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**BAKER'S REVISED FIVE-POINT PLAN
MUST WAIT FOR TOP MINISTERS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will have to wait until the Israeli government goes through its decision-making process before he gets an official reply to the amended version of his five-point plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

While the initial reaction to the plan -- conveyed to Jerusalem on Wednesday -- was described as "positive" by unnamed officials here, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has withheld comment.

The first phase of the process to consider the plan will come on Friday, when Shamir convenes the four most senior ministers -- himself and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens representing Likud, and Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party.

The group has not met since Peres was hospitalized Oct. 17 for a serious urinary tract infection. He was discharged this week and is resuming his workload slowly, on doctors' orders.

Some sources here said the prime minister might be prepared to call a meeting of the Inner Cabinet this Sunday, "if this is necessary."

If he delays, two key ministers will be away -- Arens on an official visit to Japan and Rabin to Canada for an Israel Bonds and United Synagogue of America speaking engagement.

The Inner Cabinet, consisting of six Likud and six Labor ministers, is considered the government's top policy-making body.

But with the coalition partners' tendency to split on partisan lines, most votes end in ties, which preclude policy initiatives opposed by either party.

The fate of Baker's proposals may lie with Likud's hard-line ministers, who oppose any dialogue with Palestinians.

One of the rejectionists, Yitzhak Moda'i, spoke out strongly Thursday against even the revised version.

The key then is whether Shamir will overcome, or succumb to, his party's extreme right wing.

Labor, for its part, unanimously accepts Baker's original version. It considers the changes demanded by Likud to be nitpicking and meaningless.

According to Labor's elder statesman, Abba Eban, "If the Likud wants to believe that these changes will allow it to accept the points, then it should be encouraged to do so."

**DISPUTE OVER ISRAELI TANKER NYUTA
NOW IN FOREIGN MINISTERS' HANDS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Egypt's continued detention of the Israeli tanker Nyuta is escalating into a serious diplomatic issue between the two countries.

Originally conducted at the consular level, Israel's intervention for release of the vessel and its crew now involves Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who telephoned Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid on Thursday.

The Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Shimon Shamir, has also been in contact with the Egyptian foreign minister.

The ship was arrested by Egyptian authorities on Oct. 21, accused of spilling oil in the Gulf of Suez. Its master, Capt. Zvi Yosef, 41, is expected to go on trial next Tuesday for polluting Egyptian waters.

The crew is confined aboard the ship, and their fresh water supply is nearly exhausted.

Israel's minister of energy and infrastructure, Moshe Shahal, has offered the Egyptians financial guarantees against the immediate release of the ship and its crew.

Five crew dependents -- two women and three children -- were allowed to return to Israel Wednesday and criticized the way the Egyptians treated the ship's company, especially the captain.

Released From Detention

The 25 crew members, all Israelis except for one Yugoslav, were released from detention ashore and have been confined to the ship, which is anchored in the East Zaid Bay oil port.

Capt. Yosef told Israel Radio in a telephone interview Thursday that "we're in great distress. Our water's almost gone, we have no more and they're not supplying us with water."

The captain added, "We expect the help of the State of Israel."

A spokesman for Israel Tanker Services, a government corporation which owns the Nyuta, said the corporation hoped to deliver cartons of bottled water to the crew and a water barge was due to refill the vessel's fresh water tanks later Thursday.

Meanwhile, a partisan battle developed over the issue in the Knesset on Wednesday.

Shahal, a Laborite, tongue-lashed Likud Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for threatening that the government would abrogate Israel's oil purchase treaties with Egypt unless the tanker was released immediately.

According to Shahal, Netanyahu was not authorized to make such a threat and "did the most irresponsible thing possible from the perspective of the State of Israel."

Netanyahu later amended his statement by saying it was the Israel Tanker Services, which operates the Nyuta for the government fuel administration, that was considering canceling the contract.

The Nyuta is one of a fleet of tankers that carry Egyptian oil to Israel under contracts negotiated when Israel returned Sinai to Egypt.

The Egyptians charge it was responsible for a 60-square-yard oil spill while passing through the Gulf of Suez on Oct. 16.

**POLICE ARREST 27 ISRAELI ARABS
ON SUSPICION OF FIREBOMBINGS**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- The arrests of 27 young Israeli Arabs suspected of stone-throwing, firebomb attacks and other security-related offenses in Israel was announced by the police at a news conference in Nazareth on Thursday.

The police said the suspects, ranging in age from teen-aged minors to youths in their early

20, allegedly belonged to three separate gangs, all inspired by the Palestine Liberation Organization's fighting arm, Al Fatah, but otherwise not related.

The Arab youths were active in Galilee and in the so-called "triangle" made up of Israeli-Arab villages close to the Green Line, Israel's pre-1967 border.

Dani Tabib, the regional police commander, said the gangs were local and unconnected with enemy groups abroad. He said they have been active for about two years, which coincides with the duration of the intifada.

Two of the gangs in the Nazareth area had 10 members each. The third and largest was the Jatt Popular Front, based in the village of Jatt between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

That group had 17 members, who the police believe were responsible for 30 incidents including arson, throwing firebombs or stones at buses, raising the PLO flag and painting anti-Israeli slogans on walls.

Police said the Jatt gang was formed about two-and-a-half years ago, after the assassination of PLO chief Yasir Arafat's deputy, Abu Jihad, at his home in Tunis, allegedly by an Israeli hit squad. Its leader was Tewfiq Mahbel Aattad, 28, an X-ray technician.

JEWISH AGENCY LEADERS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PLAN FOR ABSORBING SOVIETS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Leaders of the Jewish Agency for Israel are pleased with the "historic" agreement they reached with the Israeli government this week on a comprehensive program to absorb an expected influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union.

They waxed enthusiastic over the prospects at a news conference Thursday held by agency officials and top leaders of the United Jewish Appeal from the United States.

The agreement, announced Tuesday and endorsed Thursday by the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, provides for a \$2 billion housing, absorption and employment program based on the expectation that 100,000 Soviet Jews will come to Israel in the next three years.

The plan calls for the construction of 25,000 new housing units and renovation of 5,000 existing units.

Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Board of Governors, remarked that it is especially auspicious that the agreement was concluded during a week in which a record high for Soviet aliyah was announced.

The figures showed that 1,464 Soviet Jews came to Israel in October, out of 9,450 who left the Soviet Union that month.

The message going out of Jerusalem to the whole world is that "Israel and the Jewish people will absorb every single immigrant who wants to come here," Kaplan said.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive, stressed the related decision by the Board of Governors this week to put the Jewish Agency in charge of coordinating all Jewish cultural and educational work inside the Soviet Union.

It will devote manpower and resources to, in Dinitz's words, "condition the hearts and minds of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel."

That would be done, Dinitz said, by educating Soviet Jews about their Jewish heritage and Zionism.

The agency has recommended that UJA in the United States and Keren Hayesod elsewhere in the world launch a special campaign to raise \$500 million of the required \$2 billion over the next five years.

The recommendation is expected to be endorsed at a meeting of UJA leaders in New York next week.

According to the UJA officials visiting Jerusalem, the special campaign will not compete with ongoing fund-raising for domestic and overseas needs.

Easing Of Financial Burden

They expect a substantial easing of the financial burden that has been put on American Jewish federations by the influx of Soviet Jews into United States during the past year.

Because the number of Soviet Jews applying to come to the United States as refugees now greatly exceeds the number of federally funded refugee slots, UJA leaders expect that many Soviet Jews will opt to settle in Israel.

Kaplan believes that the resulting mass aliyah will spell prosperity for Israel. He said that far from being an economic burden to the country, aliyah has always triggered economic expansion.

Kaplan quoted Finance Minister Shimon Peres as telling the Board of Governors that an economic upswing is imminent.

The Jewish Agency leader predicted that a wave of Soviet immigration would create a building boom. Building is "the locomotive of the Israeli economy," he said.

Kaplan and Max Fisher of Detroit, a long-time UJA and Jewish Agency leader, were repeatedly pressed by reporters about housing across the "Green Line," meaning in the administered territories.

Kaplan would say only that the \$500 million to be raised from world Jewry will be used solely for Jewish Agency projects, which are conducted entirely within Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Fisher, who has been close to Republican administrations in Washington, disclosed that Israel would seek U.S. loan guarantees for its immigrant-absorption projects from the State Department's Agency for International Development.

POLICE UNVEIL NEW TECHNIQUE FOR WATCHING OVER TROUBLE SPOTS

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- An aerial surveillance drone rented by the Jerusalem police from Israel Aircraft Industries was used to monitor Moslem prayer services on the Temple Mount, a potential trouble spot, last Friday.

Police announced their use of the technology, which would allow them to monitor anything from mass demonstrations to traffic jams. A drone is an unmanned plane.

The drone, though expensive, can stay aloft as long as eight hours and cover an area of over 50 square miles.

The plane launched from the Western Wall plaza last Friday sent clear pictures of the Temple Mount to a television receiver in a police van.

But a source at national police headquarters said the drones are not very effective over dense urban areas. They probably will not be used again over the Temple Mount, the source said, "in order not to agitate the Arab population."

GREEK JEWISH SCHOOL TAKING HEAT FOR FIRING TWO HOSTILE TEACHERS

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here is embroiled in a bitter dispute with the teachers union and the government over its firing of two teachers from a Jewish private school.

The union called a strike and demonstrated outside the school Wednesday.

The teachers were dismissed for allegedly refusing to inculcate their students with traditional Jewish values and Zionism.

Each was compensated in the amount of \$11,000.

But the union is demanding their reinstatement and has the backing of the caretaker government, a conservative-Communist coalition that replaced former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's Socialist regime after the last elections.

Education Minister Kostas Despotopoulos declared the dismissals illegal, although the ministry's secretary-general holds the opposite view.

But the regional inspector of education, P. Haritos, said the people responsible will be punished, and threatened to shut down the school.

The Jewish community is standing fast. It expects that the new elections Nov. 6 will consolidate the conservatives, who will uphold the dismissals.

The community says it could not tolerate teachers who refused to participate with their students in Chanukah and Passover festivities.

The teachers in question reported the school to the Education Ministry last May, during the Papandreu regime, for "making propaganda for a foreign country."

It was celebrating the 41st anniversary of Israel's independence, organized by emissaries sent from Jerusalem by the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency.

The teachers charged that the students were made to sing the national anthem of a foreign country, and that the school had on permanent display the "symbols and pictures of a foreign country."

The reference was to photographs of Theodor Herzl, David Ben-Gurion and other Israeli and Zionist leaders.

THORNBURGH QUOTES RECORD FIGURES FOR CASES OF RACIAL VIOLENCE IN U.S.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- The Justice Department opened a record 41 investigations into racial violence, involving 62 defendants, during the fiscal year just ended, U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh announced Thursday.

Among them were five Skinheads indicted in Dallas who "conspired to violate the rights of Jews, blacks and Hispanics."

Thornburgh made his remarks, covering a broad range of subjects of Jewish and general concern, in an address to the National Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which is meeting here through Sunday.

The attorney general, who also spoke about Justice Department efforts to facilitate Soviet emigration, investigate Nazi war criminals and fight international terrorism, said that his department has scored notable successes against perpetrators of racial bias crimes at home.

He pledged "to use the full weight of criminal law against hate groups and all those who

would deny the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans."

He specifically mentioned the Ku Klux Klan, American Nazis and Aryan Nations as the kind of groups that "threaten the decency and community sanctity of our nation."

The attorney general also spoke of a "breakthrough" in Nazi war crimes investigations, citing a memorandum of understanding signed with the procurator general in Moscow on cooperation between the two countries in that area.

The agreement between the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations and the Procurator General's Office in Moscow formalized cooperation that has been practiced for the last eight to 10 years, "but never formally agreed on," he said.

With respect to emigration from the Soviet Union, Thornburgh said that while in Moscow, he got a chance to study Soviet draft legislation on emigration reforms.

But he rejected a relaxation of Jackson-Vanik Amendment trade sanctions against the Soviet Union in the immediate future.

"Just passing a law is not enough," he said. There should be a substantial period to see how the law is implemented, "to see how it has taken root before there can be relief under Jackson-Vanik."

Observing that there were just 787 applications by Soviet Jews to enter the United States as refugees in 1986, he estimated there will be 100,000 in 1990.

He did not mention that the entire U.S. quota for refugee visas is 50,000 for all Soviet emigres in 1990.

TEACHING OF HEBREW IN SOVIET UNION GROWS WITH OPENING OF NEW SCHOOL

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- In the very recent past, teaching Hebrew in the Soviet Union, even in the privacy of one's home, was risking arrest and a possible jail sentence.

Now the Hebrew language, religion and Jewish studies are openly taught in Moscow in both secular and Orthodox religious contexts.

The first Talmud Torah in recent history in the Soviet Union has just opened, and seems to be flourishing under the auspices of the worldwide Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement.

At about the same time, Israeli teachers have begun classes in the first open seminar for Hebrew studies in the heart of the Soviet capital, under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress.

The three instructors from Tel Aviv University are conducting classes for some 300 pupils in a cooperative arrangement with the Solomon Mikhoels Jewish Cultural Center.

Chabad's new day school, adjacent to the movement's Tomchei Temimim Yeshiva in Moscow, now has 25 pupils, ages 6 to 12, according to Berke Wolf, spokesman for the Israel Chabad.

According to the headmaster, Rabbi Ze'ev Koravsky, there are also about 70 children who attend classes at least once a week -- after regular school hours -- for religious studies.

Pupils at the Talmud Torah devote the morning to religious studies and the afternoon to secular subjects. The teachers of religion are all graduates of Chabad yeshivot on missions to the Soviet Union.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum contributed to this report.)

BRITISH TV SHOW EXPLORES GOVERNMENT ANTI-SEMITISM The Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Questions have been publicly raised here over whether anti-Semitism was in some degree involved in the departure of several Jewish members of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet in recent years.

The issue was explored on British Television's Channel 4 Dispatches program last week, and the answers tended to be affirmative.

Fingers were pointed at both government and opposition parties. Other kinds of prejudice in government were also identified.

Anti-Semitism in the Conservative Party undoubtedly fueled the row that led to the downfall of Edwina Currie as health minister last December. Anna McCurley, a government affairs consultant and former member of Parliament, said on the television program.

"I've heard the convenient label 'pushy Jewess' of Edwina Currie," McCurley said.

That was the case despite the fact that Currie, born Edwina Cohen in Liverpool, renounced her religion and describes herself as a member of the Church of England since her marriage to Ray Currie.

But male chauvinism was also a factor, according to Melinda Libby, a political researcher who was adviser to Social Services Secretary John Moore at the time of Currie's departure.

"A lot of Tory backbenchers are so riddled with prejudice of every kind, and anti-women and anti-Jewish happen to be the two that fitted Edwina," she said.

"I think the anti-Semitism was secondary to the male chauvinism," she added.

Not Confined To Older Generation

McCurley said anti-Semitism was not confined to the older generation of M.P.s, or to any wing of any party. She said talking about people's Jewish origins was a "shorthand" way for members of Parliament to express their prejudice.

Other rumored victims of anti-Semitic prejudice were Leon Brittan, who resigned as Thatcher's secretary of trade and industry in 1986, and Nigel Lawson, who stepped down last week as chancellor of the exchequer.

Brittan was accused of misleading the House of Commons over the future of a bankrupt helicopter company, and in questions of the British aerospace industry.

Lawson told Parliament that "an ill-concealed iceberg" of disagreements with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher caused him to resign. Their row was over the issue of linking the British pound to other European currency.

Nearly every newspaper story on Lawson identified him as "the son of a wealthy Jewish tea merchant." But that by itself is not anti-Semitic, McCurley pointed out.

John Marshall, an M.P. and leading member of the Conservative Friends of Israel, said it would be dishonest to say there was not an element of anti-Semitism on the back benches.

"It quite clearly comes over when there are questions in the House on the Middle East, and it's also been apparent in debates on war criminals," he said.

But Gwyneth Dunwoody, chairwoman of the Labor Friends of Israel, warned against mistaking pro-Palestinian sentiments for anti-Semitism.

ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC REHEARSES TWO PIECES OF RICHARD WAGNER By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Should an artist's works be judged by his ideology?

That vexing question was addressed this week by Daniel Barenboim, the internationally famous Israeli-born concert pianist and conductor, after he took the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra on a musical "read through" of pieces by Richard Wagner during a rehearsal.

Wagner is rarely performed before audiences in Israel, by the IPO or any other group, because of his anti-Semitism and his music's influence on Nazi ideology.

But Barenboim, a foremost expert on the German composer, thinks the Israeli public and musicians alike are missing out.

Wagner's works were of extreme importance to the development of modern music, and any respectable orchestra needs to know something of their history, Barenboim told a news conference here.

"Wagner died in 1883, long before the Nazis, who only 50 years later misused his ideas and his music for their own nationalistic purposes," said Barenboim, who presently is conductor and musical director of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

"It's true, he was an anti-Semite. But so were Mussorgsky, Chopin and many others," Barenboim observed.

He agreed, however, that Wagner should not be "forced down the throats" of Israelis who do not wish his music included in regular subscription concerts.

When Zubin Mehta, the Indian-born conductor of the IPO, first performed Wagner at a subscription concert here in 1981, fistfights broke out in the audience.

The experiment had not been repeated since then, but Barenboim suggested some Wagner could be included in special concerts.

He thus had the IPO "rehearse" two Wagnerian works, solely for the pleasure and experience.

A few score auditors were in the hall when it performed the Funeral March from "Götterdämmerung" and the overture to "Tristan and Isolde."

Before he raised his baton, Barenboim offered to excuse anyone who might be offended.

Only one member of the orchestra, veteran violinist Avraham Melamed, left the hall. He had been in a concentration camp as a boy.

The IPO first played Wagner more than 50 years ago, when shortly after its founding, it performed under the guest baton of Arturo Toscanini, an ardent anti-fascist.

But that was in 1938, before the Holocaust.

W. GERMAN YOUTHS PLANT TREES By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- A group of disabled youths from Munster, West Germany, planted trees Wednesday at a Jewish National Fund center in the Jerusalem hills.

According to a spokesman, they wanted to express by their actions a desire for deeper understanding between the German and Jewish people.

The visitors first toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial before the tree-planting session.