

**BUSH AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS  
BRIEF ISRAELI LEADERS ON SUMMIT**  
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- A ranking U.S. State Department official briefed Israeli leaders Tuesday on the Malta summit conference last weekend between President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, meanwhile, had an unexpected telephone conversation with President Bush on Monday.

The summit briefing was given by John Kelly, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who left for similar meetings in Cairo in the afternoon.

He told the Israeli leadership that the Soviet Union believes the time has come to advance the peace process in the Middle East, and it would like to play an active role.

"I cannot speak for the Soviets, but certainly the general disposition of the Soviet government is far different these days than what it was 10 years ago," Kelly said.

He noted, for example, that Gorbachev believes the parties to the conflict must find a solution rather than have one imposed on them.

Kelly reported that Bush had urged Gorbachev at Malta to re-establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Soviet leader is said to have responded that a resumption of relations has been Moscow's intention for some time, but that it must be accompanied by progress in the peace process.

Kelly arrived in Israel on Monday night, had an early breakfast meeting with Arens and then met separately with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Arens was in Shamir's office Monday when the telephone rang. The caller was Secretary of State James Baker, phoning from the presidential plane. He asked to talk to Arens and told him that Bush had raised with Gorbachev the re-establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel.

**President Picks Up Phone**

President Bush got on the phone at that point and gave Arens his firsthand impressions of the summit.

Arens told the president, "The entire world looked upon you with hope in recent days, and our prayers are with you."

Bush sent regards to Shamir, with whom he had met at the White House on Nov. 15.

During his meetings with Israeli leaders, Kelly referred to Baker's five-point proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We have the Israeli answer to the Baker plan of Nov. 5. We still lack a definitive Egyptian response, and I will be going to Egypt this afternoon and talking with them about that," he told reporters.

Israel has warily accepted Baker's proposals, contending on assumptions that the United States will not pressure the Jewish state to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization and that the dialogue will be limited to the mechanics of the proposed elections.

Israel also reserves the right not to talk to Palestinian delegation of which it disapproves.

Egypt, which has offered to host the dialogue, has yet to respond to Baker's points. Observers attribute Cairo's delay to its inability to convince the PLO to cooperate.

Kelly and Shamir reportedly discussed a meeting involving Baker and the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers, once Egypt responds to the five points.

Shamir reiterated that Israel will never negotiate directly or indirectly with the PLO. Kelly said the Israeli position was clear in Washington.

Shamir told Israel Television on Tuesday that the fate of the Middle East does not depend entirely on the superpowers, "even if they are among the friendliest of nations."

The ultimate solution will be found "through an agreement between Israel and her neighbors," Shamir said, adding: "One should not anticipate salvation from the great powers."

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT URGES  
ARABS TO DEFER VOTE ON PLO'S STATUS**  
By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The president of the General Assembly has requested that the world body defer consideration of a controversial resolution that would elevate the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission here to that of an observer state.

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, Joseph Garba of Nigeria, who presides over the assembly, asked the Arab nations that sponsored the draft "not to insist on bringing it to a vote" at this time.

A vote on the measure was scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, after being postponed twice.

Garba's statement also chastened the United States for threatening to withdraw its U.N. funding if the measure were to pass.

He called on "member states to refrain from the threat of non-payment of assessments for which they are legally obligated."

The U.S. State Department has made it clear that it would cut its U.N. contribution, which makes up 25 percent of the total U.N. budget, if the PLO mission was officially designated as representing the "State of Palestine." It is currently designated as representing "Palestine."

Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League representative here, told reporters that the Arab states that sponsored the measure will be "responsive" to Garba's appeal.

But he said he was expecting an even stronger condemnation of the U.S. position from Garba on Wednesday, when debate on "The Question of Palestine" was to resume.

He also indicated that the Arab states would push for new seating for the PLO mission in the General Assembly hall. The mission would be moved next to the missions of non-member states, such as Switzerland.

Such a move would give the PLO and its supporters at least the semblance of a victory. According to U.N. sources, Garba is empowered to take such action alone, without calling a vote.

### 5 PLOTTING BLOODY ATTACK KILLED AFTER INFILTRATING FROM EGYPT

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Five heavily armed terrorist infiltrators on "a killing mission" were gunned down early Tuesday morning by an Israel Defense Force patrol in the western Negev, near the Egyptian border.

An IDF spokesman said the gang apparently infiltrated from Sinai. There were no Israeli casualties.

Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai, commander of the southern region, said the infiltration was probably linked to the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, which falls on Saturday.

He said the intruders carried no documents and therefore "we cannot know to what group they belonged."

Lethal equipment found on the bodies included five Kalachnikov assault rifles, a pistol, ammunition clips and 51 hand grenades.

Vilnai said the large amount of weapons "shows they simply meant to kill -- not to argue too much, not to carry out a hostage-taking operation, but a killing operation."

The last reported infiltration from Egypt occurred March 15, when two Palestinian teenagers were captured near the town of Rafah, on the border between the Gaza Strip and Sinai.

### WAVE OF VIOLENCE STRIKES GAZA, WHERE INTIFADA BEGAN IN 1987

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Some of the worst violence in the Palestinian uprising is taking place where the intifada first began two years ago: in the Gaza Strip.

A 17-year-old Palestinian, Nasser al-Kejek of Gaza, became the 626th mortality of the intifada Tuesday, just four days short of its second anniversary.

According to officials at the Ma'amadani Hospital in Gaza, the youth was fatally wounded by a plastic bullet in his chest, fired by Israeli security forces dispersing stone-throwers.

The Israel Defense Force said it was investigating the killing.

At the same time, a 10-year-old Arab boy was rushed to Ahli Hospital in Gaza, with a gunshot wound in his head.

Arab sources said 15 demonstrators were wounded in rioting throughout the territory Tuesday.

Bezelem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, reported Tuesday that about 132 Arab children under age 17 have been shot and killed since the uprising began. They include 37 children under the age of 13.

In addition, 43 Israelis have died as a result of intifada-related violence.

Tension rose in the Gaza Strip after the IDF destroyed a Palestinian gang operating in the Nablus area of the West Bank, killing its top leaders and arresting several others.

The gang, known as the Black Panthers, was believed responsible for assassinating fellow Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

The death of a 10-year-old Palestinian girl in a clash Sunday with Israeli troops in Gaza's Shati refugee camp only added to the fury.

The pervasive unrest in the Gaza Strip is

also attributable to the struggle for control of the local population between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Meanwhile, concerned Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip held an emergency meeting Tuesday night to plan a protest against the government's agreement to allow some 6,000 Palestinians to enter the territory from Egypt.

The move is in compliance with the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of 1979.

The first refugee families were expected to cross Wednesday from the Egyptian half of Rafah into the Israeli half of the town, which is bisected by the border between the Gaza Strip and Sinai.

### LE PEN GRILLS CABINET MINISTER ABOUT HIS ALLEGIANCE TO ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- A French television station was flooded with calls from outraged viewers Tuesday, protesting badgering remarks made by Jean-Marie Le Pen against a Jewish member of the French Cabinet.

Le Pen, whose extreme right-wing National Front made gains in special elections Sunday, asked the minister for foreign trade, Lionel Stoleru, "Are you Israeli?"

"Do you hold Israeli nationality?" he again asked Stoleru, with whom he was debating. "You are a member of the government, and we have a right to know," he insisted.

Stoleru, the son of Romanian immigrants and a former leader of the French Jewish Consistory, seemed taken aback. "I am Jewish, but as far as I know this is a religion and not a nationality," he said.

Le Pen persisted. "You are also president of the Franco-Israeli Chamber of Commerce and, I was told, that you happen to hold Israeli nationality, as well."

He added, "I am glad to find out that information was wrong."

Le Pen and Stoleru were participants in a debate over the outcome of the elections. The National Front candidate from Dreux, a town west of Paris, won a seat in the National Assembly, France's parliament.

And the party came within 1,200 votes of winning a second seat, representing a constituency in Marseille, France's largest city after Paris.

The National Front's strong showing in both contests has alarmed many who deplore its blatant appeal to racism and xenophobia.

Le Pen's targets have been foreign immigrant workers, mainly Arabs from former French territories in North Africa.

While he denies he is anti-Semitic, Le Pen has publicly called the Holocaust a hoax and claimed there were no gas chambers.

### ISRAELI JETS RAIDS JABRIL'S BASES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli air force jets on Tuesday attacked the training bases of two Palestinian terrorist groups east of the port city of Sidon, in southern Lebanon.

The targets were the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabril, and the splinter Tala'at Yacub faction. They are opposed to Yasir Arafat's control of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

## AS GLASNOST SWEEPS EASTERN EUROPE, JDC REVEALS WORK BEHIND IRON CURTAIN

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The organization some call the "best-kept secret in the Jewish world" doesn't want to be kept secret any longer.

After years of working quietly behind the scenes, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is finally ready for some "glasnost" of its own.

The democratization process sweeping Eastern Europe is allowing the JDC to be more forthcoming about its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and promote Jewish life to the Communist bloc and other parts of the world.

This new, higher profile is JDC's gift to itself, as the American Jewish vehicle for overseas aid celebrates its 75th anniversary.

In the present atmosphere of openness, JDC officials are now talking publicly about the thousands of packages of religious and cultural material that were slipped into the East bloc back when the Iron Curtain was at its most impenetrable.

JDC "performed this function discreetly. The times dictated that this should be so," JDC President Sylvia Hassenfeld told those gathered at last month's Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly in Cincinnati.

But now, Hassenfeld exulted, "JDC is once again able to function openly in the Soviet Union, after so many years of working in the shadows."

A similar transformation is taking place in JDC's programs in Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

"We were in these places long before glasnost hit them," JDC's executive director, Michael Schneider, said in a recent interview.

### Summer Camps In Hungary, Poland

The changes mean the difference between smuggling Jewish books into the Soviet Union and JDC's new, ambitious plan to deliver and set up 150 fully stocked Jewish libraries to Soviet cities. This fall, it was able to talk openly of its sponsorship of the Israeli pavilion at the biennial Moscow Book Fair.

Prior to the change of atmosphere, Hungarian and Polish Jews had to find their way to Yugoslavia to participate in JDC's Jewish cultural summer camp, since Yugoslavia was the only East bloc country in which JDC was permitted to operate a summer program. Now Jewish summer camps have been established in Hungary and Poland.

Schneider's eyes light up when he talks about plans to enhance and expand JDC programs that care for the elderly and sick, provide kosher meals and fund Jewish schools throughout Eastern Europe.

His enthusiasm increases when discussing the prospect of increased funds to do so. The money is expected to flow more freely once JDC is relieved of the responsibility of caring for the Soviet Jews waiting in transit centers outside Rome for permission to settle in the United States.

As the new system of direct migration of Soviet Jews to the United States and Israel takes hold, the transit centers in Rome and Vienna will no longer be needed.

The transit stations will be closed "by June, we hope" Schneider said, gazing upward, as if asking for heavenly assistance.

The cost of the European transit centers, particularly the large one in Ladispoli, Italy, have been a huge financial drain on JDC, leaving it with a \$8.2 million dollar deficit in 1988, out of a total budget of \$84.6 million.

This was largely due to the cost of aiding the transmigrants in Italy, which skyrocketed from \$250,000 in 1986 to \$10.6 million in 1988.

### Jewish Day Schools In Syria

While JDC officials were happy to assist the thousands of Soviet Jews to emigrate, they are now eager to get out of Ladispoli and reinvest energy and funds in their fundamental mission: helping Jewish communities in Eastern Europe and the Third World sustain themselves and their Jewish institutions.

JDC's programs also include channeling non-sectarian aid to countries such as Ethiopia, where it has been providing humanitarian assistance for years, long before the Operation Moses airlift of Ethiopian Jews.

JDC also offers aid, in the name of the Jewish people, to non-Jewish communities facing hardship. Once recent example was its sponsorship this past summer of a project in which victims of the December 1988 earthquake in Soviet Armenia were airlifted to Israel for treatment and rehabilitation in Israeli hospitals.

The majority of JDC's budget comes from money raised by the United Jewish Appeal, supplemented by individual donations and contributions from Jewish communities abroad.

JDC's secret to working in countries with repressive governments, Schneider said, is its "assiduously avoiding interfering in local politics," as well as undue publicity.

Its low profile and avowedly non-political status has allowed it to run schools in Moslem countries that shun Israel, such as Syria, where the JDC operates Jewish day schools for the tiny Jewish community that remains there.

It is now the Arab world, as opposed to the East bloc countries, in which there remains a veil of secrecy over some of JDC's activities.

A JDC official estimated that 5 to 10 percent of the agency's programs continue to operate in the shadows.

These programs will have to remain secret until the winds of glasnost that toppled the Berlin Wall and opened the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe to their fellow Jews in the West are able to make a dent in the wall of fear and hatred that stands in the way of peace in the Middle East.

### GERMAN TAUGHT IN ISRAELI SCHOOLS

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The German language is being taught for the first time in Israeli high schools, the Foreign Ministry reported last week.

It has been added to the curricula of two high schools, one in Haifa and the other in Kfar Sava.

German had been all but eliminated from the Israeli school system until now because of the sensitivities of Holocaust survivors.

It has been taught, however, in private schools and universities and by the West German government-sponsored Goethe Institute, which has branches in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Interest in the language is growing rapidly in Israel, according to the West German news agency.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
AFTER TWO YEARS, THE INTIFADA IS  
EASY TO IGNORE, BUT HARD TO FORGET**  
By Gil Sedan

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- It is a December morning on the streets of Ramallah, "the rose of the West Bank," and the streets are busy. People rush about their business to complete errands before noon, time for the daily commercial strike.

The sun is unusually warm for this time of the year. Here and there, elderly people sit on the large balconies of their spacious homes, built of the distinctive pink-hued Jerusalem stone.

But as residents take their leisure, the sight of Israel Defense Force patrols is a constant reminder that Israeli control over the West Bank continues.

On a clear day, one can see the Mediterranean from the picturesque hills of Ramallah. But Abdullah Samir, who makes his living selling sesame-covered rolls from a cart on the main street, says there are no longer clear days left.

"One cannot foresee events from one minute to another," he remarks with the confidence of someone who knows what he is talking about.

Sure enough, a few minutes later, a car bearing yellow Israeli license plates (easily distinguishable from the blue plates of the territories) is ambushed by stone-throwers on the main business street.

The car escapes undamaged and its passengers evade injury. But the message is clear: The days that Israelis can travel in the administered territories free from fear are long gone.

The intifada, as the Palestinians call their uprising, begins its third year on Saturday, and there seems to be no end in sight.

**No More Excursions**

After two years, many Israelis have learned to ignore the intifada. They simply circumvent it whenever it faces them, shutting their ears and closing their eyes to the unpleasant reality that would otherwise dominate daily life in Israel.

Opinion polls have shown wide support for the way the security forces handle the intifada, but most Israelis are sending their leaders another message: Cope with the situation without us.

It is easy for Israelis to pretend that the intifada does not exist. But it is there in the form of fear.

Israelis are more fearful for their safety now than before the uprising. They are less concerned about the security of the state than for their own lives and limbs.

The escalating Arab violence reached a peak last summer, with the attack on an Egged passenger bus that was forced off the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, killing 16 passengers and seriously injuring many more.

That attack, and other smaller-scale ones, further diminished the sense of personal safety.

Bethlehem, a West Bank town just south of Jerusalem, used to be crowded on weekends, with Israelis shopping for bargains.

Other Israelis used to have lunch Saturdays at one of East Jerusalem's colorful Arab restaurants and then stroll through the picturesque Arab bazaar in the Old City.

Israelis in Kfar Sava used to have their teeth cleaned or cars repaired at half-price in the neighboring West Bank town of Kalkilya, once one of the friendliest places in the territories.

No more. Very few Israelis will risk a stone smashing their windshield or a gasoline bomb setting them on fire to undertake such excursions.

Paradoxically, Palestinians feel safer inside Israel than in their own towns. In Tel Aviv, they have no reason to fear violence.

With more than 600 Palestinian casualties, thousands wounded and more than 50,000 detained for various periods since the beginning of the intifada, almost every Palestinian family in the territories has been affected in one way or other.

**Army's Control Is Not Total**

Lately, worse than the confrontations with the Israeli authorities has been the sharp increase in terrorist acts by violent gangs of Palestinian youths out to "settle accounts" with Arabs whom they accuse of collaborating with the authorities.

The number of Palestinians killed by their own people since the intifada began was estimated by the Associated Press to be 153, as of the end of November.

Last week, the security forces killed or captured members of a Nablus casbah gang called the Black Panthers that is believed to be responsible for many of the killings in the area.

Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the central region, proudly told reporters that the IDF had proved once again that it had full control over the territories and that even the dark alleys of the Nablus casbah were within its reach.

His statement is true, but not always true.

The army does control trouble spots like the casbah and the refugee camps. But its control is limited in area and time.

Despite the extensive deployment of the security forces and their intelligence sources, densely populated places cannot be totally controlled.

In such places, clandestine local popular committees have a natural advantage. As soon as the soldiers go, they are there, to exercise their control over the local population.

The intifada has massive support among the Palestinians. But relentless pursuit by the IDF is driving it underground.

The mass demonstrations that characterized the early days no longer occur. The uprising expresses itself now by general strikes, ambushes of Israeli vehicles and tax revolts.

**Psychological Toll On Soldiers**

Significantly, the recent month-long tax strike in Beit Sahur was not repeated elsewhere. But even without strikes, Israel is paying a heavy economic price to suppress the intifada.

But there is also a psychological price being paid by the thousands of Israelis doing army service in the territories.

Dr. Yehuda Hies, director of the government's autopsy institute in Tel Aviv, said that the growing violence in the territories has had a damaging emotional effect on soldiers.

"A person who lives in an atmosphere of such violence several months a year changes his behavior and acts in a way in which previously he would not have dreamed of acting," Hies said.

He said he was able to trace the escalation of violent behavior by members of the security forces from observing the condition of the Arab corpses on which he performed post-mortems.

Two years of the intifada have passed and high-school girls still throw stones at Israeli vehicles in downtown Ramallah.

After 24 months, little has changed.