see Arafat in the United States."

Redman said he would not describe either the "applicable law and other regulations" or the "pertinent circumstances" that would affect the decision on a visa request by Arafat.

Under the 1947 U.N. Headquarters Agreement, the United States must admit anyone coming to the United Nations on official business.

Arafat reportedly wants to come to the United Nations to participate in the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People Nov. 29 and to address the General Assembly.

Reagan administration officials have maintained that the United States can bar persons coming to the United Nations if they present a security threat to the country.

But Redman cautioned against looking into past actions by the United States denying or granting visas, as a guide to a decision on Arafat.

The PLO leader was allowed to enter the United States to address the General Assembly in 1974, which he did with a revolver strapped to his side.

"All these are different cases," Redman said. "The historical record might or might not be applicable."

Redman would not confirm that a decision on a visa for Arafat depends on what happens on the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers this weekend.

The council, the PLO's policy-making body, is expected to declare an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While the Reagan administration opposes a separate Palestinian state, it might look more favorably on Arafat's visa request if the council also renounces terrorism and recognizes the State of Israel.

**RABIN WARNS PALESTINIANS OVER
PLANNED INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATIONS**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip of severe consequences if there is an upsurge of violence in response to the proclamation of a Palestinian state.

"We are prepared to use maximum force to put down any demonstrations following any pronouncement in Algiers," Rabin declared Wednesday.

Similar warnings were given by senior military commanders as security forces were beefed up in the territories.

The warnings and show of force are in response to the expected declaration of independence by the Palestine National Council at its scheduled meeting in Algiers this Saturday.

The underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising called for new demonstrations against the Israeli occupation, in its recently distributed leaflet No. 28.

But Israelis are worried that the PNC meeting will trigger the worst disturbances since the uprising began 11 months ago.

The PNC, often referred to as the Palestinian parliament in exile, is officially regarded by Israel as a part of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Rabin made clear its actions would have no meaning as far as Israel is concerned.

Israel will not negotiate with the PLO and will not agree to a Palestinian state located between Israel and Jordan, the defense minister stressed.

The Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron, said the IDF has a two-fold aim--to prevent demonstrations and other breaches of public order in support of the PNC meeting, and to ensure Jewish passage through the territories.

He conceded that it was impossible to completely prevent every attempt to block communi-

cations over a large area that is heavily traveled by Jewish settlers.

But Shomron, visiting troops in Nablus, told reporters the IDF is prepared to seal off the West Bank and Gaza Strip and impose blanket curfews if necessary to prevent pro-PLO demonstrations in the territories.

"I think we are at a crossroads as far as the intifada is concerned," Shomron said.

"When they (the Palestinians) realize that the decisions (in Algiers) are only of a declarative nature with absolutely no chance of achieving anything -- not even demonstrations -- they will finally understand that the suffering they are bringing upon themselves has no purpose," the chief of staff predicted.

Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the southern sector, which includes the Gaza Strip, told reporters in Gaza Thursday that the IDF is ready for anything.

He said the large deployment of troops and the high state of alert are to ensure that "developments will not take place."

The civil administration in the Gaza Strip is concerned that a declaration of Palestinian independence in Algiers will be followed by the mass resignations of Arab civil servants in the territory.

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

ISRAEL INSTRUCTS DIPLOMATS ON RESPONSE TO PLO STATEHOOD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Israel has instructed its diplomatic representatives all over the world on how to respond to the expected proclamation of an independent Palestinian state by the Palestine National Council, which is scheduled to meet in Algiers this Saturday.

Israel also has plans to block any move at the United Nations to recognize such a state.

The PNC, often described as the Palestinian parliament in exile, is considered by Israel to be a branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

While Israeli leaders dismiss a declaration of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as meaningless rhetoric, there seems to be concern at high government levels over its possible impact abroad.

Haaretz reported Thursday that the Foreign Ministry sent information bulletins to missions overseas instructing Israeli diplomats to reject anything that may emerge from the PNC session.

They warned that the PNC might use U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 to seek legitimacy for its claim of Palestinian independence.

Adopted on Nov. 29, 1947, it called for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

The resolution became irrelevant when Arab armies attacked Israel in May 1948, the Foreign Ministry's document states. The PLO's recognition of 181 therefore does not constitute a forward step in the direction of peace.

The document, according to Haaretz, was introduced at a meeting of the Inner Cabinet Wednesday by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

It stresses further that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are the only resolutions pertinent to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Those resolutions are accepted by the international community, including Arab countries but not by the PLO. Its adherence to Resolution 181

only confirms its intention to dismantle Israel by "stages," the Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry has set up a special team to foil an expected attempt by Arab countries and non-aligned states to secure a U.N. initiative recognizing a Palestinian state, Haaretz reported.

Meanwhile, Daoud Koutab, a Palestinian journalist who holds dual American-Israeli citizenship, will be allowed to cover the PNC meeting for Arab residents of the administered territories, Haaretz reported.

SIX WOUNDED IN GAZA; IDF BLOWS UP NINE HOUSES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- At least six Gaza residents were wounded in clashes with Israeli security forces Thursday and several refugee camps were placed under curfew.

The Israel Defense Force also demolished nine houses in Gaza owned by members of a terrorist gang identified with the Islamic Jihad.

The terrorists are suspected of grenade and firebomb attacks on IDF patrols in Gaza.

Soldiers seized five hand grenades, an M-16 rifle, a pistol and a quantity of explosives in the houses, the IDF said.

The Islamic Jihad is a Moslem fundamentalist group which has had considerable influence over Gaza Arabs in recent years.

"Whosoever tries to commit terrorist acts will find himself hurt," Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, southern region commander, warned Thursday.

WIESENTHAL DEAN DEFENDS CHOICE OF KOHL AS DINNER SPEAKER

By William Sapphire

NEW YORK, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center reacted sharply Wednesday to one person's announced boycott of the center's dinner here Monday night, because of the appearance as keynote speaker of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Los Angeles-based center, accused Menachem Rosensaft of making an "undeserved and unbecoming attack" on Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

Rosensaft, founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, called the Kohl invitation tasteless.

He cited, among other things, Kohl's invitation in 1985 to President Reagan to place a wreath at the German military cemetery in Bitburg, where members of the Waffen SS are buried along with other German soldiers.

Cooper, who said he also spoke for Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center, said Rosensaft suffered from "selective amnesia."

He recalled, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that shortly after the Bitburg episode, Kohl was a luncheon guest of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The lunch was attended by leaders of the World Jewish Congress, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, among many others.

Said Cooper, "you don't place a person in eternal quarantine" for a mistake.

Rosensaft has made "a cynical, undeserved and unbecoming attack on Wiesenthal," Cooper said.

KOHL HECKLED BY YOUNG JEWS AT KRISTALLNACHT CEREMONY

By David Kantor

FRANKFURT, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl was heckled by young Jews as he addressed a packed gathering at the West End synagogue here Wednesday night marking the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

The hecklers accused him of insensitivity to Jewish concerns.

The assembly, also attended by President Richard von Weizsacker of the Federal Republic, was one of the principal events in West Germany's commemoration of the first organized pogrom in the Third Reich, which occurred during the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938.

According to reports from Bonn, dozens of legislators walked out of the Bundestag, West Germany's parliament, after the speaker of the legislative body said that Adolf Hitler had made Germans feel proud.

Philipp Jenninger, a member of the ruling Christian Democrats, said that anti-Semitism had existed in Germany and other countries long before Hitler, and that the years 1933-1938 created an atmosphere of optimism and self-confidence.

Kristallnacht was also observed by the tiny Jewish community in East Berlin, who gathered in a theater while a military band performed outside. Several prominent West German officials attended.

Kohl's speech in Frankfurt and the East Berlin ceremonies were nationally televised in both Germanys.

Kohl, wearing a yarmulke, said it was shameful that most Germans failed to protest while Jews were being persecuted in the Reich.

Kohl said, however, that the nation's history should be viewed as a whole, with its positive as well as negative aspects.

His speech was interrupted by cries of "Bitburg, Bitburg."

That was a reference to Kohl's visit -- along with President Reagan -- to a German military cemetery in Bitburg in March 1985.

STUDENTS WITH YAHRZEIT CANDLES MARK KRISTALLNACHT OBSERVANCE

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- About 300 students from Manhattan's Ramaz School, each clutching a yahrzeit candle, marched at twilight Wednesday to remember the fate of those they had never known who perished in Germany 50 years ago.

Approaching Park Avenue, where police and media held back the rush-hour traffic for the children, 12-year-old Aaron Bayer recalled "about 20 cousins" he never knew in Mielec, Galicia.

"We lived in an area that was annihilated," Bayer said, his hands tightly held about the flickering glass.

Judy Sambol said the commemoration meant a lot to her. "My grandparents came from Europe. We shouldn't forget about it," the 12-year-old said.

They were led by five members of the Shomrim Society of Jewish police, who were providing a "symbolic presence at almost every synagogue in the city," said off-duty officer Louis Weiser.

Silently crossing the wide, heavily trafficked street, the children were respectful of a past they had not known but of which they had been told.

The Ramaz School had invited survivors of Kristallnacht to participate in the march and to tell the children what they remembered from that day 50 years ago, when many had been the same age as the Ramaz students.

Hannelore Marx was 6 years old in Stuttgart on Nov. 9, 1938. "I remember the synagogue burning. My father was taken away to a concentration camp. We didn't know if he was dead or alive."

Wednesday night, a few thousand people crammed into Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun in Manhattan, the end point of the candlelight march, to listen to survivors of that night and to a Roman Catholic cardinal, whose spoke at many Kristallnacht observances in New York.

Cardinal John O'Connor, who ordered all the churches in his archdiocese to ring in unison at 7 p.m., thanked the synagogue congregation, who rose for him respectfully.

O'Connor said he was "overwhelmed to be here. I cannot thank you adequately."

He thanked Ronald Lauder, organizer of all the Kristallnacht events, saying, "We owe you a tremendous debt. You have reminded many Jews that they are Jews. Thank you for doing that."

"And thank you for us Catholics -- for reminding us of our debt to you Jews."

JACKSON SPEAKS OF BLACK-JEWISH TIES AT UAHC KRISTALLNACHT CEREMONY

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson and Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said Wednesday that blacks and Jews must work together for social justice as they did during the 1960s civil rights movement.

The two spoke at a Kristallnacht commemoration at the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Religious Action Center here.

"This occasion, 50 years after Hitler . . . gives those of us who fought for justice in this nation and peace in this world, blacks and Jews, a unique opportunity to come together, to share together," Jackson said.

"Neither blacks nor Jews lit the flames -- we have been burned by them," he said.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Hooks said that what we have to do is get it out that not all blacks are anti-Semitic and that not all Jews are anti-black, but that the large body of blacks and Jews have a reason to work together."

Hooks, Jackson, Delegate Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.) and three rabbis spoke and lit six candles during a 25-minute ceremony, with each candle representing 1 million Jews who died during the Holocaust.

The six lit a seventh candle as a "flame of hope" and interlocked arms.

Jackson said the Holocaust is "one of the punctuation marks of human existence." He said it "challenges us to slow down" and reflect.

Painting a picture of key symbols of the Holocaust, Jackson cited a threat, a train, an oven and an incinerator.

He said the Holocaust is unique "because it was engineered by an industrial state in modern times as official government policy."

Jackson also spoke about human rights and the need to obliterate both anti-Semitism and anti-Arabism.

ANALYSTS PONDER WHETHER CLINGING TO DEMOCRATS IS GOOD FOR THE JEWS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- A call to justice, comfort with other ethnic groups, tradition, even atavism -- all are reasons given by analysts to explain why Jewish voters this year again voted overwhelmingly for the Democratic presidential candidate.

Exit polling conducted Tuesday said that anywhere from 64 to 77 percent of American Jews favored Michael Dukakis at 89 percent. A New York Times-CBS News poll put black support at only 86 percent and said Dukakis won only 64 percent of the Jewish vote.

Among major voting blocs, only blacks are more Democratic than Jews. ABC News put black support for Dukakis at 89 percent. A New York Times-CBS News poll put black support at only 86 percent and said Dukakis won only 64 percent of the Jewish vote.

Among Jews, only the Orthodox seem to counter the pro-Democratic trend, giving as much as 75 percent of their vote to the Republicans.

After three straight Republican victories and despite a sometimes bitter battle for crossover votes, Jewish conservatives now seem resigned to the fact that only about 30 percent of American Jews are ready to support a Republican for president.

But they find solace that younger Jews seem more inclined to vote Republican, and that Bush's Jewish camp is "the most loyal cadre of Jewish supporters that any president has ever had," as Mark Neuman, coordinator of Bush's National Jewish Campaign Committee, put it this week.

'Country Club Phenomenon'

Political scientist Seymour Martin Lipset said this week that Jewish voters remain unlike Christian voters, whose support for the Republican Party increases with their personal affluence. He said Jews have a historical allegiance to the Democratic Party, based on a tradition of charity, socialist sympathies and ambivalence about what he calls the "country club phenomenon."

The election shows that "Jews don't feel comfortable with the WASP elite, and (are) more comfortable with ethnic candidates," said Lipset, who is visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation.

Michael Lerner, editor of the progressive Jewish magazine Tikkun, believes Jews support the Democrats because the party reflects "fundamental Jewish values and the long-term recognition that Jewish interests are best served when every person's economic needs and human rights are met."

But Jacob Neusner, professor of Judaic studies at Brown University and a Bush supporter, disagrees, calling Jewish Democrats "atavistic."

"If being Jewish means being liberal, they're wrong. If it means caring for the improvement of social conditions of the underclass, that's correct," he said. "Liberals have shown how not to do that. They just throw money at problems, and clearly that has not worked."

Neusner also feels the left is more likely to be hostile to Jews and Israel. By contrast, "Reagan on Jewish issues has been excellent down the line."

The unbalanced support of Jews for Dukakis also raises a question about whether Jewish influence at the White House will be diminished as a result.

Hyman Bookbinder, the former Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee and adviser to Dukakis, said this week that he does not think Bush will ignore Jewish interests.

"The same thing could have been said about the last eight years, and Republican Jews contend (Reagan's) was the best administration that Israel has ever had to deal with.

Reinforcing The Relationship

"Moreover," he said, "anybody who suggests Jewish interests would be ignored is really saying Republican commitments are made only to make Jewish votes."

But concern over Jewish influence led one lifelong Democrat, attorney Julius Berman, to endorse Bush.

"The real issue was whether the president would feel he got a decent representation on the Jewish side," said Berman, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"I firmly believe that in the very near future the new administration will pick up where the old one once left off, and put pressure on Israel, probably through an international conference. There's a substantial chance for escalated friction between the U.S. and Israel," Berman said.

That possibility represents "all the more reason why we should reinforce our relationship with the new administration," he said.

Lipset said Jews will be heard in the Bush administration because 30 percent is not an insignificant number. Besides, he said, "Jewish involvement in politics is not just votes, but money, and a fair amount (of Jewish money) goes to the Republican Party."

RABBI ISRAEL LAU INSTALLED AS ASHKENAZIC HEAD OF TEL AVIV

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Rabbi Israel Lau was installed Wednesday as Tel Aviv's Ashkenazic chief rabbi, in a three-hour ceremony that marked a victory for liberal elements in the religious establishment at a time of growing concern over religious coercion.

Lau, a Holocaust survivor, had been chief rabbi of Netanya. His accession was delayed for two years because of objections by the Chief Rabbinate over the presence of a woman on the Tel Aviv Religious Council that selected him.

The Chief Rabbinate backed down only after the Supreme Court ruled that Lau's appointment was legitimate.

The installation at the Mann Auditorium here was attended by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Religious Affairs Minister Ze'evulun Hammer, and Avraham Shapiro and Mordechai Eliahu, the Ashkenazic and Sephardic chief rabbis of Israel respectively.

Rabbi Lau, though Orthodox, is known to have a liberal personal outlook. He said he would work to bridge the religious-secular gap. He stressed that the key was education.

His installation was celebrated on the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the first organized pogrom in Nazi Germany and the forerunner of the Holocaust.

Lau, who survived a concentration camp, recalled that as a small child, he was carried to safety on the back of his slightly older brother. That brother, Naftali Lavie, was in recent years the consul general of Israel in New York.