



DIASPORA LEADERS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL TO LOBBY ON 'WHO IS A JEW' ISSUE

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Ranking leaders of American Jewry demonstrated by their presence in Israel on Monday the depth of feeling of most American Jews against the proposed amendment to Israel's basic immigration law, which would exclude persons converted by non-Orthodox rabbis.

Heads and former heads of North America's major Jewish philanthropic agencies arrived here Monday night on an "emergency mission," fresh from the 57th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, which ended in New Orleans Sunday.

Martin Stein of Milwaukee, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's board of trustees, told Israeli television viewers Monday night that the unity and harmony of the Jewish people are at stake.

He noted that some 5 million American Jews are non-Orthodox or non-affiliated. Even among the Orthodox there is no unanimous support for the controversial legislation demanded by the Orthodox establishment in Israel, Stein pointed out.

He and seven mission colleagues are to meet Tuesday with Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the chief rabbis of Israel and new members of the Knesset.

The so-called "Who Is a Jew" issue dominated the CJF assembly during its entire four days, starting last Wednesday.

Although the controversy has rankled Israeli-Diaspora relations for 20 years, it took on new urgency after the Nov. 1 elections in Israel.

Not Just Israeli Problem

Four ultra-Orthodox parties won 18 Knesset mandates among them to hold the balance of power, without which neither of the major parties, Labor nor Likud, could form a governing coalition in the 120-member Knesset.

The religious parties promptly established their price for cooperation: guaranteed swift passage by the next Knesset of an amendment to the Law of Return that would invalidate conversions performed by Conservative or Reform rabbis.

The practical effects of the proposed change would be minimal. There are few converts to Judaism who want to settle in Israel.

But, as Stein pointed out in a television news interview here, it is not only an Israeli issue. "It affects the American Jewish community," he said.

"Diaspora Jews do not presume to dictate to Israel in its defense or other policies, since American Jews are not directly affected by them," he said.

But the proposed legislation would "disenfranchise" many American Jews and render them "second-class citizens," Stein said.

The American mission coincided with the arrival here Sunday of 750 leaders of British Jewry, who are launching their annual Joint Israel Appeal campaign in Jerusalem.

The mission is headed by Trevor Chinn, president of the JIA, and Lord Jakobovits, chief

rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth. Jakobovits, who is Orthodox, strongly opposes the "Who Is a Jew" amendment because of its divisiveness.

'Will Test Our Loyalty'

He declined to comment on the controversy, but expressed hope that the JIA delegation would encourage people to see that "over and above all the problems and arguments, we are committed to the support of Israel."

Chinn was less reticent. He told reporters that the proposed amendment would affect many Jewish families, including his own.

"If the government decides to change the law, it will test our loyalty beyond what is acceptable," he said.

Chinn said he spoke not only for Reform and Liberal Jews, who constitute 25 percent of British Jewry, but also on behalf of the mainstream British Orthodox, who "feel very strongly that a change in the law will be the wrong move."

The Diaspora groups found a strong supporter in Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, who has just returned from a visit to the United States.

He warned at a news conference and in radio and television interviews here that passage of the "Who Is a Jew" amendment would do incalculable damage to relations between Israel and American Jews.

He said the greatest danger is not any decline in donations and investments in Israel, but in a drop in Jewish community involvement in aiding Israel politically in Washington.

The mayor added that most Israelis do not grasp the depth of American Jews' feelings about this issue. "I have never before seen a danger like this," said Kollek, who has been dealing with American Jews for more than 40 years.

FUND-RAISERS FEAR IMPACT OF 'WHO IS A JEW' ON CAMPAIGNS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- "If they're going to tell me, 'You are not a real Jew, you are not welcome here,' that's a real serious thing," said multimillionaire Peter Kalikow.

"It hurts me to do this. But somebody must stand up. It's the only way to get their attention over what I think is wrong."

Kalikow, who owns the New York Post, was explaining why he has threatened to curtail the nearly \$1 million he commits annually to the United Jewish Appeal and State of Israel Bonds Organization, if Israeli politicians pass legislation redefining who is a Jew.

The legislation, seen by Reform and Conservative Jews as an attempt to delegitimize them further, is the price being demanded by Israel's politically powerful Orthodox parties for their participation in a new government coalition.

Although Kalikow is one of the rare few willing to admit publicly that the "Who Is a Jew" controversy would affect his financial contributions to Israel, it seems he is not alone.

In discussions taking place around the country, culminating in heated meetings at the recently completed Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly in New Orleans, philanthropists have been threatening to stop their giving al-

together or to direct their gifts in such a way that they would not benefit proponents of the legislation.

Fund-raising executives interviewed Monday disagreed on the extent of the problem, but all seemed concerned.

The strongest expression of that concern came from Ernest Michel, executive vice president of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, the country's largest Jewish community fund.

'Getting It Every Hour'

"The feeling is very widespread. I'm getting it every hour, in phone calls and letters, from major contributors," said Michel. "I just got a phone call from a guy who gives half a million. 'Ernie,' he said, 'I'm rethinking what I'm going to do.'

"I've never seen this kind of reaction before," added Michel. "This is the most difficult time between Israel and Diaspora Jews since the establishment of the State of Israel."

His apprehension had its echo in the words of the president of San Francisco's Jewish federation, Annette Dobbs, who told the CJF General Assembly Thursday that "major contributors, in the six and seven figures," were threatening to withdraw their donations.

Among those preferring to play down the possibility of cutbacks were two of the largest national organizations.

"There has been no impact at this point, but we would not want to predict what would happen one way or another in the future," said a spokesman for the State of Israel Bonds Organization.

"There's been some concern, but we wouldn't say it's been a widespread wave," said Raphael Rothstein, vice president of the United Jewish Appeal.

But even those executives who played down the scope of the problem described their efforts to convince reluctant givers to, in the words of many of those executives, "remain calm."

Angry major givers have been reminded that the recipients of UJA contributions "should not be victims of political developments," said Rothstein.

"We know that there have been a lot of rumblings," said Rabbi Daniel Allen, assistant executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal.

Time To Double Contributions

"But I go back to what Shoshana Cardin said Saturday afternoon. This is not a time to lessen contributions, but to double them and allow the Jewish Agency to be the advocate of Diaspora concerns that it was designated to be."

Cardin, immediate past president of CJF, is heading a high-level delegation of Diaspora leaders that arrived in Israel on Monday to meet with Premier Yitzhak Shamir on the issue.

Morris Stein, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, said he has calmed contributors by describing lobbying efforts being undertaken by the national fund-raising organizations.

But even leaders at the General Assembly had to shoot down an amendment to the resolution adopted, which would have called on the Jewish Agency and individual givers to "cease providing funds to organizations anywhere in the world which support the proposed change in the Law of Return."

The proposal seemed aimed at, among others, the Lubavitch Hasidic movement of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, which has advocated strongly for a change in the law.

Raymond Epstein, the former CJF president who proposed the amendment, said his effort did not succeed because delegates thought the proposal too divisive and punitive.

"It was meant to keep our constituents with us by assuring them that their money would not be directed to people" who support the "Who Is a Jew" amendment, said Epstein.

'Souring People's Feelings'

Other leaders said that media reports of a thaw in relations between Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party leaders, a move that could weaken the Orthodox parties' bargaining position, had comforted the most vocal of the big givers.

But "what we don't know is how under the surface" the negative feeling toward Israel is, said Hans Meyer, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

Likewise, Jonathan Jacoby, executive director of the New Israel Fund, said he was concerned about the future of fund-raising on behalf of Israel in the wake of the "Who Is a Jew" challenge.

The New Israel Fund, which raises money for alternative civil rights and human services organizations in Israel, has not yet been threatened with cutbacks, Jacoby said.

But he added, "My concern is that people are going to start shifting. I think it's souring people's feelings about Israel."

ARABS MOUNTING DRIVE TO ALLOW ARAFAT TO ADDRESS U.N. ASSEMBLY
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Arab diplomats at the United Nations have launched an intensive diplomatic campaign to apply pressure on the United States to allow Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to enter the United States in order to address the U.N. General Assembly, diplomats said.

Several Arab envoys, representing the Arab Group at the United Nations, met Monday with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging him to use his prestige and office to influence the State Department to issue the PLO leader a U.S. visa.

A U.N. spokesman said Monday that the United Nations, which forwarded Arafat's request for a visa to the American authorities, has not yet been informed of the State Department's decision.

Diplomats here said that Arafat, in an effort to gain the maximum public exposure, plans to address not only the General Assembly, but also a special session of the Security Council, which would be convened by the Arabs to discuss the situation in the territories under Israel's control and the 11-month-long uprising.

If indeed Arafat is allowed to enter the United States, he will address the General Assembly on Nov. 29, which is designated as "Palestine Day" by the United Nations.

On Nov. 29, 1947, the General Assembly adopted the partition resolution dividing Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

Diplomats predicted Arafat would use the 41st anniversary of that occasion to legitimize the Palestinian state proclaimed last week in Algiers.

EGYPT'S RECOGNITION OF PNC STATE DIVIDES LABOR AND LIKUD PARTIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A battle is looming within the outgoing Labor-Likud unity government over how to respond to Egypt's recognition of the independent Palestinian state proclaimed by Yasir Arafat in Algiers on Nov. 15.

Israel's initial reaction to the news Monday was to express regret, a relatively mild remonstrance in the language of diplomacy. But all indications are that it is not Jerusalem's last word on the matter.

The Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making body, is to take up the latest development at its weekly session Wednesday.

The crisis in relations with Egypt came at a time when Labor and Likud reportedly were in the delicate stages of negotiations over a broad coalition to replace the outgoing government.

Although ideologically irreconcilable, the two largest factions were said to both be concerned over the prospects of a narrow Likud-led coalition with the extreme right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties as their only partners.

At this stage, however, Likud is expected to demand tough reprisals against Cairo, at the urging of the far right. Labor will insist on a more moderate response.

The Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Mohamed Basiouny, was summoned Monday night to the Foreign Ministry to hear Israel's official reaction from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Peres was expected to point out, among other things, that the Camp David accords require joint agreement by the two signatories for any change in the status of the territories administered by Israel.

Demand On Taba Expected

Although Arafat's proclamation at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers mentioned no territorial boundaries, the new state is generally envisaged as encompassing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rightist elements, represented by Tehiya and other factions, are now likely to argue that Egypt has nullified the Camp David accords by recognizing a Palestinian state and that therefore Israel is no longer bound by them.

The right is expected to demand that Israel refuse to return the Taba region to Egypt, as required by binding arbitration.

It will urge Israel to recall its ambassador from Cairo for "consultations." And there will be a mounting drumbeat from the far right to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip immediately.

Some 30 Arab, Moslem and Third World countries announced recognition of the Palestinian state within 48 hours after it was proclaimed.

Egypt was among a number of countries, the Soviet Union and East Germany among them, that warmly welcomed the declaration, but stopped short of recognition.

Confusion developed Saturday when Egypt's official Middle East News Agency reported that President Hosni Mubarak had recognized the Palestinian state, but later retracted its report.

It was only after the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Shimon Shamir, met Sunday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid that official confirmation was received in Jerusalem.

The Egyptians formally announced recognition retroactive to Nov. 15.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HOLDS BACK RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- The Palestinians received a pat on the head Monday from the European Community, but got no recognition of the independent state proclaimed Nov. 15 by Yasir Arafat at the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

The anxiously awaited communique of the 12 European foreign ministers who convened here Monday praised "the Palestinian acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for an international peace conference."

That, according to the communique, implies that the Palestinians accept the right of "all states in the region, including Israel," to exist within secure borders.

The statement also reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination "with all that this implies" without elaborating.

Observers here characterized the communique as "timid" and "cautious."

Its general formulations and stilted language indicated that European Community nations, such as Greece, that seemed on the verge of recognizing an independent Palestine, were restrained by their more circumspect partners.

Fight Over Partition Resolution

In any event, no substantive recommendations seem to have been formulated to submit to the E.C. chiefs of state and heads of government, who are scheduled to gather Dec. 2 and 3 at Rhodes, Greece, for their next summit meeting.

For the time being, the 12 foreign ministers were satisfied by what they called the PNC's explicit condemnation of terrorism. They urged all concerned parties to "seize this occasion and contribute positively to the peace process."

The 12-nation body reiterated its call for an international peace conference under United Nations sponsorship, "which is the appropriate framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly interested."

But the ministers failed to say who should represent the Palestinians at such a conference.

According to diplomatic sources here, Spain, France, Italy and Greece wanted to include in the communique reference to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 of Nov. 29, 1947. No longer recognized by Israel, it called for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

Greece May Recognize Israel

Holland, Britain and Denmark reportedly opposed the reference.

The Arabs have only just accepted 181, some four decades too late. The Israelis claim it was nullified by the Arab invasion of May 15, 1948, the day after Israel proclaimed its independence.

Greek sources said Athens "for the moment" would not recognize the Palestinian state proclaimed in Algiers.

Greece is the only E.C. country that does not have full diplomatic relations with Israel. Reports this past week said that the Greeks would announce recognition of the Palestinian state and simultaneously extend de jure recognition to Israel.

Apparently that scenario will not materialize for the present. The issue is still open, Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said.

HUSSEIN SAYS U.S. AND ISRAEL ARE OBSTACLES TO PEACE TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- It is Israel and the United States, rather than the Palestine Liberation Organization, that are blocking Middle East peace negotiations, King Hussein of Jordan maintained Sunday.

"I believe if there is any intransigence -- and there is indeed -- it is in the Israeli position that hasn't changed, and up to now the United States position," he said in an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" program.

Hussein said that both PLO leader Yasir Arafat and the Palestine National Council at its meeting in Algiers last week have accepted the conditions the United States has set for meeting with the PLO.

The Reagan administration said last week that the PNC statements were still ambiguous about these conditions, which are recognition of Israel's right to exist, acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the renunciation of terrorism.

"I believe that our friends in Washington better go back and look at the papers and positions they (the PNC) adopted," Hussein said. "They will find that there is no difference between their initial demands and requests and suggestions, and what the PLO has come through with now."

Hussein seemed to back off slightly on his statement on ABC-TV's "Nightline" before the Israeli elections that if Likud won it would be a "disaster" for Middle East peace prospects.

"If Likud holds on to the policies that it declared before, of in essence saying that Palestine, as it is now under occupation, is our land and we will have peace in place, then there is no hope for peace," he said Sunday.

"But, on the other hand, if they are speaking of 242 and if they are speaking of its implementation -- in other words, territories occupied in June 1967 -- then that is an entirely different situation."

PANEL LEAD BY CARTER AND FORD URGES NO NEW PEACE INITIATIVE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A bipartisan study group, headed by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, urged Vice President George Bush on Monday not to try to propose a new peace initiative for the Middle East when he takes office as president Jan. 20.

Instead, the group, known as American Agenda, suggested that "the wisest course is to focus on discussions with the Israelis to try to move them to deal more effectively" with the political and economic situation of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The U.S. might also tell the Israelis that we are prepared to help substantially if they find ways to improve the economic situation of their Arabs and grant them as well a greater degree of local political independence," the report said.

The report, which deals with the entire gamut of domestic and foreign issues, is the result of eight months of study by some 340 persons. It concludes that the most immediate issue facing the country is the U.S. fiscal deficit.

The two former presidents presented the recommendations to Bush on Monday and dis-

cussed them at a news conference after the meeting with the vice president.

The Middle East was not mentioned except for a brief remark by Carter on the results of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

"President Ford and I both agree that the recent meeting in Algiers by the PNC was significant, (although) not adequate," Carter said. "But it is something that should be considered to see where it can lead in the future."

Pressure To 'Do Something'

The Reagan administration, while finding some "encouraging" signs at the PNC meeting, said that its political declarations did not go far enough for Washington to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization or accept its involvement in peace negotiations.

The administration also rejected the PNC's declaration of an independent Palestinian state, stressing that the future of the territories can only be decided through negotiations, not by unilateral action of either side.

The American Agenda recommendations noted that the new Bush administration will be pressed to "do something" in the Middle East.

"In our view, the situation is not now, and will not for some time be, ripe for new major peace initiatives on the part of the United States," the report said.

It recommended that a presidential emissary be sent to the Middle East, who "just might return with new valuable ideas. Any U.S. proposal or position -- whenever it is put forward -- should, of course, be the product of consultation with the Israelis and the moderate Arab states."

The report also stressed the new danger to Israel from ground-to-ground ballistic missiles in Syria and elsewhere. For this reason, the report said, "it is important for the U.S. to support Israel in developing the anti-tactical ballistic system, the Arrow."

The foreign policy section of the recommendations were written by Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state in the Carter administration, and Lawrence Eagleburger, former under-secretary of state for political affairs in the Reagan administration.

THREE IDF SOLDIERS KILLED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force lost three soldiers in less than 24 hours, after a road accident in the southern Lebanon security zone and a bizarre incident at a military trial, in which a private ran amok.

One died and four were injured Sunday when their armored personnel carrier, on a routine exercise, plummeted 10 feet off the road into a dry riverbed and overturned.

The accident occurred near the Rosh Hanikra border checkpoint at the coastal end of the security zone. The dead soldier was identified as Yaacov Ohana, 20, a medical corpsman from Bat Yam.

On Monday morning, Pvt. Itzhak Halfon was given a 21-day jail term for breach of discipline. On hearing the sentence, he grabbed an M-16 rifle, wounded a young soldier and fatally shot Capt. Yair Levy of Holon in the chest.

Halfon then rushed from the building and shot himself to death. Neither of his two victims was in any way connected with his trial and sentence.