

**ARABS MOUNT DRIVE TO PERSUADE  
U.S. TO REVERSE ARAFAT DECISION**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The Arab bloc has mounted a full-scale attack on the U.S. government to force a reversal of its decision to prevent Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir Arafat from addressing the United Nations.

The General Assembly was to meet in special session, either Tuesday night or Wednesday, to consider an Arab draft resolution condemning the American position and urging the U.S. State Department to reconsider.

At the same time, the General Assembly deferred its annual Palestine debate, which was to have opened here Thursday with an address by Arafat.

A U.N. source said the debate would probably take place December 13 to 15 and would be shifted to the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva.

The PLO, meanwhile, is mounting a legal challenge to the State Department's decision Saturday to deny Arafat a visa to enter the United States. The PLO plans to file suit Wednesday, in federal district court in New York.

PLO sources said the well-known American attorney, William Kunstler, has been engaged to conduct the legal contest.

The PLO won a legal battle with the State Department last summer, when a federal court overturned its order to close the PLO's mission to the United Nations.

The issue then and now is American compliance with the 1947 Headquarters Agreement, which placed the United Nations in New York and designated the United States as the host country.

**Effort To Switch Debate To Geneva**

The draft resolution on which the General Assembly has been asked to act urges "the host country to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement and to reconsider and reverse its decision."

The text of the proposed resolution was circulated here Tuesday and its adoption by the General Assembly was considered virtually certain.

According to diplomatic sources, if the United States still refuses to abide by it, the General Assembly will be asked to adopt a resolution to switch the debate on Palestine to Geneva, where Arafat would be assured of a platform.

Further pressure was applied on Washington Monday night by the U.N. Committee on Relations With the Host Country. The committee asked the U.S. government to "review and reverse" its decision to deny a visa to Arafat.

The flurry of activity on behalf of the PLO chief underlined the fact that Tuesday was the 41st anniversary of the General Assembly's resolution to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

In past years, the anniversary, known as "Palestine Day," was observed as a date of calamity by the Palestinians and their friends. But since the Palestine National Council endorsed the partition resolution at its meeting in Algiers earlier this month, the anniversary has become

part of the PLO's peace offensive.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar issued a statement on the occasion from his sickbed. It referred to "the landmark session" of the PNC and to the intifada, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which will mark its first anniversary on Dec. 9.

**Other Anti-Israel Resolutions**

Perez de Cuellar, who is ill with the flu, said the intifada is a direct result of the stalemate in the search for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the frustration and despair of the Arab population that has lived under Israeli administration for more than 20 years.

Meanwhile, the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly sharply condemned Israel's policies and practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A resolution to that effect was adopted by a vote of 89-2 with 32 abstentions. Only Israel and the United States voted against it.

The committee adopted other resolutions accusing Israel of mistreating the Palestinians, illegally establishing settlements in the territories and trying to change their demographic composition. It called those attempts a serious obstacle to peace in the region.

**SHAMIR MAKES IMPASSIONED PLEA  
FOR NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT**  
By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir campaigned vigorously Tuesday to persuade the Labor Party to join Likud in forming a national unity government.

Most political observers here attribute the Likud leader's initiative to the vehemence of Diaspora Jewry's campaign against the amendment to the Law of Return demanded by the ultra-Orthodox parties.

Shamir is said to have been taken aback by the depth of feeling expressed by American Jewish lay and rabbinical leaders, including several prominent representatives of modern Orthodoxy in the United States.

Most Diaspora Jews are affiliated with the Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist branches of Judaism. They see the proposed amendment as a delegitimization by Israel of those religious movements.

Shamir also was surprised by the relatively weak response from ultra-Orthodox circles overseas so far.

On the one hand, he needs the religious parties if talks with Labor fall through. On the other, he does not want to be remembered by history as the Israeli leader who triggered a schism between the Jewish state and large segments of world Jewry.

Shamir made an impassioned plea Tuesday for an all-party national coalition government. "Even though we can form a government without the other major party," he said, alluding to Labor.

The Likud leader, addressing the annual Editors Committee Luncheon for the Prime Minister in Tel Aviv, was referring to his party's ability to put together a narrow governing major-

ity in the Knesset with the ultra-Orthodox and extreme right-wing parties.

Shamir said a broad coalition would be preferable, but failing that, he would still honor the promises he made to the religious parties. These include speedy passage of the controversial "Who Is a Jew" amendment.

Shamir said at the same time that he would seek a compromise to ensure the unity of the Jewish people.

Likud's relations with the two largest religious parties, Shas and the Agudath Yisrael, have visibly soured in the past few days.

#### **Labor To Convene Wednesday**

Sensing a possible double cross, the Agudath Council of Sages was due to meet late Tuesday to reconsider the party's support of Likud. The Shas leader, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, reportedly had a short, angry exchange with Shamir on Tuesday.

The smallest of the religious parties, Degel HaTorah, has already broken talks with Likud and indicated its preference for a broad-based government.

The Labor Party now seems to have the means to resolve the crisis one way or another. Its leadership bureau, a 120-member policymaking body, was to convene Wednesday afternoon to discuss the terms Shamir offered to Labor Party leader Shimon Peres at their meeting Monday.

Stiff resistance is expected from the powerful no-negotiations bloc in the Labor camp, led by the party's secretary-general, Uzi Baram.

But the consensus is that if Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin recommend joining a government with Likud, the leadership bureau will go along.

#### **ORTHODOX SPLIT ON 'WHO IS A JEW' MATTER OF POLITICS, NOT HALACHA** By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Leaders of North American Orthodox Jewry are split into two distinct camps over whether to support the drive by Israel's religious parties to amend the Law of Return.

It is a debate over whether a halachic issue should be decided by Israel's largely secular Knesset and pressed at the expense of incurring the wrath of the great majority of Diaspora Jews who are non-Orthodox.

The proposed change in the law would make immigrants converted by non-Orthodox rabbis ineligible for Israeli citizenship. Premier Yitzhak Shamir promised the religious parties, in exchange for their political support, that he would get the amendment adopted.

Although the change would have a direct impact on only a handful of immigrants, non-Orthodox Jews protest it would symbolically delegitimize their rabbis and movements.

Statements in the past week by two Orthodox leaders, both connected to Yeshiva University, exemplify the debate raging within Orthodoxy.

#### **'Bitterly Divided Jewish World'**

On Monday, Rabbi Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, said he took exception to the Orthodox parties who are pursuing the amendment. He said the Knesset is "not the right forum to determine halachic issues."

Speaking in Philadelphia at the annual convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Lamm said the Ortho-

dox community is united on such fundamentals as "the Jewish identity and the exclusive definition of conversion as 'according to halacha.'"

But taking note of the "bitterly divided Jewish world and growing enmity and hatred" the issue has precipitated, Lamm declared that "no symbols are worth hurting the cause of Torah or the cause of Israel so grievously."

Lamm's statement echoed one made last week by leaders of the Rabbinical Council of America, a major Orthodox rabbinical body, which also called for the removal of the "Who Is a Jew" issue from the political arena.

The RCA statement heartened Israel's Degel HaTorah party and moderates within Israel's National Religious Party, who have distanced themselves from those pressing for the amendment.

But a second prominent Orthodox rabbi said he was "shocked" by the RCA's position.

Rabbi Aron Soloveichik, dean of the Brisk Rabbinical College in Chicago and professor of Talmud at Yeshiva, called on the RCA's members to repudiate the statement.

The ailing Soloveichik this week flew to Israel, where he was scheduled to meet with Shamir Tuesday to press for the amendment.

Other Orthodox forces sharing Soloveichik's view include Agudath Israel of America and the Lubavitch Hasidic movement.

#### **'Orthodox-Bashing' Assailed**

In Canada, a group of prominent rabbis, including David Sabbeth, Sephardic chief rabbi of Quebec, and Pinchas Hirschprung, chief rabbi of Montreal, also lent their voices on behalf of the amendment. Sabbeth joined a lobbying delegation that left for Israel Monday night.

Rabbi Binyamin Walfish, executive director of the RCA, said Tuesday that 90 percent of those in his organization support its position on removing "Who Is a Jew" from the political process.

One thing all Orthodox groups do agree on is resentment over what they perceive as "Orthodox-bashing" by the non-Orthodox. The Orthodox Union passed a resolution at its Philadelphia convention condemning the "vicious caricature, unfounded generalizations and outrageous slander against Orthodox Jews."

Orthodox groups also have joined in criticizing non-Orthodox communal and philanthropic organizations for interfering in Israel's internal debate over the issue.

Referring to recent missions to Israel by angry representatives of the major fund-raising and membership organizations, Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America, said Sunday that it is "scandalous" that United Jewish Appeal funds were being used in a "war" against Orthodoxy.

#### **EUROPEAN JEWRY PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST WHO IS A JEW AMENDMENT** By Edwin Eytan

GENEVA, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Leaders of European Jewry overwhelmingly approved a resolution Sunday urging the Israeli government not to amend the Law of Return as demanded by the ultra-Orthodox parties in Israel.

The issue was debated at a conference of the European Zionist Federation and Jewish community representatives here. It was attended by about 150 delegates from 12 Western European countries and from Israel.

## NEW SENATE MAJORITY LEADER CONSIDERED FRIEND OF ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine), who was elected Senate majority leader Tuesday, is considered a strong supporter of Israel.

The 55 Democrats in the new Senate, which takes office in January, gave Mitchell a unanimous vote on the second ballot. He won 28 votes, one short of a majority, on the first ballot of the three-way race.

Pro-Israel supporters saw the election as a no-lose proposition, since the other contenders were Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, one of the Senate's leading advocates of Israel, and Sen. J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, who also has a pro-Israel record.

Mitchell, who is of Lebanese descent, has supported aid to Israel, as well as foreign aid in general. He has opposed arms sales to the Arab countries, signing many of the congressional letters to the Reagan administration against such sales.

He has also taken a tough stand against chemical warfare, urging both the United Nations and the Reagan administration to take steps against Iraq for the use of chemical weapons.

Senate Republicans re-elected Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, another leading supporter of Israel, as the minority leader.

Mitchell succeeds Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), who stepped down after 12 years in the post.

Mitchell, 55, has been in the Senate since 1980, when he was appointed to replace Sen. Edmund Muskie, who had resigned to become President Carter's secretary of state.

## ANGER AND HOPELESSNESS PERVADE HEBRON ON PARTITION ANNIVERSARY

By Gil Sedan

HEBRON, West Bank, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The 41st anniversary Tuesday of the United Nations decision to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states found the Palestinians in this ancient town angry, confused and with little hope that their situation will improve in the foreseeable future.

Their anger is directed against Israel and the United States, Israel's most powerful supporter.

They are confused by the tug-of-war being waged over them between Islamic fundamentalists and the less extreme Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Yasir Arafat.

Their sense of hopelessness arises from the fact that just 10 days from now, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be one year old, with little to show for it but bloodshed and the presence of Israeli security forces on an unprecedented scale.

The streets here were jammed with people Tuesday. That is because workers did not go to their jobs and shops and businesses were padlocked.

Hebron was on strike, by order of the Hamas movement, the Moslem fundamentalist underground, and an unlikely bedfellow, George Habbash's Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The strike has been an annual event to protest the U.N. General Assembly's partition

resolution of Nov. 29, 1947.

This year, however, the joint underground command of the uprising, under the influence of Arafat's wing of the PLO, decided the strike should be held a day earlier, on Monday.

The reason was that the partition decision, Resolution 181, is no longer considered a calamity by the PLO. In fact, 181 was invoked by the Palestine National Council, meeting in Algiers this month, as the basis for a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

## Islamic Strike Observed

But in Hebron, and in most of the administered territories, Palestinians obeyed the fundamentalists' orders to stage the strike Tuesday. The strike was almost total.

Nevertheless, the PLO has the support of the people here. Anger is running high against the American refusal to grant Arafat a visa so that he could address the United Nations General Assembly in New York this week.

"What the hell do they want?" demanded Mohammad Jaabari, a toothless elder sitting with friends outside a locked coffee shop.

Jaabari, as good an example as any of the Hebron "man in the street," was furious with both the United States and Israel.

"For years, they said that the Arabs refused to accept the partition plan. Now they do. So what do you want?" he asked.

There was also despair in his voice and a sense of powerlessness. The Israel Defense Force holds the territories in an iron grip. No one can turn his head or move in any direction without literally bumping into heavily armed soldiers.

Along the main Hebron-Jerusalem road, IDF units regularly stop Arab cars and thoroughly check them.

Near Khadr village, local youths, their faces veiled, approached the road Tuesday and began stoning soldiers. They were scattered by a barrage of tear gas. The unrest in Khadr was triggered by the demolition of four houses the IDF said belonged to terrorists.

## UNIFIL PROTESTS IDF RED TAPE AT LEBANON BORDER CHECKPOINT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon has complained to the Israel Defense Force over what it considers red tape and over-zealous, time-consuming security checks by IDF soldiers at the Rosh Hanikra border post on the Mediterranean coast.

UNIFIL spokesperson Timor Goksel said high-level talks are going on between the U.N. force and the IDF to try to solve the problem.

Many UNIFIL officers and their families, along with members of the associated U.N. observers force and civilian employees, live in Nahariya and other towns in northern Israel.

They travel regularly to UNIFIL headquarters at Nakoura, Lebanon, just north of the border checkpoint.

About 350 families are said to be considering moving to less comfortable quarters in Lebanon, to avoid the minute examination of their vehicles and property. They say it can take as long as three hours every time they cross the border.

The IDF pointed out that it is responsible for security at the crossing points between Israel and the "non-state" of Lebanon and would continue the meticulous examination of every vehicle.

## DEMJANJUK DEFENSE LAWYER LEAPS TO HIS DEATH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- An Israeli member of the defense team of convicted war criminal John Demjanjuk leaped to his death from the 15th floor of an office building at 8:30 a.m. in downtown Jerusalem Tuesday.

The suicide of Dov Eitan, 53, a retired district court judge, shocked friends and associates, who had no immediate explanation for his action.

Eitan's death may delay the High Court of Justice's hearing of Demjanjuk's appeal, which was scheduled to begin next week.

Eitan served six years as a Jerusalem district court judge. He resigned in 1983 amid a controversy over his signing a petition to then Prime Minister Menachem Begin to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Since then Eitan has been a practicing attorney in Jerusalem. He again aroused controversy when he announced earlier this year that he would join the defense team in the appeal of Demjanjuk's sentence.

Eitan's law partner said Tuesday the suicide was utterly inexplicable. Eitan left a wife and two daughters.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk was found guilty April 18 of crimes against humanity, crimes against the Jewish people, war crimes and murder.

The former U.S. citizen operated the gas chamber at Treblinka, where 800,000 Jews were killed. He still claims he is not the right man.

Demjanjuk, 67, was sentenced to death a week after his conviction. His trial defense had been conducted by a team of American and Israeli lawyers.

## BLACK AND JEWISH ACTIVISTS COME TO ATLANTA TO RENEW OLD TIES

By Philip Shandler

ATLANTA, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- In an emotional mass reunion, Jews and blacks who together waged America's civil rights battles recorded their memories for posterity here this week and reaffirmed their commitment to brotherhood.

Nearly 100 of the graying activists and their spouses, as well as relatives of the "fallen heroes" of the rights movement, took part in a two-day colloquium at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center. The gathering was videotaped to form the basis for a planned archive of black-Jewish history.

In a dinner speech Monday that drew the participants to their feet applauding, Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young declared that while there have been and are differences between Jews and blacks, "There is much more that unites us than divides us."

Young and others compared the sometimes volatile relationship between Jews and blacks over the years to a marriage that has had its ups and downs, but has endured nonetheless. He called the relationship "a model for the kind of diversity the world has to learn to live with."

"We have done so much together," said Young, adding that the country is "a better place for it."

Historian Hasia Diner of the University of Maryland stressed that a supportive relationship between blacks and Jews is not one of recent decades only. It dates back to the early years of

this century, when philanthropist Julius Rosenwald financed schools for blacks and Jews, and helped organize the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909.

## Memorial Service For King

One black colloquium participant, Lolis Elie of New Orleans, asserted that he did not think Jews as a group had been more helpful to blacks than other whites had been. But other black participants quickly and vociferously disputed this, citing their own experiences.

The participants paid tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at his crypt here Monday night. A memorial service for all of the "fallen heroes" of the civil rights movement took place Tuesday.

Co-sponsoring the unprecedented gathering, called "The Black-Jewish Alliance: Reunion and Renewal," were the newly formed Marjorie Kovler Institute at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta.

Jewish attorney Joseph Rauh Jr. was co-chairman, along with Dr. Kenneth Clark, an eminent psychologist whose studies on the impact of segregation on children influenced the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 to require school desegregation.

Among the participants was Dr. Carolyn Goodman of New York, mother of Andrew Goodman, who was murdered in Mississippi along with two other civil rights demonstrators, one black and the other Jewish, 25 years ago this coming spring.

## JEWISH FEMINISTS FROM 25 NATIONS GATHER AT CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Over 500 women from at least 25 countries convened Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jerusalem, for the opening session of the first International Conference on the Empowerment of Jewish Women.

Earlier in the day, several of the participants held a demonstration outside the Knesset, protesting the much-discussed suggested amendment to Israel's Law of Return.

Speaking at the demonstration was former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug, who also addressed the gathering at its opening session Monday night. She called on Jewish women to work on the problem of self-expression as Jews and feminists.

The conference, which continues through Thursday, will include sessions on such topics as the status of Jewish women in various cultures and the controversial "Who Is a Jew" issue.

The conference is sponsored by the American Jewish Congress. Its prominent participants include Abzug, South African Member of Parliament Helen Suzman and Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman.

## WOMEN REFUSENIKS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Women refuse-niks in four Soviet cities staged a one-day hunger strike Monday in solidarity with Jewish activist Viacheslav (Slava) Ouspensky, 19, and his parents, Igor and Inna Ouspensky, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. They have been refuse-niks for nine years.