

**U.S. SHOULD REASSESS JACKSON-VANIK,
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS LEADER SAYS**
By Susan Blinbaum

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) -- It is time for the United States to re-evaluate its restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union, in light of profound changes instituted by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the president of the World Jewish Congress said Wednesday night.

Speaking in Philadelphia to the World Affairs Council, Edgar Bronfman said the U.S. government should consider waiving such restrictions under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which links the granting of most-favored-nation trade status to freedom of emigration for Jews and other minorities.

His remarks, which were reported by the WJC office here, are the latest indication that the American Jewish community will soon drop its opposition to waiving the 1975 amendment's restrictions. Sources in the community believe such a policy change will occur by June.

Bronfman said his recommendations were based on analyses undertaken with members of the East-West Forum, an international organization of policy-makers and scholars he convened three years ago to arrive at the best management possible of East-West relations.

"The Soviets have gone far toward answering the problems that led the U.S. to put the Jackson-Vanik Amendment into law," said Bronfman. "This sea change calls for an energetic and imaginative Western response."

"Should the Soviets continue on their current path," Bronfman reasoned, "the United States administration should review Jackson-Vanik restrictions, which prohibit most-favored-nation status on tariff issues to any non-market economy country that restricts emigration."

NJCRCAC Said To Favor Waiver

Sources now say they believe the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, as well as the WJC, will probably ask for the waiver in or around June.

NJCRCAC is believed to have decided on an 18-month waiver in a closed-door vote at its annual plenum last month in Washington.

NJCRCAC officials refused to verify this at the time, but there were reports to that effect in the Long Island Jewish World and Congressional Quarterly.

On Thursday, Dr. Lawrence Rubin, associate executive vice chairman of NJCRCAC, confirmed that the umbrella group had held a full discussion on Jackson-Vanik during the February conclave.

"A consensus did emerge which will be articulated within the process of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry at its executive committee meeting in June," Rubin said.

The National Conference on Tuesday released a statement affirming that the organization is continuing to reassess its policy on the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The statement was released by Shoshana Cardin, conference chairwoman, who was attending an executive committee meeting of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem.

At the NJCRCAC plenum in February, Cardin

had argued against waiving the amendment, cautioning against "unjustified euphoria" over Soviet changes.

On Thursday, National Conference spokesman Jerry Strober said the group is not presently agreeing to a waiver, but is "looking at a number of factors, obviously having to do with emigration."

Among them, he said, are the "rate of Jewish emigration and its sustained basis, the question of long-term refuseniks, the question of whether the Soviets will promulgate a new codification of emigration law, and whether Secretary-General Gorbachev will fulfill the promise that he made in his December 1988 U.N. speech, when he talked about putting strict limitations on state secrecy."

Strober said the National Conference would "continue its process of assessing our position vis-a-vis U.S.-Soviet trade policy, looking toward a new policy in the near future if emigration and the climate in which it functions are sustained."

**PERES SAYS HE MAY PROPOSE PLAN
CALLING FOR 'PALESTINIAN ENTITY'**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres denied a newspaper report Thursday that he intends to present a peace plan calling for the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state in the administered territories.

Pressed during a television interview, however, Peres hinted that he may have plans that refer to a "Palestinian entity," pointing out there was little difference between such a body and the autonomy ideas agreed to by both Likud and Labor.

He also indicated a new willingness to consider negotiations with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Who does the PLO represent?" Peres asked. "The majority of the Palestinians live in Jordan. The PLO certainly doesn't talk for them. And if it claims to talk for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza, why should we not talk to them directly?"

The Labor Party leader said he would discuss his ideas privately with Yitzhak Shamir before the prime minister travels to Washington in early April. But he said he would not discuss them openly or even present them to the Cabinet until Shamir returns home.

"I want Shamir to go to Washington under the best possible circumstances," Peres said. "If he can persuade the Americans to accept the plan, well and good. If he can persuade the Palestinians to accept it, well and good."

Shamir refused to comment on the rumored Peres plan, which was disclosed Thursday by the respected Hebrew daily Ha'aretz. But he said that the national unity government must not be allowed to collapse.

According to the Ha'aretz story, the peace plan was drawn up by Peres and a "think tank" led by reserve Brig. Gen. Ephraim Sneh, former head of the civil administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The story said it would be made public next month, after Shamir returns from his talks with President Bush in Washington.

Sneh, speaking from Geneva in an interview with Israeli army radio, denied that there was a detailed alternative plan to the one Shamir will bring to the United States. But he spoke of some new "ideas."

Expects Shamir Visit To Fail

The basis of those ideas, he said, is the assumption that Shamir's visit will be a failure.

The story came amid a barrage of advice being leveled at Shamir by politicians from all shades of the political spectrum, as the premier prepared for the U.S. trip.

Knesset members on the right are advising him not to give up an inch of the biblical Land of Israel. The left is urging him to talk to the PLO.

Shamir has revealed little of the plan he intends to present to Washington. But it is said to include some kind of an interim arrangement for Palestinian autonomy in the territories. He has categorically ruled out, however, the possibility of a Palestinian state and any transactions with the PLO.

Ha'aretz said the Peres plan proposes, in effect, a demilitarized Palestinian state, with its own parliament and police force. Security would be controlled by the defense forces of Jordan and of Israel.

The plan calls for an unofficial cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians on all fronts for one year. It would include a stage of preparations for a meeting between Israel and Palestinians, including Palestinians abroad, with informal U.S. and Soviet encouragement.

After that period, negotiations would begin under an international "umbrella" modeled after the 1973 Geneva peace conference convened in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War.

Israel would negotiate directly with freely elected representatives of the Palestinian population of the administered territories.

The paper says the Peres plan does not rule out an eventual meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

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

TALKS WITH PLO ARE A 'MISTAKE,' HAIG TELLS ISRAEL BONDS LEADERS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig Jr. said Thursday that the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organizations "was a mistake" that diverts attentions from the real effort to achieve peace in the Middle East.

"It reiterated the PLO's claim to be the only Palestinian address and suggested to Israel that the United States ultimately favors a Palestinian state," Haig said at a luncheon of the International President's Club of the State of Israel Bonds Organization.

Some 400 Israel Bonds leaders from the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Israel were in Washington for a two-day celebration of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

The event included receptions on Capitol Hill and at the Israeli Embassy Wednesday, as well as a closed-door briefing by Secretary of State James Baker on Thursday.

Haig said that President Bush has repeatedly asserted U.S. opposition to a Palestinian state.

"Washington should make sure that its pronouncements reflect its policies and do not build up misconceptions on either side of the dialogue," he said.

He said that having PLO leader Yasir Arafat in the peace process is like the man who comes to a dinner dressed in a tuxedo and carrying a brown paper bag. "He wants a seat at the peace table, but somehow you suspect he is bringing something that isn't quite kosher," Haig said.

'Dialogue Of The Deaf'

The former secretary called the U.S.-PLO meeting in Carthage, Tunisia, on Wednesday a "dialogue of the deaf."

But at the State Department Thursday, spokesman Charles Redman, said the United States is using "the dialogue to determine if the PLO is prepared to commit itself" to a process that will "advance a workable and realistic peace."

The meeting Wednesday was the second formal dialogue since the U.S. opened talks with the PLO in December. A third meeting is planned, but the date has not yet been announced.

Earlier Thursday, Richard Perle, former assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, told the Bonds leaders he saw little worthwhile in a dialogue with the PLO.

But he suggested that if it is to proceed, the United States should demand that the PLO eliminate the section of the Palestine National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction and renounce its demands that Palestinian refugees be allowed to return to pre-1967 Israel.

In his remarks, Haig said Israel and Egypt were able to sign a peace treaty because the Camp David approach was rooted in "strategic reality, rather than the quest for perfection."

He said the treaty is not perfect and it still "remains a disappointment" that it has not led to completely normal relations between the two countries. "But in the final analysis, a cold peace is far better than a hot war," he said.

A Muted 10th Anniversary

Haig said that now that Israel has a government "speaking with one voice," he believes that "Israel will come up with constructive ideas to change the situation" in the administered territories. "And I believe that when Israel does so, we should all be prepared to help," he added.

"Peace will come about when we have that triangle of a strong Israel willing to take risks, of an America that stands by Israel and of an American Jewry rallying to that cause," he said.

At a breakfast session Thursday, Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and novelist, also urged Jews to unite behind Israel, despite their difference over some of its policies. Many of the Bonds leaders came to Washington directly from Jerusalem, where they participated in the Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity With Israel.

Wiesel also expressed surprise that Jews in Israel and abroad have not done more to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the peace treaty.

Bonds leaders told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Israel Bonds celebration was held at the insistence of Meir Rosenne, the new president and chief executive officer of Israel Bonds and a former Israeli ambassador to Washington.

Rosenne also was the legal adviser to the Israeli Foreign Ministry during the negotiations for the Camp David accords and the subsequent peace treaty.

TERRORIST RING IN JERUSALEM UNCOVERED BY SECURITY FORCES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Security forces this week scored one of their most impressive achievements in recent years when they uncovered a large terrorist ring that has been active for at least five years in the Jerusalem area.

In a meticulous investigation, police and agents of the Shin Bet internal security service uncovered the ring, which reportedly was operated by the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist group led by Dr. George Habash.

More than 40 suspects have been detained, suspected of throwing Molotov cocktails, setting cars on fire and attacking Arabs who allegedly collaborated with Israeli authorities.

The terrorists, all residents of East Jerusalem, are believed to be linked to a number of yet unresolved terrorist attacks.

Some of the groups' members were among those released from Israeli jails in the controversial 1985 prisoner exchange, in which 1,150 terrorists were released from Israeli prisons in exchange for three Israeli soldiers being held captive by terrorist groups in Lebanon.

Altogether, the cell is linked to 50 terrorist attacks in the past five years, among them firebomb attacks on the British and American consulates in East Jerusalem.

Police described the cell as "professional, way beyond other terrorists who operated in the area in the past few years."

Many of its members were trained in Arab countries. They operated on a near-perfect system of individual cells, in which members of one cell were not aware of the identities or activities of those in other cells.

Members of the cells reportedly received their instructions in radio broadcasts and written messages from abroad.

The cell members were described as educated and young -- between the ages of 16 and 25.

Their arrest has had an immediate effect on the level of violence in the Jerusalem area, which has since dropped by two-thirds, according to Yosef Yehudai, Jerusalem police commander.

TWO PALESTINIAN CHILDREN KILLED; SETTLERS REPORT NEW FIREBOMBINGS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Two Palestinian boys, ages 11 and 14, were killed in the last two days in confrontations with Israelis in the administered territories.

In addition, about 16 Palestinians were wounded Wednesday and seven Thursday in clashes with Israeli troops.

The Arab casualties mounted as Jewish settlers in the West Bank reported a new spate of firebomb incidents.

Ahmed Abdel-Fatah Ahdid, 11, died Wednesday when troops fired on protesters at the Tulkarm refugee camp, according to hospital officials. He was shot in the heart.

On Thursday, a 14-year-old boy was killed in the village of Ussarin, near Nablus. According to military sources, no soldiers were present in the village Thursday.

Authorities were checking into the possibility that the boy was shot by Jewish civilians who were attacked by stones.

In the West Bank, the army prevented angry Jewish settlers from the town of Ariel from conducting a "vengeance raid" Wednesday evening on the nearby village of Bidya, following a firebomb attack from the village on a Jewish car.

In another apparent firebomb attack, the driver of a fuel truck was moderately hurt Thursday near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem.

Meanwhile, though Likud and Labor eyed each other suspiciously over their respective positions on the peace process, the two parties agreed to allocate 35 million shekels (\$20 million) for consolidating settlements in the territories as well as establishing new settlements.

The details will be finalized within six weeks by Finance Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, who has been publicly opposed to new settlements, and by Housing Minister David Levy, who favors them. Only last week, Peres said he had no money for more settlements.

GREEKS BEGIN HEARING TESTIMONY ABOUT WAR CRIMES OF ALOIS BRUNNER

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, March 23 (JTA) -- The office of the district attorney in Salonika began hearing testimony Thursday against Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner.

Brunner is believed to be living in Syria since 1950, although Syria has repeatedly denied this and refused West German requests for Brunner's extradition.

The hearings in Salonika will also be attended by the district attorney of Frankfurt, Walter Griebel.

The West German authorities initiated the investigations taking place in Salonika, in hopes of gaining enough evidence to present Syria with a tough request for Brunner's extradition.

The Jewish community here has urged Greek authorities to demand Brunner's extradition.

The first four people to be heard will be Greek Jews who survived the deportations of World War II. They are Edgar Kounio, Elena Kounio, Alfonso Levy and Emilia Saoul.

Brunner, now 76, was a captain in the SS and the right-hand man to Adolf Eichmann. He is considered the most important Nazi still at large.

He is accused of being responsible for the extermination of more than 125,000 Jews from Austria, France, Greece, Slovakia and Berlin.

Demonstration In Paris

In Paris, meanwhile, a group of Jewish militants staged a demonstration Thursday to protest Syria's refusal to extradite Brunner. The demonstration was held as the Syrian foreign minister ended a visit to France.

Some 20 demonstrators, mainly from the Betar youth movement, protested outside the Syrian cultural center as Farouk a-Shara was on his way to a news conference there.

After a few minutes of protest, the gates of the cultural center opened and some 20 mustachioed men came out, waving a Palestinian flag, and started to chant, "Shamir assassin," in reference to the Israeli prime minister.

The Jewish demonstrators immediately responded with "Hafez Assad assassin," in reference to Syria's president.

The protesters were accompanied by Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld, who, together with her husband, Serge, has been leading efforts to obtain Brunner's extradition from Syria.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
SPECIAL SOVIET RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN
WILL BE TEST OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPY**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) — As any successful fund-raiser knows, Jews give best when it comes from their "kishkes," or guts, rather than from their heads.

A recent example is the emotional outpouring that marked the 1984 Operation Moses drive, when Jews contributed \$60 million on behalf of Israel-bound Ethiopian Jews.

But a different mood marks the beginning of the United Jewish Appeal's \$75 million "Passage to Freedom" campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewish emigrants.

According to UJA leaders who discussed the new campaign at a news conference here Monday, the driving force behind the campaign is cool pragmatism rather than philanthropic zeal.

The reason lies in the unprecedented nature of the Soviet Jewish exodus. The "Passage to Freedom" campaign is designed to relieve the financial burden on Jewish agencies helping to resettle an influx of Soviet Jews that could reach 40,000 this year.

Fund-raising missions are being planned, speakers are being booked, and April has been designated as "Passage to Freedom" month. Communities will be asked to conduct fund-raising phone-a-thons during the intermediate days of Passover.

The efforts are aimed at tapping compassion for Soviet Jews, which reached a high point in December 1987, when 200,000 American Jews descended on Washington to rally for their Soviet brethren's freedom.

UJA leaders speak emotionally of the historic responsibility of settling the new immigrants and the uncertainty of the Soviet Union's relaxed emigration policies.

The Drop-Out Problem

But an irony tempers their enthusiasm: The Soviet Jewry movement was based on Zionism and its beneficiaries usually leave the Soviet Union with Israeli visas. Yet some 90 percent of recent emigrants have chosen to live in the United States rather than Israel.

Israelis are frustrated by the phenomenon they call "dropping out," and some blame the Americans for enticing Soviets with a host of social services.

American Jewish leaders sympathize with the Israelis but defend their actions. "I think it is fair to say that the overwhelming consensus of American Jewish organizations would wish that all Soviet Jews would go to the State of Israel," UJA President Stanley Horowitz said Monday.

"However, what is an appropriate response — once the determination is made — to those who will not go to Israel?" he asked. "The American Jewish community is dedicated to the idea of responding to fellow Jews."

Horowitz said he has been telling Israeli leaders that the purpose of the special campaign is to prevent a repeat of 1980 and 1981, the years immediately following the exodus of some 59,000 Jews from the Soviet Union.

"The UJA lost a great deal of money in 1980-81, as federations used for local needs money that might have gone to the UJA. We're helping Israel to avoid that problem," said Horowitz.

The UJA raises its money in partnership with the local federations, who ultimately decide how much of the year's campaign will go to the UJA and how much to local needs. The "Passage to Freedom" campaign is being conducted above and beyond the \$720 million-plus that UJA and the federations raise jointly each year.

Balling Out The 'Affected Seven'

Ambivalence is expressed in other ways as well. Approximately 80 percent of the emigrants are settling in seven communities: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and the North Shore communities of Massachusetts.

At a meeting here last week of representatives of 35 of the 42 largest Jewish federations, some expressed concern that their communities are having to carry the burden of what have come to be known as the "affected seven."

"There is some concern, but I think it will work itself out through discussions at the committee level," said Marvin Lender, the New Haven, Conn., investor who chairs the special campaign.

The mechanism for working out details is a "monitoring" committee coordinated by the Council of Jewish Federations. The committee has representation from all of the agencies affected by the Soviet emigration.

They include the federations, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, UJA and its major beneficiaries: the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The committee already has determined "community quotas," or the amount federations are expected to raise on behalf of the campaign.

The quota will be based on how much an individual federation contributed to last year's general campaign — the higher the percentage, the higher the quota, according to Lender.

Lender said federation leaders at last week's meeting "accepted the quota we assigned them and made personal contributions." He said that UJA national vice chairmen already had contributed \$1 million to the campaign.

The 1989 special campaign thus appears to be well on its way. But what about the future? If Jews continue to flow out of the Soviet Union, will the special campaign then become a yearly event?

"We thought about that a lot," said Lender, who added he hopes that the doors of the Soviet Union will remain open. "But right now we're dealing with the realities of 1989. We have to deal with what is now."

ZIONIST PIONEER BERL REPETUR IS DEAD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) — Berl Repetur, one of the founders of modern Israel and signatory of the Declaration of Independence in 1948, died Thursday at the age of 86.

Repetur, who came to Israel with the third aliyah after the Russian Revolution, was one of the founders of the Histadrut labor federation and a member of the Gedud Ha'avoda labor brigade, which drained swamps and built roads. He played a leading role in making the port of Haifa a Jewish work place.

He served as a Knesset member representing the Labor Party for many years, before retiring to his home at Kibbutz Yagur, near Haifa, where he was to be buried Friday.