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**JEWISH GROUPS EXPRESS CONCERN
AT MOVE TO JUGGLE REFUGEE SLOTS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Jewish groups expressed displeasure and concern Thursday that President Reagan has increased the number of Soviet refugees allowed to enter the United States by decreasing the numbers for Southeast Asian refugees.

They urged the incoming administration of President-elect George Bush and Congress to accord priority to finding a solution to the refugee problem.

Reagan announced Wednesday that the quota for refugees leaving the Soviet Union has been increased from 18,000 to 25,000 for the 1989 fiscal year.

He did this by cutting the numbers of refugees coming from Vietnam through the Orderly Departure Program by 5,500 and the number of Indochinese refugees allowed to enter the United States by 1,000.

Another 500 slots were cut from the allocations for refugees from the Near East and South Asia, which includes Iran and Afghanistan.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman explained Thursday that the Vietnam numbers were reallocated to the Soviet refugees because of the increased number of Jews and others being allowed to emigrate from the USSR.

He said that at the same time, the United States has been unsuccessful in negotiations with Hanoi for the release of political prisoners. None of them has been allowed to leave Vietnam since the fiscal year began on Oct. 1.

No Shortage Of Places

Redman maintained that there is no shortage of places for Southeast Asian refugees. The ceiling for refugees from Vietnam will now be 19,500; for Indochinese refugees 27,000; and for the Near East and South Asia 6,500.

David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, stressed that U.S. government faces an enormous problem on refugees, in large part because of foreign policy successes in dealing with the Soviet Union.

"Nonetheless it is unfortunate to seek to pit, however, unwittingly, two deserving groups against each other," Harris said.

Pamela Cohen, national president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said her group expressed appreciation for Reagan's increase in the ceiling for Soviet refugees.

"However, we are totally opposed to his decision to do so at the expense of equally deserving refugees from other parts of the world" Cohen said. "We have today urged President-elect Bush to act immediately upon taking office to restore the quotas for other groups."

Phillip Saperia, assistant executive vice president of HIAS, also said that while the administration was acting in good faith to correct a difficult problem, it has "done the wrong thing." He noted that refugee law allows shifting allocations, but it should not have been done because the numbers are needed elsewhere in the world.

"We don't think that Jewish refugees should be served on the back of refugees from other

groups," he said.

Saperia called for a concerted and fast effort by the incoming administration and Congress to increase the number of refugees allowed and the funds to handle the increase.

Harris also urged the new administration to consult with Congress on increasing the refugees numbers and budget, despite pressures to reduce the federal deficit.

Refugee Backlog Of 14,000

Redman said Thursday that Reagan's decision was a reaction to the flow from the Soviet Union "right now, which indicates much larger numbers than in previous years."

He said the number of people applying at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to enter the United States has reached nearly 100 a day and surpassed 2,000 a month. The refugee backlog as of the end of December was 14,000.

Redman said that since the beginning of the fiscal year on Oct. 1, 10,000 persons in Rome have applied for refugee status, 4,500 in December alone. He said if the December figure holds for the rest of the year, the total would exceed 50,000.

The budget crunch has resulted in some applicants being refused refugee status, including many Armenians in Moscow and some Jews in Rome.

Redman said that the attorney general has used his parole authority to allow 2,000 of these people to enter the United States from Moscow each month and an unlimited number from Rome.

But Saperia stressed that HIAS continues to advise all Soviet Jews denied refugee status not to accept parole while HIAS appeals the decisions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Redman said the administration is also working on a proposed bill to set up a new class of immigrants, which would allow 20,000 to 30,000 immigrants to be admitted annually. This would replace the parole system, and allow the immigrants to eventually seek citizenship, which they cannot do under parole.

**JEWISH AGENCY PUTS ISRAELI TWIST
ON EFFORTS TO MEET REFUGEE COSTS**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Israel announced Thursday its plans to deal with the costs of a huge increase in the number of Jews being allowed out of the Soviet Union.

The program, outlined in a document unanimously adopted after a two-day meeting of its Executive here, calls for improvements in housing and services for new immigrants to Israel.

The document also suggested that the improvements, to cost an estimated \$100 million, would be funded in part through a special campaign undertaken by the United Jewish Appeal and its international counterpart, the Keren Hayesod.

The program does not, however, tackle what is to American Jewish communities the more dire issue: how to pay for the resettlement of the 90 percent of Soviet emigres who choose to live in the United States rather than Israel.

Instead, the Executive announced that it has

been requested to take part in a working team to "establish a mechanism" for meeting the increasing costs of Soviet resettlement in the United States.

Agencies that deal with the resettlement of Soviet Jews estimate that if 30,000 Soviet Jews arrive in the United States during 1989, as projected, the cost to American Jewish communities could be as high as \$140 million.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, made it clear at a news conference announcing the program Thursday that "the Jewish Agency was not established in order to assist the absorption of Jews in Milwaukee, Chicago or Detroit."

He also acknowledged that it is up to the individual Jewish federations across North America to determine how much of locally raised money will be allocated to Israeli needs and how much will go to local resettlement efforts.

Anxiety Over Federation Cutbacks

In days prior to the meeting, Jewish Agency officials expressed anxiety that the federations would begin cutting back their allocations to the United Jewish Appeal, in favor of local Soviet Jewry resettlement.

Money funneled from the UJA to the Jewish Agency accounts for two-thirds of the agency's \$400 million budget.

Even without further cutbacks, the Jewish Agency could face a budgetary shortfall this year of over \$40 million, Dinitz explained at the news conference.

He said the shortfall is partly the result of reductions in federation allocations over the past several years and an increase in the proportion of UJA money being allocated for international resettlement purposes.

The major recipients of those allocations are the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the New York Association for New Americans.

Also taking part in the news conference was Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors. He stressed that the Jewish Agency does not want to see the needs of those resettling in the Diaspora "to be met by resources that were to come to Israel."

Instead, he said the team being formed to address the problem would explore other ways to meet those needs. The Executive's suggestions include finding ways to reduce the federations' costs of resettlement, that federations dip into endowment funds or other capital funds, and that help to arriving Soviet Jews be offered in the form of loans, and not grants.

Jerry Levinrad, director of refugee resettlement programs at the Council of Jewish Federations, said that federations across North America are already looking into all of those possibilities.

Levinrad said they are also exploring a "separate-line campaign" to run in addition to the annual UJA-federation campaign.

Dinitz said that improving immigrant absorption facilities in Israel and eliminating grant programs for American immigrants could provide the impetus needed for Soviet Jews to choose Israel.

Dinitz also announced plans for consultations with the Joint Distribution Committee to discuss the processing of Soviet Jews at transfer points in Vienna and Rome. Dinitz has made it no secret that he and leaders of the Israeli government would like to see an increased Israeli presence in these refugee centers.

ISRAELI TEAM DEFEATS SOVIETS IN HISTORIC MOSCOW MATCH

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The championship Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team scored a historic triumph Thursday night, as they beat the CSKA Red Army champions on their home court by a score of 97-92.

The contest was the first Israeli athletes have played in the Soviet Union since the USSR severed diplomatic relations with Israel 21 years ago.

The Israeli victory brought Maccabi a step closer to the European Cup Tournament finals. The Russians are eliminated, even if they win their re-match with Maccabi in Tel Aviv next March.

The outcome of the game created euphoria in Israel, where a large part of the population glued itself to their radios and TVs to hear the live broadcast by Israeli sports commentators from the Moscow stadium.

Jews from all over the Soviet Union came to Moscow to attend the game, reports from the Soviet capital said.

ISRAEL RAIDS CAMPS IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Israel air force jets struck at Abu Nidal's bases in southern Lebanon Thursday morning, after a rare nighttime attack Wednesday night.

The double sortie was aimed at recently established installations of Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council, located north and northeast of Sidon.

All aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

The attack was the first Israeli air strike over Lebanon this year. There were 27 in 1988.

JEWS URGED TO REJECT TALKS WITH PLO

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Binyamin Netanyahu invited Jewish federation leaders around the country Wednesday to join him in spurning the U.S. decision to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israel's deputy foreign minister and former ambassador to the United Nations said the United States should recognize recent statements by PLO chairman Yasir Arafat as a repudiation of his new anti-terrorism stand, and suspend the recently opened talks.

Netanyahu spoke over a closed-circuit TV broadcast carried to federation offices in 10 cities on the Council of Jewish Federations Satellite Network.

The Likud hard-liner said the PLO's intention remains the destruction of Israel.

"Israel is under siege to accept the unacceptable, to allow a PLO state in the very heartland of the Jewish state," he said.

"We want to change the status quo, to end the violence and improve the lives of the Arabs that live there, but we can't proceed on the road world opinion is sending us."

Netanyahu's presence on the CJF broadcast was not an attempt to advocate one side of a highly divisive issue in Israel, said Donald Feldstein, associate executive vice president of CJF. He described it as an informational broadcast.

**CRITICS OF ISRAEL FILE CHARGES
WITH FEC AGAINST AIPAC, 27 PACs**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Seven critics of Israel, backed by an Arab lobbying group, have filed legal charges with the Federal Election Commission against the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, 27 pro-Israel political action committees and 26 of their officers.

In a 100-page brief, released to reporters this week, the complainants allege that AIPAC illegally coordinates the PACs' contributions to various political campaigns. This is the first time charges have been filed with the FEC against AIPAC, the registered pro-Israel lobbying group in the United States.

The effort is being spearheaded by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. The seven complainants include George Ball, under-secretary of state from 1961 to 1966, and former Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.), who has attributed his 1982 defeat to pro-Israel activists.

The basic charge against AIPAC and the PACs is that they engage in a "campaign of collusion" by directing PACs to contribute funds to particular congressional challengers and incumbents.

As evidence of collusion, the complainants cite similarities in funding decisions by various PACs, as well as a 1986 memorandum from AIPAC staffer Elizabeth Schroyer that they say suggests campaign contributions by nine pro-Israel PACs.

Responding to the allegations, AIPAC spokeswoman Toby Dershowitz said, "AIPAC members proudly participate in the American political process and do so within the law." She added that AIPAC is "confident that the FEC will expeditiously concur."

Once the FEC receives a complaint, it has five days to advise the target of the charges to respond, according to Fred Eiland, a commission spokesman. AIPAC and the 27 PACs would have 15 days to do so.

The six FEC commissioners then vote on whether federal election laws have possibly been violated. Four of the six must vote affirmatively to spur an investigation, Eiland said.

If the investigation finds "probable cause" that election law has been violated, the FEC can negotiate a civil penalty and pursue the case in the U.S. court system, he said.

AIPAC could not be charged with violating election laws unless the complainants proved that the lobby established, maintained, controlled, financed or administered more than one of the PACs, said David Ifshin, AIPAC's counsel.

**PLO TAKES A SEAT AT U.N.;
DRAWS U.S., ISRAELI CRITICISM**

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council, by allowing the Palestine Liberation Organization to intervene freely in its proceedings, has "belittled its own potential role" in resolving the Middle East conflict, an Israeli official said here Thursday.

Barukh Binah, a spokesman for the Israel Consulate General in New York, was referring to the PLO's participation in the Security Council debate Wednesday night on the downing of two Libyan jets by U.S. Navy fighter planes over the

The Security Council "shot itself in the foot," Binah told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

His remark matched the sentiments of Her-

bert Okun, U.S. representative to the United Nations, who said earlier, "I think the Security Council inflicted a wound on itself."

Okun spoke after the council voted 11-1, with three abstentions, to allow what is now known as the Palestine Observer Mission to the United Nations to take part in the debate.

In its previous incarnation as the PLO Mission, the Palestinian observer was only allowed to address the council through the sponsorship of a U.N. member state, usually Arab.

But that changed when the U.N. General Assembly, meeting in Geneva last month, gave what amounted to de facto recognition of the independent Palestinian state proclaimed by PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Algiers Nov. 15.

As the Palestine Observer Mission, the PLO may address the General Assembly at its own request and circulate documents under its own imprimatur, the U.N. spokesman's office in New York explained to JTA.

Nevertheless, the United States challenged the PLO's request to speak at the Libyan debate, and cast the sole negative vote. Britain, France and Canada abstained.

Alternate PLO observer Nasser al-Kidwa mounted the podium to denounce the U.S. action.

The final resolution, deploring the downing of the Libyan planes, was vetoed by the United States, Britain and France.

**JEWISH LEADERS CALL OFF ZURICH
MEETING WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Jewish and Catholic leaders have called off a conference on anti-Semitism that was scheduled to take place in Zurich in February because there has been no definite commitment to remove a Carmelite convent from the site of the Auschwitz death camp.

The conference, originally scheduled for Feb. 20-24, was contingent on a request made by the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations that the Auschwitz convent be removed to a site outside the camp before the meeting.

Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, sent a letter Dec. 28 to IJCIC suggesting that if the conditions to remove the Carmelite convent are met, a conference could take place after Passover 1989.

Jewish officials were wary when Willebrands failed to appear at a meeting in Paris on Dec. 20. That conclave was attended by Roman Catholic cardinals from several European cities, who said they had tried to convince the nine nuns living in the convent to vacate the camp.

The cardinals admitted, however, that they were powerless to convince the nuns to obey.

Catholic leaders had expressed a desire to meet with the Jews and begin work on a joint document on the Church and anti-Semitism.

A group of European cardinals and Vatican officials signed a written agreement in February 1987 stipulating that the convent would be removed by Feb. 20, 1989. An alternate site for the convent has been found outside the camp's perimeter.

A group of French Jewish teachers and Holocaust survivors who visited Auschwitz recently made a video of the camp, shown at the Paris meeting, in which there were clear indications the convent grounds were actually being improved.

SETTLERS STAGE DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING GOVERNMENT POLICY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Thirty-two settlements in Samaria in the northern West Bank were shut down by a general strike Thursday, as settlers vented their fury over the deteriorating security situation by threatening violence and heckling Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Security forces had their hands full as they also had to attend to Palestinians rioting. Israel Defense Force soldiers killed two Palestinians, including a 13-year-old, and wounded eight others in violent clashes in the West Bank towns of Tul-karm and Hebron.

There were also confrontations in Anabta and Nablus, where at least 10 other Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes with soldiers.

The Israeli settlers chose Thursday for the demonstration because it marked the end of the 30-day mourning period for Yaacov Parag, a settler, and Arthur Herstig, a reserve soldier, who were murdered near the settlement of Bracha a month ago.

The day was also the end of shiva for Shimon Edri, an Israeli taxi driver whose bullet-riddled body was found at a crossroad near the settlement of Yakir last week.

Police said Edri's killing seemed politically motivated, but they found no evidence linking it to any terrorist organization.

The settlers, angered by daily stoning of their vehicles on West Bank roads, massed at the Yakir crossroads Wednesday night after erecting a stone memorial to Edri there.

This led to a tense standoff with Israel Defense Force troops sent to dismantle it.

The IDF is under orders to prevent public gatherings outside the settlement boundaries. Witnesses at the scene reported fistfights, suicide threats and road barricades that blocked traffic on the trans-Samaria highway.

Eventually, the soldiers permitted the settlers to hold a brief ceremony for Edri.

Shamir ran into trouble at Bracha when he went there for the memorial to Parag and Herstig.

Shamir Shouted Down

He had barely begun his eulogy with condolences to the families and a call for national unity when settlers shouted him down.

They waved placards reading "You are a traitor," "You are responsible for the murders."

Forced to cut short his speech, Shamir moved to a planned cornerstone-laying ceremony at a local synagogue and planted a tree. But his tormentors were relentless.

"Begin also planted a tree in Yamit," settlers shouted.

That was a reference to the forced evacuation of Jewish settlers from Yamit in northern Sinai in 1982, in compliance with the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty signed by Menachem Begin, Shamir's predecessor.

Settlement leaders who have been on a protest hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem for the past month lashed out Wednesday at Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is responsible for security in the territories.

They warned that the situation will get worse and that settlers would begin taking matters into their own hands.

Rabin insisted that only security forces are responsible for security, but he said he under-

stood the plight of the settlers and promised "more drastic measures" to end stoning attacks.

Meanwhile, a curfew was imposed on the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem, just below the Temple Mount.

It was only the third curfew in the Israeli capital since the Palestinian uprising began, and is something Mayor Teddy Kollek and other municipal officials had hoped to avoid.

But Jerusalem police commander Yosef Yehudai said Silwan has been a center of unrest for the last three months, and the policy now is to clamp curfews wherever disturbances occur.

The curfew is expected to last all weekend.

SHAMIR GIVES BACKING TO OUTGOING MOSSAD CHIEF By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir gave his unqualified backing Thursday to the outgoing head of Mossad, who has become the subject of unwanted publicity as a result of a High Court of Justice decision.

Israel's supreme court ruled this week that the Tel Aviv weekly Ha'ir could publish an article highly critical of the organization and its current chief, who is about to resign.

Shamir said he had "full confidence" in him and regretted that he had been "unfairly pilloried" by some of the media.

The news media reported, meanwhile, that a behind-the-scenes battle is being waged over the appointment of a new Mossad chief.

According to various newspaper accounts Thursday, massive pressure is being put on Shamir to name the Mossad choice for the job instead of outside candidates.

The stories impute political motives to the opponents of the outsiders, stressing that they come from the right-wing side of the political spectrum.

Shamir, himself a former senior Mossad operative, is said to be more deeply involved in the appointment than even his position as prime minister would warrant.

Meanwhile, Israelis are waiting for the Ha'ir article due to appear Friday, though much of it has been leaked.

Ha'ir is published by the Shoken company, which also publishes the daily Ha'aretz.

The reporter alleged that the Mossad head, whose identity is a state secret, is being ousted because of a series of mishaps to Mossad operations abroad in recent years.

According to the reporter, the departing Mossad head was originally a compromise candidate, not particularly brilliant, who over the years had tried to keep the top-secret organization clear of awkward situations, such as the Jonathan Pollard spy case and the Iran-Contra affair.

Benn alleges that the Mossad chief did not initiate many projects on his own and as a result, Mossad's former image of dash and brilliance faded.

In an unrelated development, it was disclosed this week that the government appointed a new head of the Shin Bet, the internal security agency. His identity is also a secret.

JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on Monday because of the Martin Luther King holiday.