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# THORNBURGH SETS TERMS FOR WAIVING JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT SANCTIONS By Howard Rosenberg

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Attorney General Dick Thornburgh told Soviet officials in Moscow last week that he would urge President Bush to waive trade sanctions against the Soviet Union if it adopts emigration reforms in three areas.

Thornburgh met with Rudolf Kuznetsov, head of the Soviet OVIR emigration agency, and received a copy of the latest draft legislation to ease Soviet emigration restrictions, Murray Dickman, an aide to the attorney general, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Tuesday.

Dickman said Thornburgh told Kuznetsov that he would recommend a waiver of sanctions contained in the 1975 Jackson-Vanik Amendment if the Soviets enact legislation that would:

- \* End emigration refusals to those privy to "state secrets";
- \* Prevent relatives of potential emigres from blocking their emigration; and
- \* Ease the requirement for a "letter of sent there within a few months. invitation" from relatives abroad.

  He described the personn

Dickman said the Justice Department had not yet translated the draft legislation presented to Thornburgh. He also said Soviet officials initially would not give the attorney general a copy, on the grounds that members of the Supreme Soviet had not yet seen it. The legislation is expected to be considered by the Soviet parliament as early as next spring.

Dickman reported that as a result of Thorn-burgh's visit, Kuznetsov will likely have a "continuing relationship" with Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner-designate Gene McNary. In addition, he said a bilateral working group is being set up to address emigration issues.

The Jackson-Vanik Amendment denies mostfavored-nation trade status and U.S. government aid to the Soviets and some other Communist countries.

## Jewish Officials Tour Facilities

Accompanying Thornburgh on the first trip by a U.S. attorney general to the Soviet Union were three U.S. Jewish officials: Carmi Schwartz, executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations; Mark Talisman, its Washington representative; and Karl Zukerman, executive vice president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

The Jewish officials did not sit in on any of Thornburgh's meetings with Kuznetsov or the attorney general's counterparts at the Soviet Ministry of Justice. But they inspected the new refugee processing center being constructed at the U.S. Embassy and sat in on a refugee interview.

Thornburgh invited the Jewish delegation to Moscow to examine how the United States is implementing its recent decision to shift its processing of Soviet refugees from Rome to the Soviet captial.

The shift, which went into effect Oct. 1, means that any Soviet Jew now leaving the Soviet Union on an Israeli entry visa can no longer "drop out" in Vienna, travel to Rome and apply there for permission to enter the United States as a refugee.

The Jewish delegation did not get an answer to one of cits primary concerns: whether there will be "capricious" denials of refugee status by U.S. officials in Moscow, as Schwartz put it.

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But Dickman said that U.S. immigration officials are likely to deny refugee status to some of the Soviet Jews applying at the embassy in Moscow. He said U.S. refugee law prohibits the Immigration and Naturalization Service from granting refugee status to everyone who applies for it.

Phillip Saperia, assistant executive vice president of HIAS, agreed that there are "bound to be denials."

Refugee status, limited to foreigners demonstrating "a well-founded fear of persecution," entitles recipients to U.S. government funds for transportation and initial resettlement, as well as allowing them to seek U.S. citizenship.

## Doctor Tells Of Anti-Semitism

Schwartz reported that there are currently six INS adjudicators at the Moscow embassy and that 20 additional adjudicators are expected to be sent there within a few months.

Ation" from relatives abroad.

Dickman said the Justice Department had not ranslated the draft legislation presented to adjudicators expected to arrive "are going to not give the attorney general a copy, on the situation for Jews in the Soviet Union.

Schwartz said he believes there is still anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, as claimed by a Soviet Jewish family in the refugee interview he sat in on at the embassy.

In the interview, a Soviet Jewish otolaryngologist claimed to have experienced "serious anti-Semitism on the job."

The doctor said that in February, a patient asked her if she was Jewish, "because you have a Jew face." The patient refused to be examined, because "Jewish doctors are known to kill their non-Jewish patients in the Soviet Union," the doctor told an INS official.

Her husband, also a doctor, said they "were confronted on subways and clinics with people swaying to imitate Jews at prayer," Schwartz said.

The interview was "conducted in a hallway with a 5-foot portable partition wall," he said, explaining that INS officials currently work in "very cramped facilities and quarters."

The Jewish officials also saw newly refurbished sections of the embassy, where new waiting spaces, interview rooms and consular offices are being built.

## Lulav And Etrog Outside Embassy

Outside the embassy were lines of Soviets waiting to file refugee applications. The Jewish officials independently confirmed that 10 percent of those waiting were Jewish, by asking U.S. officials and two Lubavitcher rabbis.

The rabbis "walked up and down the line to engage (Jews) in blessing the ctrog and lulav," Schwartz said, speaking of the ritual items used on the Sukkot festival.

The delegation also met with Israel's vice consul in Moscow, Yakov Kedmi. Kedmi, whose delegation arrived in the Soviet Union in July 1988, recently visited Birobijan, the area of



eastern Siberia the Soviets established in 1934 as a "Jewish autonomous region."

Kedmi reported that about 13,000 people there acknowledge they are Jewish and that an equivalent amount probably are, but do not say so. He said that Jews there asked for information about Israel, including videotapes and cassettes.

Schwartz called the apparent new communications system between Jews in the Soviet Union and Israel a "positive aspect of glasnost," the Soviet word for openness.

## SIMCHAT TORAH ON ARKHIPOVA STREET: JEWISH PRIDE AND DREAMS OF AMERICA

MOSCOW, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- On Simchat Torah, Jews owned Arkhipova Street outside Moscow's Choral Synagogue, but many in the closely pressed throng of more than 10,000 were ready to sell it for an exit visa to the United States.

They came to the synagogue last Saturday night to affirm their identity as Jews, although few inside held siddurim and few knew when to say "Amen." Many pushed their way into the sanctuary just to share a moment with fellow Jews, including some American journalists.

On the bimah, Rabbi Adolf Shayevich and five local cantors led the traditional service. The pews were filled with old and young. Some were davening.

But most of those who packed the aisles and galleries just strained for a view of the bimah and schmoozed, eventually spilling out into the jammed-packed street below, where a blaring tape recorder provided Israeli music for hora dancers.

For years, they have gathered on Arkhipova Street on Simchat Torah to signal their defiance against religious repression. But now, in the era of glasnost and perestroika, they can assemble without fear of the KGB.

This year, the Soviet Jews gathered on Arkhipova Street focused their energies on emigration by seeking answers from the many American Jews who came to celebrate the holiday with them.

The Americans were everywhere. A B'nai B'rith group, led by novelist Leon Uris, fielded queries in one corner; activists from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews were in another.

And in the midst of the crowd were the executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and a small band of editors of American Jewish newspapers.

## 'Another Revolution' In The USSR

The Soviet Jews besieged anyone with an American accent to ask about life in the United States, job prospects and the new U.S. immigration policy. Hungry for information, they clustered around their visitors as if they were rock stars.

Many asked -- in varying degrees of English fluency -- about pursuing various careers. One, a would-be opera singer, wanted to know where she could study. Another, an English literature major, wanted to find work in Detroit. "You see, I have traveled there."

The Americans told them all they could, but they cautioned that visas to the United States are now hard to come by, and might take years. Israel is the logical alternative, they suggested.

But the Soviets mainly wanted to learn about America. It is clearly their destination of choice.

Those gathered on Arkhipova Street seemed proud of their Jewishness. Many of the older

people walked up to their visitors and proclaimed, "Ich bin a Yid" (I am a Jew).

One elderly man summed up the new reality: "I studied Hebrew as a child and believed in God," he said.

"Then there was the revolution, and our leaders told us there is no God. And I believed that too," he said.

"Now there is another revolution in this country -- and there is a revolution in my heart."

(This report was written jointly by Rebecca Boroson, editor of the Jewish Standard in Hackensack, N.J.; Sam Clevenson, editor of the Albany (N.Y.) Jewish World; David Frank, editor of the MetroWest Jewish News in East Orange, N.J.; and Marc S. Klein, editor and publisher of the Northern California Jewish Bulletin in San Francisco. They are in the Soviet Union on a three-week study mission under the auspices of the American Jewish Press Association.)

# IMPROVED SOVIET-ISRAEL ECONOMIC TIES EXPECTED TO DEVELOP FROM PERES TRIP By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Improved trade and economic ties are expected to develop between Israel and the Soviet Union as a consequence of Vice Premier Shimon Peres' forthcoming trip to the Soviet Union.

This is to include direct air routes between the two countries and establishment of ocean freight service that would bring the belongings of Soviet Jews to their new home in Israel.

Peres' policy adviser, Nimrod Novik, returned from Moscow Sunday after completing arrangements for the visit, which is scheduled for the first week in December.

He said the Soviets expect a "high profile" event and that Peres, who is Israel's finance minister, plans to focus on economic issues.

Novik said that during his stay in Moscow, agreement was reached in principle to establish an ocean freight service between Israeli and Soviet ports.

The cargo ships will carry the personal effects of Soviet Jewish immigrants expected to come to Israel in large numbers in the near future. But their main purpose will be to facilitate the exchange of goods between the two countries as commerce develops.

The shipping agreement followed closely on the agreement to establish regular air service between Moscow and Tel Aviv. It involves the two national air carriers, Aeroflot and El Al, which will operate both scheduled and charter flights.

This was a dream Israel long sought, to ensure that Jewish emigres who left the Soviet Union on Israeli visas went to Israel instead of a Western country.

The direct flights will also make it easier for the increasing number of Soviet Jewish tourists who are going to Israel for one- to three-month visits.

In New York, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry issued a statement last week welcoming the agreement on direct flights.

Shoshana Cardin, the conference's chairwoman, said the accord "demonstrates that the Soviet authorities may now be prepared to acknowledge their responsibility to live up to" international agreements regarding "the fundamental human right to leave one's country."

# U.S. LUKEWARM ABOUT REPORTS SHAMIR ACCEPTS BAKER PROPOSALS IN PRINCIPLE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The State Department threw cold water Tuesday on optimistic reports from Israel that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is close to accepting Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal leading to Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Israeli news reports said Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had sent Baker a cable Monday night accepting the five-point proposal in principle, but proposing several major revisions.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler confirmed Tuesday that Baker had received the cable. But she said it dealt with same issues that Baker and Arens have discussed on the telephone for the last two weeks.

The Israelis still have serious concerns or reservations that the United States is working with them to overcome, she said.

But at the Israeli Embassy here, spokeswoman Ruth Yaron countered that the Arens cable sent a "positive message" to the United States.

Arens expressed "Israel's readiness to accept in principle Baker's five points, with slight modifications that are needed in order to make sure Israeli concerns are met," Yaron said.

She said Israel has two major concerns. The first is "to make sure that Israel will not find itself negotiating" with representatives of the concerns they had about the Camp David accords. Palestine Liberation Organization.

The second is to make sure that the Cairo contributed to this report.) talks will deal with Israel's proposal to have Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip elect representatives to participate in peace negotiations with Israel.

### No 'Siege Situation'

Tutwiler said the United States believes that "the Israelis are working hard to advance the peace process. Without saying whether they have accepted or rejected Baker's five points, it is obvious they are seriously exploring a way to bridge the gap."

The United States is "continuing to work closely with Israel and Egypt to bring about a positive response to the five points," she added.

Tutwiler was reluctant to say that any progress had been made with the Arens cable. But her tone Tuesday was clearly more friendly to Israel than it was last week when she criticized statements by Shamir as "unhelpful."

In Israel, Shamir, who last week accused the Bush administration of trying to force Israeli talks with the PLO, denied Tuesday that there is "either a crisis or a siege situation" between Israel and the United States.

Instead, he told reporters accompanying him on a visit to military positions in the Golan Heights that the situation is now in a "clarification stage."

Shamir said Tuesday that when the "clarification stage" is completed, he will bring the issue before the Cabinet. Both hard-line ministers in Shamir's Likud bloc and leaders of the Labor Party, Likud's coalition partner, have complained that they have been excluded from the negotiations on Baker's five points.

Shamir also reiterated Tuesday that he hopes to meet with President Bush and Baker in Washington on Nov. 15, as planned. There have been indications he might cancel the trip if disagreements with Washington are not resolved by then.

Reports in Washington late last week and over the weekend indicated that Baker was growing impatient with the Israeli position and was on the verge of "washing his hands" of Israel's peace initiative.

### Baker Less Pessimistic

But after the latest diplomatic exchange, the secretary of state appears to be a bit more hopeful. Responding to a question after his speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on Monday night, Baker repeated his assertion there is a "possibility" for success, but not a "probability."

Tutwiler said Tuesday that the secretary is "not overly pessimistic; he is not overly optimistic; he is very realistic."

She said that Arens' cable reinforced the U.S. assertion that Israel, the United States and Egypt "are working hard to bridge the gap" and meet the concerns of both Israel and Egypt.

Tutwiler indicated that Baker has not yet changed the wording of any of his five points, though he is open to changes. "Baker is not an unreasonable person," she said.

A State Department source indicated that Israel's concerns could possibly be met without changing Baker's five points through a "side letter." A similar approach was used in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter, who sent separate side letters to Israel and Egypt to assuage different

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem

# ISRAEL ADMITS, THOUGH EMBASSY DENIES, IT LOBBIED AGAINST DAY FOR ARMENIANS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Foreign Ministry sources have admitted that "certain top officials" were "overzealous" in lobbying against a Senate resolution commemorating the Turkish genocide of Armenians during World War I.

Ministry sources told The Jerusalem Post on Monday that they had been "astounded" to learn that the Israeli Embassy in Washington had been engaged in active lobbying against the resolution, in consultation with several American Jewish organizations.

The sources said that the embassy had been instructed only to "make inquiries" about the proposed Senate resolution, in response to a request by Turkey.

The measure in question would designate April 24, 1990, as a national day of remembrance of the "Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923."

The unnamed diplomats embroiled Jerusalem in an embarrassing affair, the sources said.

In Washington, however, the spokeswoman for the Israeli Embassy appeared to contradict these sources, saying that representatives of Israel "did not turn to any Jewish organizations with a request for action, and there was no direct Israeli activity in this matter."

The lobbying activity, if it indeed took place, is viewed here as having been an attempt to appease Turkey, the only Moslem nation besides Egypt with diplomatic ties to Israel, at the expense of Armenian sensibilities.

In an attempt to soothe feelings, the Foreign Ministry said that "Israel, as the state of the Jewish people, who suffered more persecution and oppression than any other people, is very sensitive to the suffering of the Armenian people."

BAY AREA JEWS HELP PICK UP THE PIECES WHILE TELLING TALES OF THE '89 QUAKE By Peggy Isaak Gluck Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- After brushing off the dust of last week's devastating 6.9 earthquake here, the Jewish community of San Francisco has moved quickly not only to restore normalcy to their own institutions, but to reach out and help their entire community recover.

On Tuesday, a week after the earthquake struck, representatives of the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Federation presented a check for \$250,000 to the Red Cross.

"The federation has advanced these funds now because of the urgent and immediate need. We anticipate that individual contributions to the federation's earthquake relief effort will far exceed this advance," said JCF Executive Director Rabbi Brian Lurie.

In addition, federations in the Greater East Bay and San Jose joined with the United Way to raise funds, and synagogues in the area mounted individual campaigns with all donations directed at the local nonsectarian relief agencies.

Those needing relief included members of the Jewish community. In San Francisco's Marina District, between 40 and 50 Jewish households were declared unsafe and their residents temporarily homeless.

The Jewish Family and Children's Services is working to relocate the Jewish families and individuals left homeless to temporary quarters. Scores of people have called the agency to offer housing.

One synagogue, Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco, had to house its own rabbi and cantor. Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz and Cantor Roslyn Barak, both residents of the Marina District, had their homes damaged in the earthquake and stayed with congregants who volunteered their homes.

#### Close Call

Fortunately, Jewish institutions, with only a few exceptions, emerged relatively undamaged.

The San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council inspected synagogues around the Bay Area. "Damage as far as we can ascertain is minimal," said Jerry Isaak-Shapiro, assistant director of the agency. "In that way, we are quite lucky."

Some Jewish organizations, however, did not share in that luck. A landmark building in Oakland that contained the offices of United Synagogue of America and Young Judaea has been condemned, and both organizations have been temporarily relocated to private homes.

In San Francisco, a workshop operated by Jewish Family and Children's Services was condemned, and the Jewish Community Library suffered extensive damage.

At the Home for Jewish Parents, staff and residents mourned a loss of life: Anamafi Kalousa Moala, 23, a part-time certified nursing assistant at the home, who apparently was the only person killed on the Bay Bridge the day of the quake.

In addition to offering financial help, Jewish groups and individuals are pitching into the general relief effort in a variety of ways.

Teen-age members of San Francisco B'nai B'rith Girls went door-to-door to homes and stores collecting several truckloads of food and clothing, which were delivered to the Salvation Army on Sunday.

Local members of B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Women, in the throes of the organizations' annual drive for the homeless, are now donating clothing, sleeping bags and blankets to victims of the earthquake.

The San Francisco Jewish Community Center opened its doors to earthquake victims, providing them with hot showers and hot meals plus support groups to deal with emotional problems.

Congregation Shearith Israel, the historic synagogue which withstood the 1906 earthquake, had some new faces in its building this week.

The freshman and sophomore classes of neighboring St. Rose Academy resumed their studies in the synagogue, after their own building suffered extensive earthquake damage.

#### 'Where Were You?'

"I think in times of crisis such as this, all of us, whatever religion or race, should be reaching out to one another. That's been the spirit of the Quake of '89," said Rabbi Martin Weiner, whose board OK'd the temporary housing arrangement with no hesitation.

All through the community, the simple question asked repeatedly since the earthquake has been: "Where were you?" The answers to that question ranged from the hair-raising to the amusing.

Lucie Ramsey, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater East Bay, was heading eastbound on Interstate 580 toward Interstate 80 and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, her regular route toward her Mill Valley home.

She heard a deafening noise and began to see chunks of concrete falling in front of her '80 Volkswagen Vanagan.

As the cement fell on cars around her, she began praying. "My prayer was 'God, either kill me or keep me alive, but please don't crush me in my car." Miraculously, she made it through.

Rabbi Gary Greenebaum was standing in line in an upper deck concession stand at Candlestick Park before the start of the Bay Area World Series when the earth began rumbling.

He said an eerie silence fell over the crowd, which moments before had been joyous, cacophonous. "I was grateful when it ended," said the executive director of the Northern California Hillel Council. "What ran through my mind was that I couldn't believe this was how I was going to die."

On a lighter note, Israeli Consul General Harry Kney-Tal's biggest complaint was that he had gotten almost no sleep for four days after the quake.

## Deluged With Calls

He was kept awake because his office was deluged with calls from anxious people in Israel, who wanted his office to connect them with relatives and friends living in the area temporarily, or on vacation here.

"The media played up the destruction angle, and people in Israel believed that all of the Bay Area was destroyed," he said.

It was so draining that the consulate resorted to advertising to notify Israelis living in the Bay Area of the concern back home. The ad in the abbreviated Sunday Chronicle-Examiner read: "We kindly request that you make contact with your family and friends in Israel."

Added Kney-Tal in an interview: "Or we'll not get any sleep here."