

**BUSH TELLS ADL LEADERSHIP
HELL PRESS SHAMIR ON PEACE**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will be asked during a U.S. visit next month to "move forward" toward a Middle East peace, President Bush told the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on Tuesday.

Speaking to the group's international leadership conference, Bush said he will ask Shamir to "move forward in some way toward the peace that everybody here really aspires for."

Bush said he told Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on Monday that Israel is a "strategic ally and a lasting friend."

Bush also discussed his unusual meeting at the White House on Monday with Rachamim Elazar, an Ethiopian Jew now living in Israel. Bush said Elazar gave a "plea from the heart to continue the flow of the people there who are still not able to join their people in Israel."

Bush has been credited with playing a key role in arranging the "Operation Moses" secret flights to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

Tuesday's meeting was the second in less than a week between Bush and a U.S. Jewish group. Last Thursday, he met with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in the first of a series of regular meetings.

Referring to ADL's national director, who participated in last week's meeting, Bush said, "I told Abe Foxman here, 'Well, we're practically going steady.'"

Regard For Religious Freedom

The Bush administration appears to have embarked on an open-door policy with Jewish groups. By contrast, the Conference of Presidents seldom met with President Reagan, though its leaders had frequent meetings with Reagan's secretary of state, George Shultz.

Bush, who referred to the conference as the "organization of presidents," said he looks forward to similar dialogues in the future.

The ADL group, meeting in the Old Executive Office Building, also heard Tuesday from Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

Bush's speech was largely devoted to his shared concern with ADL to protect the "sacred right of religious freedom."

"There is no greater contribution that one organization can make to the nation," Bush asserted. Religious freedom "can never be taken for granted," he added, urging ADL to "zealously" continue its work.

The president noted that ADL's annual report on anti-Semitic incidents in the United States reported an increase during 1988.

"We must condemn all attacks on the Jewish religion, the Jewish heritage, clearly, unequivocally and without exception," he said. "This nation must stand for tolerance, pluralism and a healthy respect for the rights of all minorities."

Bush pledged to use the "bully pulpit" of the White House to speak out "for what is just and what is right."

**ARENS SAYS U.S. DID NOT PRESS
PLO TALKS, STEPS TO EASE TENSIONS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens denied Tuesday that anyone in the Bush administration had suggested this week that Israel negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He also said that no U.S. official had proposed a series of steps to ease tensions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, contrary to media reports that such suggestions would be conveyed.

Arens said that in his meetings with administration officials Monday, he did not dwell on Israel's opposition to the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, since the Israeli position that such talks are "counterproductive" is well known.

The Israeli foreign minister had a nearly two-hour meeting Monday with Secretary of State James Baker, followed by shorter meetings with President Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle and Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser. He said none had suggested Israel consider negotiating with the PLO.

However, Baker told a congressional subcommittee Tuesday that if advancing the peace process "takes talks with the PLO, we should not rule that out." [See related story.]

Arens had no comment when asked about this during his address to a luncheon sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

But he made clear in his address that the PLO cannot be a participant in efforts to bring about a Middle East peace settlement.

He said the only reason Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip say that the PLO is their representative is that to do otherwise risks being killed.

Favors Jordanian Role

Arens said to grant the PLO such status would also mark the "beginning of the end" of Jordan and its rulers and would further the PLO's efforts to subvert Israeli Arabs.

The foreign minister stressed that the negotiators for a peace settlement should be Jordan, the Palestinians living in the territories and possibly a third Arab country now at war with Israel. He did not name which one.

When a reporter asked for Arens' comment on an assertion, made last week by a major Israeli think tank, that Israel cannot continue to refuse to talk to the PLO, he replied, "There is no shortage of Israelis who think they know what should be done."

Arens was in Washington to lay the groundwork for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington in April and to present Israel's views on the peace process as the Bush administration formulates its own Middle East policy.

But as Arens arrived in Washington, the State Department let it be known that it plans to ask both Israel and the PLO to take confidence-building steps that could foster an atmosphere conducive to peace negotiations.

These include asking Israel to reopen schools and release some of the Palestinians imprisoned without trial during the uprising. The PLO reportedly will be asked to bring a halt to violent

demonstrations in the territories and to prevent its member groups from attempting to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon.

But Arens insisted Baker "did not say anything like that to me." However, he added, "we did discuss the importance of reducing tensions in the area, bringing down the scope and the level of violence that we have to deal with."

Arens told his listeners "if anyone has a prescription of how it will be done, I would certainly welcome it. It is a very difficult problem, and there is no magic solution."

The foreign minister did point out that Israel already has released some prisoners in the Gaza Strip, has begun reopening schools there and intends to reduce the visibility of Israeli troops in the territories.

BAKER SAYS U.S. WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR \$100,000 MORE IN REFUGEE FUNDS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- The State Department is about to ask Congress to increase funding for resettling refugees by \$100 million, Secretary of State James Baker told Congress on Tuesday.

But a spokeswoman for the Office of Management and Budget said Baker's announcement, made during a hearing of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, was premature.

Foggy Bottom also was caught off guard by Baker's revelation, with State Department refugee affairs spokeswoman Sheppy Abramowitz having no initial reaction.

OMB spokeswoman Barbara Clay said such a request will soon be made as part of a supplemental aid request for the current 1990 fiscal year, which will cover other areas of government spending.

The revelation comes just two weeks after a bill was introduced in Congress by Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Robert Kasten (R-Wis.) to increase U.S. funding by the same \$100,000 amount.

The measure, if approved, also would double the U.S. quota for Soviet refugees this fiscal year from 25,000 to 50,000.

Baker said he thought the State Department had notified Congress within the previous three days about the request. But Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), the subcommittee chairman, told the secretary of state that was the first time he had heard about it.

Talks With PLO May Be Necessary

The Bush administration is under pressure to raise the refugee quota and seek additional funds from Congress, in order to accommodate the thousands of Jews and others pouring out of the Soviet Union.

Last year, some 19,000 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union, a 10-year high. This year, administration officials and Soviet Jewry groups say, the total could be double that.

Baker was also asked whether he now favors a waiver of Jackson-Vanik Amendment sanctions against the Soviet Union. The amendment denies most-favored-nation trade status to Communist countries that, in the U.S. view, do not have satisfactory emigration policies.

The secretary of state praised the Kremlin for a "significant improvement" in its emigration policy. But he told Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.) that

"more needs to be done" by the Soviet Union before a waiver is granted.

He called for Soviet "institutionalization of some of the reforms that have been accomplished on an ad hoc basis."

On the Middle East, Baker said it may be necessary for Israel to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization to achieve peace. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has vowed such talks will never take place.

Asked by Rep. Matthew McHugh (D-N.Y.) if there are credible Palestinians outside the PLO with whom Israel can negotiate, Baker responded, "That remains to be seen." He added, "Several years ago perhaps there would have been."

If it is clear that the PLO is in a better position to negotiate, Baker said, "then that's the way we ought to go."

He reiterated the administration's opposition to an independent Palestinian state, saying such a state would "not be a source of stability." But he said the administration would not oppose one if it were the result of Israel-Palestinian negotiations.

ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN WOMEN GATHER TO TALK ABOUT OPPRESSION
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- "I visited the children in the camp's nursery, and the first words of 2-year-olds were army, stones, afraid. They knew how to differentiate between soldier and policeman," said Zahira Kamal, a Palestinian teacher from Ramallah.

Kamal was speaking Monday night at a program called "Women and Peace." It followed a three-day conference, "The Road to Peace," that brought together Israelis and members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Monday meeting, held at B'nai Jeshurun synagogue in Manhattan, assembled Palestinian women from within Israel, as well as the Israeli-administered territories, with Israeli women such as former Knesset member Chaika Grossman of Mapam and religious feminist Leah Shakkdiel.

Their theme was a belief that women have learned from their own oppression to empathize with others' suffering, and that women can, indeed, make a change.

Although the women's words were strong, they were not caustic or threatening.

Indeed, some members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement, who admittedly had come with intentions of some sort of protest, made no disruptions, apparently finding little objectionable about the presentations.

The women told of women's activities that have proliferated in the territories as benign necessities to improve the quality of life. They did not dwell on political antagonism.

Shakkdiel, an Orthodox Jew who made headlines with her ultimately successful efforts to be elected to the municipal council and religious council of the Israeli town of Yeroham, said she "had the luxury to conduct my struggle to promote what I drastically believe in."

The Palestinian women's fight is no luxury, she underscored.

Grossman, a leader of the Bialystok ghetto revolt and a veteran of mainstream Israeli politics, said, "We fought a long time to have mutual recognition. The Arabs must recognize Israel's existence, and the Israeli state must realize that there is a Palestinian nation, and we have not the right to deny this nation to be a nation."

**SALE OF TABA FACILITIES COMPLETED
IN TIME FOR TRANSFER ON WEDNESDAY**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Egypt deposited \$38.15 million in a Swiss bank account Monday, completing the bills of sale for the Avia Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson Resort Village in Taba.

The transaction removed the last obstacle to the transfer of the Taba enclave and its tourist facilities to Egyptian ownership and control, scheduled to occur at noon Wednesday.

Israeli army engineers spent Tuesday moving the Israeli frontier control post some 100 yards north to the Israeli side of the new border, while Egyptian workers put up similar facilities on Egypt's side of the border.

The Hebrew signs in the former Avia Sonesta Hotel, now renamed the Taba Sonesta Hotel, have already been replaced by signs in Arabic. And the hotel staff, including the switchboard, are already answering guests in English rather than in Hebrew.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Fuad Sultan and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah were due to arrive in Taba on Tuesday, and Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Interior Minister Zaki Badr were due Wednesday.

They will participate in a gala Egyptian flag-raising ceremony, to be attended by many guests and journalists from Cairo.

The Israeli flag-lowering ceremony and official withdrawal from Taba at 11:59 a.m. Wednesday morning will be a far lower-key affair.

The only Israeli who appears not to agree that Taba will be Egyptian after noon Wednesday is Israel Broadcasting Authority Director Uri Porat.

IBA technicians involved in covering the ceremonies have demanded "overseas pay" for their work from midday Wednesday. But Porat has rejected their demand, saying that what is changing is the sovereignty over the area, and not the technicians' work conditions.

Meanwhile, Israeli employees of the Avia Sonesta are holding a sit-down strike in a large Bedouin tent they have set up just across the Israeli border. They are demanding separation compensation at a rate of 350 percent of the normal separation pay.

This is similar to the rate paid by the government to residents and employers of Sharm el-Sheikh and other Sinai facilities forced to withdraw from the region when the Sinai peninsula was returned to Egypt.

Sonesta Hotel owner Eli Papushado has offered 175 percent severance pay to employees not wishing to work at the hotel under Egyptian control.

**ABE STOLAR FINALLY GETS VISA,
FLYING FREE AFTER 58 YEARS**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- After 58 years of living in the Soviet Union, American-born ABE Stolar was finally allowed to leave, together with his family, and arrived in Vienna on Monday with his wife, son and daughter-in-law.

But the 77-year-old Chicago native has no intention of returning to his old hometown. "We decided to go to Israel right away," Stolar said from Vienna, in an interview on NBC-TV's "Today Show."

"I think that's the place for Jews, really," Stolar told program host Jane Pauly. He and his family will leave for Israel on Wednesday.

Much work went into releasing Stolar. Linda Opper of Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry has been talking to Stolar almost every week for several years, and has extensively lobbied members of Congress.

President Reagan sat with Stolar when he visited Moscow last May and spoke with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev about the Stolar case. Stolar has said that he believes that Reagan's meeting with Gorbachev was instrumental in getting him out of the Soviet Union.

Fourteen years ago, when Stolar first tried to leave, he was forcibly removed from a plane together with his wife and son after they were granted permission to leave.

Stolar received a congratulatory call in Vienna from Sen. Paul Simon (D-III), who lobbied for Stolar's right to emigrate. Stolar said he hopes to meet Simon when he visits Chicago, which will be "as soon as we get settled, as soon as I have a house of my own," Stolar said.

Half the work of moving was done in 1975. Although the Stolars were removed from the plane, their belongings went on ahead to Israel. They are waiting for them in Israeli customs, Stolar said.

"Whenever someone would ask me for a book I couldn't find, I would say, 'Oh, that must be in Israel,'" Stolar said.

When Pauly asked him if perhaps his grandchildren might one day want to go back to Russia to visit "their home," he replied, "Oh, God forbid, no. Anyway, I'll teach them not to."

**REFUSENIK MESHKOV ALSO RECEIVES
SOVIET PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Vladimir Meshkov, a 10-year refusenik who has been extremely active in the "poor relatives" group in Leningrad, has just received permission to emigrate, according to Marilyn Tallman, co-chairperson of Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry.

Meshkov, who first applied to emigrate in 1977, is a religious Jew who travels to other places to teach Judaism and uses his Hebrew name, Ze'ev. He has three children, Miriam, Michal and Yonatan, and is a computer programmer by profession.

The 36-year-old Meshkov received his first refusal in 1979. A relative had refused to sign the necessary waiver of financial obligation, thus making him what Soviet Jews call a "poor relative."

His wife, Luba, received the postcard with the good news while he was away teaching.

Tallman, who has spoken to Meshkov every week on the phone, said "He almost always discusses with us the Torah portion of the week or, in the discussion of a political issue, he quotes the Talmud. He's like my teacher."

Meshkov was beaten up by the KGB during a demonstration for refuseniks and has been arrested as well.

"He's been a very brave, a very religious man. He's been an inspiration to us," Tallman said.

Meanwhile, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews commended Sister Ann Gillen for engaging in an 18-day fast of only bread and water on behalf of four long-term Jewish refusenik families.

**DEFENSE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE
MAINLY SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAEL**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Rep. Dick Cheney (R-Wyo.), who was nominated by President Bush to be secretary of defense, is considered a supporter of Israel who has, on occasion, been critical of Israeli policies.

Cheney was elected by Bush on Friday, a day after the Senate rejected the president's first choice, former Sen. John Tower (R-Texas) by a 53-47 vote.

Cheney is one of the most respected members of the House and, as Republican whip, the No. 2 member of the GOP leadership there.

The 48-year-old Cheney has one of the more impressive resumes in government on Capitol Hill, but does not have much experience in defense matters. He did not serve in the military.

However, he is considered the leading House Republican in intelligence matters and is a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

Cheney has not taken a leading position on the Middle East, but Hyman Bookbinder, former Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, said Cheney is a team player and he sees no grounds for the Jewish community to be concerned about him.

Bookbinder said he has known Cheney since he was special assistant to the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity during the Nixon administration, and then later as President Ford's chief of staff. He praised him for his "outgoing personality."

Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said that he and his staff have worked with Cheney over the years.

"We look forward to continuing our relationship with him in this and other areas of mutual concern," said Dine.

Ill-Fated Trips

Cheney has visited Israel several times. His first visit was as a member of Congress on the official U.S. delegation to the funeral of Moshe Dayan. During his second visit to Israel, Prime Minister Menachem Begin resigned.

Presenting the Republican perspective during the 1984 presidential campaign in an address to the annual policy conference of AIPAC, Cheney said that "there is no Republican or Democratic position on the security of Israel -- only an American position."

He said both parties are committed to the "belief that the future prosperity, security and survival of Israel and the United States are inextricably interwoven."

As one of the most militant conservatives in the House, Cheney has voted against the overall foreign aid budget several times during his five terms in the House.

Cheney has supported arms sales to Arab countries, arguing they do not threaten Israel's security.

At the same time, he has argued that there is no question about the importance of an Israeli presence on the West Bank. He said a way should be found to give the Palestinians there "some political rights, probably with Jordan's government."

Cheney criticized Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 "as opportunistic."

At the same time, he initiated a House letter

to then Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, urging him to reach an agreement with Israel to obtain military data garnered by Israeli forces in Lebanon.

He co-sponsored a 1985 sense-of-the-House resolution urging Egypt to return its ambassador to Israel, who was withdrawn because of the Lebanese invasion.

Cheney also co-sponsored a House letter urging President Reagan not to go to the military cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, because members of the Waffen SS are buried there.

Cheney was elected to Congress in 1978, and in 1981, was chosen as a member of the Republican leadership, one of the few to hold such a post after only one term in Congress.

He was the ranking Republican on the House select committee that investigated the Iran-Contra affair.

**MEDIA DISTORT OUR VIEWS ON JEWS,
ARCHBISHOP TELLS VATICAN PARLEY**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, March 14 (JTA) -- Despite "remarkably durable and deepening relations with the Jewish community," the mass media have distorted the Vatican's positions on Jews and negatively influenced Jewish views toward Catholics, a senior U.S. Catholic prelate said last week.

"We bishops have seen the impact of this misinformation on Jewish perceptions of Catholics," Bishop William Keeler said at a meeting on ecumenism and evangelism held during an unprecedented four-day summit last week between 36 U.S. archbishops and Pope John Paul II and senior Vatican officials.

Keeler described efforts to heal the damage, including consultations with Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, who heads the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, and representatives of major American Jewish groups.

"The response has been heartening," said Keeler. "The American Jewish Committee, the Synagogue Council of America and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith are all circulating very helpful memoranda of clarification to their own constituencies."

Keeler said that the recent document on "The Church and Racism," which included condemnations of anti-Semitism and Nazism, had been positively received by American Jews and "will be of great help to our efforts."

Keeler also said committees within the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the American representative body, have issued two major documents over the past year aimed at bettering Jewish-Catholic relations.

The documents were guidelines on the presentation of Passion plays, and on the presentation of Jews and Judaism in Catholic preaching.

Still, Keeler did not gloss over differences with Jews, including frequently voiced Jewish concern regarding the pope's failure to recognize the State of Israel.

"This friendship is not without challenges and divergences of perspective, stemming in the main from the tragedies of the past and, most poignantly, the Shoah," said Keeler, using the Hebrew word for Holocaust.

He added, however, that "in the United States, with the largest Jewish population of any nation, there are remarkably durable and deepening relations with the Jewish community, both nationally and in the diocese."