

**SHAMIR'S REMARKS ABOUT POLAND
HELD UP DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- Full diplomatic relations between Israel and Poland would already be in place if not for remarks about Polish anti-Semitism by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Tourism Minister Gideon Patt, Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki told an American Jewish leader this week.

Mazowiecki's comment was reported by Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress. Siegman and AJCongress President Robert Lifton met this week with a number of Polish leaders, among them the Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, and Cardinal Franciszek Macharski.

The AJCongress officials had come to Poland to mark the opening of a liaison office in Warsaw.

Siegman, speaking by phone telephone from Hungary, said that Mazowiecki expressed "great hurt and anger" after reports last month quoted Shamir as saying that Poles "drink in (anti-Semitism) with their mother's milk."

Mazowiecki also mentioned remarks by Patt, who told the Jerusalem Post last week that the Poles "were anti-Semites before the Holocaust and they were anti-Semites after the Holocaust."

Mazowiecki said that "these blanket statements are the most destructive actions imaginable," and that they "do irreparable harm" to those who are seeking reconciliation between Poles and Jews, Siegman reported.

Despite these tensions, Poland is expected to restore full diplomatic ties with Israel during the first months of 1990.

Criticized For Meeting Glemp

In New York, meanwhile, Siegman and Lifton came under criticism for agreeing to meet with Glemp.

Kalman Sultnik, a vice president of the World Jewish Congress, called it "a scandal" that "any Jewish leader would go to see Glemp before he apologized to the Jewish people" for his remarks accusing world Jewry of spreading anti-Polish feeling and undermining Polish sovereignty.

Sultnik said that during his visit to Poland last month, government leaders there "begged" him to meet with Glemp, but he refused.

"I told them that Glemp owes an apology to the Jewish people," Sultnik said.

Siegman praised the continuing efforts by the new Solidarity-led Polish government to facilitate moving the Auschwitz convent, and Mazowiecki's naming of a commission to recommend changes in the museum at Auschwitz that would reflect the magnitude of the effort made there to exterminate the Jewish people.

The AJCongress leaders were assured in their meetings with Glemp and Macharski that the decision to abide by a 1987 agreement to move the Auschwitz convent was "irreversible."

Siegman quoted Glemp as saying that "the matter of the Carmelite convent is behind us."

Construction of the new interfaith center, the AJCongress leaders were told, will begin sometime in 1990, and work on architectural plans

for the center is proceeding.

During the meeting with Glemp, the subject of the Polish primate's remarks in the summer, which Jews considered anti-Semitic, was not addressed. Glemp was "visibly tense" at the beginning of the meeting, Siegman observed, but grew more relaxed as the session wore on.

Glemp spoke of the development of programs to educate Catholics about Jews, and combatting anti-Semitism on the local parish level, Siegman said.

The AJCongress hopes that with the establishment of an office in Warsaw, it will be able to assist with these efforts and generally promote better Catholic-Jewish relations in Poland.

The AJCongress office will be run by Stanislaw Krajewski, a Solidarity activist and a leader of the Jewish community in Warsaw.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
MOVES FORWARD INCH BY INCH**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- The Middle East peace process has been nudged forward, but whether it gets anywhere seems to depend on Israel's willingness to overlook reservations attached by all of the parties.

The "yes, but" scenario became apparent Wednesday when Washington announced that Egypt had accepted Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for launching an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Egypt's conditional acceptance of Baker's plan reflected Cairo's inability to get the Palestine Liberation Organization to abandon certain positions.

Israel, which also attached a list of conditions when it agreed to the Baker plan last month, must now decide whether the "yesses" outweigh the "buts" sufficiently to go ahead.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens held consultations Thursday to formulate Israel's position.

According to reports reaching here, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt introduced some last-minute changes in his reply to suit American purposes, which include keeping Israel in the process.

At the same time, Washington applied some pressure on Israel by describing the Egyptian response as "positive" and a "step forward," in the words of State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

That outlook was echoed by the Labor component of the Israeli government. Vice Premier Shimon Peres called it a chance not to be missed.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin hailed the Egyptian response as "a great step forward," adding that "one should not bother with the details."

There was no official government reaction to Washington's announcement, since the Israelis, though told the contents of the Egyptian document, have yet to see it in writing.

Moreover, the Americans relayed to them only the part which responds favorably to the Baker plan.

The part containing guarantees asked by the PLO was withheld for the time being, apparently to avoid complications.

According to reports here, Egypt managed to convince the PLO not to insist that its demand for direct negotiations with the Israelis be included in the Egyptian response to the Baker plan.

To have done so would have ruined the entire scenario. Shamir has repeatedly stated that Israel would never negotiate with the PLO, directly or indirectly.

He made that clear again to John Kelly, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who was in Jerusalem on Monday. Kelly informed him that Washington was well aware of Israel's position.

Nevertheless, the crux of the problem remains the PLO's involvement in the process.

Observers here believe that progress can be facilitated by a meeting of the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers with Baker in Washington.

Such a meeting was in fact the fifth of Baker's five points. It is considered an inevitable preliminary to any dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

GAZA STRIP PUT UNDER CURFEW ON EVE OF INTIFADA ANNIVERSARY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- About 800,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were confined to their homes indefinitely Thursday as the Israel Defense Force clamped a blanket curfew on the territory and sealed it off from the rest of the country.

The measure, effective "until further notice," is part of the IDF's plan to avoid an upsurge of violence over the weekend.

Saturday will be the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, which began in the Gaza Strip on Dec. 9, 1987.

The curfew is expected to remain in effect at least until Monday, to allow tempers to cool.

Meanwhile, the IDF is pouring reinforcements into the West Bank and Gaza Strip to maintain calm. The movement of journalists in the territories has also been severely curtailed.

Despite the precautions, disturbances escalated during the week.

Palestinian sources reported 14 wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers Wednesday.

Nablus, the largest Arab city in the West Bank, has been under curfew since last Friday, when an IDF squad gunned down four members of a gang, called "Black Panthers," who were said to have been terrorizing suspected Arab collaborators.

When the curfew was briefly lifted Tuesday to allow for shopping, soldiers were confronted by mobs of youngsters dressed in black and brandishing axes, clubs and Palestinian flags chanting, "We are all Black Panthers."

Plastic bullets were fired to disperse the demonstrators. Nine were wounded in the melee, which took 90 minutes to subdue.

U.S. REGRETS ACTION ON HUSSEINI By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- The State Department said Thursday that it "regrets" Israel's decision Wednesday to bar an influential Palestinian leader from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for six months.

The leader, Faisal Husseini, head of the Institute for Arab Studies in East Jerusalem, advocates civil disobedience against Israel Defense Force troops stationed in the administered territories.

"We believe that Israelis and Palestinians need to search for ways to expand, not to restrict dialogue," said deputy State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

"We regret this decision, coinciding as it does with increased opportunities for moving the peace process forward toward an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue," he said. "We hope that this decision will be re-examined."

INTIFADA HAS BEEN A FAILURE, SAYS IDF CHIEF OF STAFF By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, considers the intifada a failure.

He told a study group here Thursday that in two years, the uprising has failed to involve larger numbers of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or to establish an alternative system of government to the army and the civil administration.

Instead, Shomron said, the Palestinian leadership tries to "govern through pamphlets."

Shomron spoke at a seminar organized by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, being held to coincide with Saturday's second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

Shomron said the IDF has managed to reduce the level of violence and is now tracking down the hard-core activists who incite the masses.

But he stressed that the intifada could not be suppressed by military force alone, especially in view of the necessary restraints imposed on the use of force.

The chief of staff said intifada activists have not yet resorted to firearms, though they have been secretly encouraged to by Al Fatah and other terrorist organizations.

However, the extensive use of firearms cannot be ruled out if the peace process begins or if it is blocked, Shomron said.

For the time being, he said, stone-throwing is the main problem, adding that he believed punishment should be more extensive.

According to Shomron, severe punishment should be given the parents of stone-throwing youths and second- and third-time offenders should get much longer sentences.

EL AL, AEROFLOT REACH ACCORD By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- An agreement has been reached between El Al and Aeroflot airlines for regular direct commercial flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, according to El Al Director Rafi Har-Lev, who returned from the Soviet capital Thursday.

The El Al spokesman said the flights, due to start in the first days of January, would initially consist of weekly flights by each of the airlines, but would later be increased to daily flights when the traffic warrants.

Agreement has also been reached on the cost of the flight ticket, but the spokesman declined to specify what it would be.

El Al had requested a price of some \$500, but the Russians demanded a \$650 price tag.

SOVIET JEWS FACING DANGER OVER INCREASED ANTI-SEMITISM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- Jews in the Soviet Union are facing a "dangerous situation" because of increasing anti-Semitism, a leading Soviet Jewish activist warned Wednesday.

Fear of anti-Semitism is the principal reason some 250,000 Jews are expected to apply to emigrate from the Soviet Union in 1990, Aleksandr Shmuckler, president of B'nai B'rith in Moscow, suggested at a luncheon in his honor at the B'nai B'rith International headquarters here.

The luncheon, at which Shmuckler was presented a Chanukah menorah, was sponsored by B'nai B'rith and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Emigration is not the only way Soviet Jews are trying to find safety. Shmuckler said that during a meeting this month with officials from Birobidzhan -- the autonomous region set up in the 1930s for Jews -- he was surprised to see some of the thousands of letters from Jews asking to be allowed to settle there.

Shmuckler said recent conflicts between nationalities in which people were killed has demonstrated that the government was unable to protect the victims.

"If a pogrom was to begin, for example, in Minsk or other cities, we don't know who will protect Jewish people," he said. "I am not sure that the government will protect the Jewish people."

This is one of the reasons Shmuckler and other Soviet Jewish leaders are organizing an All-Union Soviet Jewish Congress to be held in Moscow Dec. 19-21, out of which they hope to create a national Jewish organization.

First Meeting In 72 Years

At least 126 Jewish organizations from 70 cities are expected to attend the congress, the first such meeting since a Jewish conference was held in Russia two weeks before the 1917 Revolution, Shmuckler said.

But while several anti-Semitic organizations have recently received official recognition from the Soviet government allowing them to publish newspapers and magazines, neither the congress nor Jewish organizations have received such recognition. This means that it could be cancelled by a whim of the government.

The problem for the government is that "if authorities recognize the congress, they will have to recognize the structure which we will create after the congress," Shmuckler said.

He said this new organization, which will have three co-presidents, will be one of the means for "the protection of Jewish people."

It will do so by trying to return Soviet Jews to their tradition, values and history. "Most Soviet Jews know nothing about Jewish culture," he said.

Shmuckler was on the verge of emigrating when B'nai B'rith made its first official visit to the Soviet Union in December 1988. This resulted in the creation of a B'nai B'rith chapter in Moscow followed by other units in Leningrad, Riga, and Vilnius.

An engineer by profession, the 29-year-old Shmuckler is now concentrating on working for the Jewish community. He is vice president of the Soviet Jewish Cultural Association and editor of a Jewish publication.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM WINS \$5 MILLION FROM SENATE, FACES BATTLE IN HOUSE

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- A \$5 million grant for the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, approved by the Senate last month, now faces an uphill battle in the House of Representatives.

The grant, earmarked for "education programs concerning the Holocaust," is contained in the Senate version of the Mildred and Claude Pepper Scholarship Act.

The House version of the same bill contains just \$500,000, all earmarked for scholarships to help the hearing-impaired learn about government.

But in passing its version of the bill, the Senate added \$25.2 million for various other projects, including the grant for the Museum of Tolerance.

An aide to Rep. William Goodling (R-Pa.), ranking Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee, which has House jurisdiction over the Pepper bill, said, "The feeling on the House side is not good" toward the Senate version of the bill.

While the aide called the museum a "worthwhile project," he said it is "not likely" that the House will give final approval to the Senate's additions to the Pepper bill, including the Wiesenthal Center grant.

An aide to Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mo.), a key Democrat on the committee, said his boss "will try to get back as close as possible to the original" House-passed version of the bill.

While the House may agree to keep a few of the additions, such as funding for the Wiesenthal Center, "when you lump them together, there is some concern that some of (the projects) may not be meritorious," the Williams aide said.

A separate attempt was made this year to gain funding for the museum. In August, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) introduced a bill that would give \$7.5 million to the museum, but it was not voted on.

\$50 Million Project

The key lawmakers supporting the grant were Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the chairman and ranking Republican on the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Rabbi Meyer May, executive director of the Wiesenthal Center, said that he met with Hatch last January and that Kennedy took a 90-minute tour of the museum's models on Nov. 5. The Senate approved the measure on Nov. 16.

May defended the grant as not unlike the federal government's transfer of land near the Washington Monument to build the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

He said that "the history of education and educational programs related to the Holocaust justifies the federal government's involvement in a program on the West Coast."

May pointed out that the Museum of Tolerance will be the only one in the United States to deal with both the Holocaust and the history of racism and prejudice in America.

Construction of the 165,000-square-foot, eight-level building is at the halfway point and will likely be completed next August, he said. It is scheduled to open in January 1991.

The museum has raised \$36 million of its \$50 million fund-raising goal, he said.

HOUSE OF LORDS RELUCTANT TO TRY NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- Britain's chief rabbi, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, got a lukewarm response from his peers in the House of Lords on Monday, when he asked them to support a bill that would allow the trial of suspected Nazi war criminals in British courts.

To let the henchmen of Hitler go unpunished "would be handing the tyrant a posthumous victory," Jakobovits declared. "We would make it easier for the dominion of evil to assert itself once again, at an incalculable cost in human suffering and degradation."

But despite his eloquent, reasoned and impassioned plea, few peers who took part in the debate thought it would be wise to have war crimes trials in Britain.

Their reasons ranged from a dislike of retributive action so long after the event to a genuine worry that the trials would arouse latent anti-Semitism in Britain.

The peers were debating the report of an inquiry on Nazi war criminals living in Britain, conducted by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former director of public prosecutions, and William Chalmers, his Scottish counterpart.

The report, published in July, concluded that there was sufficient evidence against at least three individuals to warrant criminal prosecution.

Douglas Hurd, who was home secretary at the time, said the government would listen to the views of both houses of Parliament before deciding whether to introduce a bill.

'Fight Against Evil'

Jakobovits said he spoke neither as a Jew, a rabbi or even a refugee from Nazi persecution, but as a member of the human race.

"Until the perpetrators of crimes against humanity knew they would never be allowed to find safe refuge from justice, humanity would not be safe and justice would never be vindicated," he said.

"We now have an historic opportunity to affirm the ceaseless fight against evil, by the unrelenting pursuit of mass murderers," the chief rabbi said.

He argued vehemently against suggestions that Jews were seeking vengeance, an attitude often falsely attributed to the Old Testament.

"Let me once and for all lay the ghost of this vicious canard" to rest, he said. "My faith abhors vengeance."

The chief rabbi said he was less interested in securing criminal convictions than in demonstrating moral convictions.

His position was strongly backed by the Hetherington report, which stated that "the crimes committed are so monstrous that they cannot be condoned. To take no action would be to taint the UK with the slur of being a haven for war criminals."

However, the bishop of St. Albans, the Rt. Rev. John Taylor, warned that war crimes trials could raise anti-Semitism.

"I fear for the Jewish community in our midst. I am becoming conscious of a revival of anti-Semitism in this country. I have seen it in my diocese," the bishop said.

He expressed concern that proposals to prosecute the last surviving war criminals would be used by the enemies of Judaism to promote

hostility against the victims seeking justice instead of the criminals.

Taylor urged the government to re-examine the possibility of extradition, a move rejected at an earlier stage.

Lord Mayhew, who was a junior foreign office minister responsible for war crimes problems in 1946, explained why the government, two years later, decide to end war crimes trials, investigations and extraditions.

"The overriding reason was that we felt retribution had gone far enough," he said.

Mayhew added that "the major difference between the policy we then established and the policy now recommended by the inquiry is that we thought that retaliation should end, and the inquiry recommends that retaliation should be revived."

The only non-Jewish peer to support Lord Jakobovits' position was Viscount Tonypandy, a former speaker of the House of Commons.

"I am old enough to know that if we close our eyes on an issue of this sort, we shall not be in harmony with the heritage of our people," he said.

GENEVA COURT TO RULE DEC. 14 ON OWNERSHIP OF WOLF HAGGADAH

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 7 (JTA) -- The Geneva Supreme Court will hear appeals on Dec. 14 against a lower court ruling that the famous Wolf Haggadah is the rightful property of the Jewish communities of East and West Berlin.

The communities are represented here by the World Jewish Congress, whose lawyer, Philippe Grumbach, informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of the hearing date.

The appellants are lawyers representing the Polish Ministry of Culture and the reputed owner of the Haggadah, Nathan Hecht of Montreal.

According to a judgment delivered last month by the Tribunal of First Instance, "no other party can offer a more likely claim" than the Berlin Jewish communities and the WJC.

But the Haggadah, which is valued at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, was placed in custody of the examining magistrate pending appeal.

The WJC hopes the Polish authorities can be persuaded to withdraw their claim to the rare piece of Judaica, which they say was stolen from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw in 1984.

It dismisses Hecht's claim as frivolous.

The Haggadah, written in French and dating from the 13th or 14th century, was part of an outstanding collection of Judaica owned by Albert Wolf, a German Jew who died in 1907.

Wolf willed it to the Berlin Jewish community, which displayed it at the Jewish Kunstmuseum there.

The collection was seized by the Nazis in 1938 and the Haggadah was removed to Glatz in Silesia, which became Glodzko in Poland after World War II.

Its removal from Poland remains a mystery.

Hecht claimed he bought it for hard currency but refuses to say when. The Poles insist it was stolen.

The Haggadah turned up in Geneva last June. It was placed for auction with the respected firm of Habsburg and Feldman by Bery Gross, a Brooklyn dealer in Judaica, who was acting as an agent for Hecht.