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## UJA PLANS NEW DRIVE FOR SOVIET JEWS BUT DOLLAR GOAL HASN'T BEEN SET YET

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- National officers of the United Jewish Appeal unanimously agreed at a meeting Monday afternoon to mount a massive fund-raising drive for the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel.

But they have not yet set a dollar amount or a time frame for the special campaign.

"There was a sense at the meeting that the incoming immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel in the past several weeks suggests that more than \$350 million would be needed," said a spokesman for UJA.

"The dollar goal has yet to be set for the campaign, as well as the time period. The amount is to be determined based on the best estimate of need," he said.

A delegation of top UJA leaders will be in consultation with national officers throughout the week to decide on a figure for what they call Operation Exodus. The figure is to be announced at a news conference Friday.

UJA assists Jewish federations around the country in raising funds for overseas needs. Funds earmarked for Israel are provided to the United Israel Appeal, which serves as the U.S. representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The Jewish Agency is a non-governmental body that provides a number of social services in Israel, including the absorption of immigrants.

The special UJA campaign was a prime topic of discussion during a meeting of the board of the United Israel Appeal on Tuesday afternoon, and it was expected to be the focus of a meeting here Wednesday of the Jewish Agency Executive.

"This is a process," said Jerry Strober, spokesman for the Jewish Agency. "There are several meetings going on, and we have to await the outcome of the process."

## Ballpark Figure Around \$500 Million

But Rabbi Daniel Allen, assistant executive vice chairman of UIA, provided an insight into what the final figure might be.

"The original estimate was that 100,000 Soviet Jews were expected to make aliyah in five years, with a \$2 billion budget, \$350 million of which was to be raised by UJA.

"If that figure is for 100,000 Soviet Jews, what does it mean for a volume of 250,000 to 500,000 Soviet Jews now expected to be arriving in the next five to six years? Figure it out.

"I'm not saying that it's directly proportional," said Allen, "but it's clear that the dollar value will have to go up significantly."

A source closely involved in the meetings taking place suggested that a ballpark figure for Operation Exodus would fall somewhere between \$450 million and \$500 million, to be raised over a five-year period.

"I don't think it's enough," the source said, "but it's probably a realistic assessment of what the American Jewish community can raise."

UJA is confident it can raise whatever is required. "Whatever the final figure and whatever the time period will be, we're going to raise the funds," said the UJA spokesman.

## JEWS ARE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ETHNIC UNREST IN AZERBAIJAN

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- There were conflicting reports Tuesday on whether Jews are among the casualties in the bloody unrest that has plunged the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan into a virtual civil war.

Reports from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and on Israel Radio said Jews had died in the bitter fighting between the predominantly Shi'ite Moslem Azerbaijanis and their mainly Christian Armenian neighbors.

But accounts from the National Conference on Soviet Jewry stated that, so far, Jews have been spared.

In most instances, the reports were based on telephone conversations with Jews in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

The one point on which all reports agreed was that fear runs deep among Jews in the Soviet Asian republic.

Jews, who have lived in Azerbaijan for some 2,000 years, now find themselves uncomfortably in the middle, torn between their warm relations with both the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis.

A reassuring report was made by the National Conference, which spoke by phone Tuesday to Yegor Sukholutsky, a leading member of Club Aleph, the Jewish cultural association of Baku.

Sukholutsky said he was not aware of any Jewish casualties in Baku, said Martin Wenick, national director of the National Conference.

But Sukholutsky confirmed that the situation is tense and that everyone is nervous. Despite this, Hebrew classes continued Tuesday as normal.

## At Least One Death Reported

However, another Jewish activist in Baku, identified as Leonid Mishne, said he knew of at least one Jewish death, though he said it did not appear to have been the result of anti-Semitism.

Mishne reported the news in a conversation with Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils. His report corroborated information the Union of Councils obtained through Armenian sources in the United States, who were in turn in contact with Armenians in Yerevan.

Mishne said the Azerbaijanis were looting Armenian apartments and that an unknown number of people, mostly Armenians, were being killed.

But Naftalin said that according to the information he has received, "they are leaving Jews alone. If they show them a Jewish passport, they just walk away."

Misha Dworkin, another Hebrew teacher in Baku, told Israel Radio on Tuesday there were an unknown number of Jews among some 56 dead and 160 wounded to date.

He said that Jews had been targeted by the Azerbaijanis, because they "have the same faces" as Armenians.

The Armenian sources in Yerevan, providing a somewhat lower overall number of casualties, said there was one known Jew dead and five other non-Armenians whose nationalities were unidentified.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**AID TO ISRAEL COULD BE THREATENED BY NEEDS IN EASTERN EUROPE, PANAMA**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- There is growing anxiety among supporters of Israel that the pressure on the Bush administration to provide financial assistance to Eastern Europe and Panama may result in a reduction of economic and military aid to Israel.

Supporters of Israel believe that the United States must respond to the new conditions in Eastern Europe, Panama and elsewhere, but they believe it should be done by enlarging the pie, rather than giving everyone smaller portions.

The first public call for a cut has come from Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.), who has proposed a 5 percent slash in aid for Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan.

Aid for each of the five countries is earmarked by Congress and all together accounts for about two-thirds of the \$14.8 billion U.S. foreign aid budget. This allows the president discretion over only one-third of the foreign aid budget.

Israel has received \$3 billion in economic and military aid annually from the United States since 1986. Egypt, whose level of aid has been linked with Israel's since the 1978 Camp David accords, receives \$2.3 billion.

"A 5 percent cut in current aid programs for the big five would provide about \$330 million -- enough to respond to the needs of new democracies, such as Poland, Hungary, Panama and countless needy countries that under current allocations will receive not one penny in foreign aid," Dole said.

**Israel's Needs Unchanged**

Dole's remarks were made in an op-ed piece published Tuesday in The New York Times. But he had signaled his position at a Washington news conference earlier this month, during which he urged that President Bush be given "more flexibility in foreign aid."

The White House and the State Department said Tuesday that the administration believes it should be allowed more flexibility on foreign aid. But they said there are no proposals at this time to cut aid for any country.

"We do have earmarking concerns that we have expressed to Sen. Dole, as well as to others. But that's about the extent of our discussions at this point," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler rejected suggestions that Dole's proposal was a "trial balloon" floated by the administration.

While Dole's remarks have heightened the concern that already existed in the Jewish community, there is not yet any fear of immediate cuts in the \$1.8 billion in military aid and the \$1.2 billion in economic aid that Israel receives annually.

"We believe strong support remains for maintaining the U.S. military and economic assistance to Israel," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Mark Pelavin, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, said he does not expect any change in the appropriation for either Israel or Egypt in the 1991 budget, which Bush will submit to Congress this month.

Both Hoenlein and Pelavin believe there will be no change in Israel's appropriation as long as the current peace process continues.

Hoenlein stressed that Israel still needs the full \$3 billion U.S. appropriation. He said Israel's military strategic advantage has eroded because of the continued supply by the Soviet Union of advanced weapons to Arab countries.

Economic aid continues to be essential, Hoenlein said, because of the financial burden Israel now bears in trying to absorb thousands of emigrants from the Soviet Union.

**'Not Automatic Anymore'**

Though confident that aid will continue, Hoenlein said supporters of Israel will have to work harder at ensuring this. "It's not automatic anymore," he said.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee issued a statement saying it shares Dole's belief that the new democracies should be helped. But it warned, "We must try not to hurt some allies in the process of helping other allies."

David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, made the same point.

"The United States, we hope, will respond to these emerging opportunities, but not at the expense of friends whose needs remain no less than yesterday's," Harris said.

"One ought not to hurt some friends and allies to assist others," he said.

At his news conference, Dole ruled out any substantial increase in the foreign aid budget, because "there's not a lot of money lying around."

Bush is not expected to recommend any major increases in the foreign aid budget, because of his pledge against raising taxes and because of the budgetary crunch caused by provisions of the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

The competition for existing foreign aid funds could result in new conflicts among various ethnic groups.

**Need To Build Coalitions**

But Hoenlein doubts this will happen. He said the answer is to form new coalitions aimed at increasing the overall foreign aid allocation.

Jess Hordes, director of the Washington office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, agreed on the need to form coalitions in support of foreign aid. He said such a coalition now exists with the Congressional Black Caucus.

"This is an opportunity for people who recognize the importance of foreign aid to join in a coalition," he said.

Hordes said it is not in the U.S. national interest to approach foreign aid from a "zero sum" perspective.

He said not only should the United States expand its aid program, but Washington should encourage other countries, such as West Germany and Japan, to assume their share of the burden.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said that Dole's proposal "would make much sense if he would call for a 5 percent reduction in the cost that the United States pays for the defense of Europe and the Far East."

He said if countries such as West Germany and Japan paid their own way, it would give the United States "the additional funds it needs to help the new democracy movement of Eastern Europe."

# EGYPTIAN REPORTS PROGRESS AFTER MEETING WITH BAKER

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The stalled Middle East peace process may have gained momentum, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid indicated here Tuesday.

"We see already a lot has been achieved during what has been the first phase," he told reporters following a 75-minute meeting with Secretary of State James Baker at the State Department.

"We are now in the second phase, which is the preparation for the dialogue in Cairo between the Israelis and Palestinians, and before that, the tripartite meeting of the three foreign ministers in Washington," Meguid said.

"We are certainly very much keen on this meeting," Meguid said.

He was referring to a meeting that Baker, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and he are to attend in Washington, as specified in Baker's plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The dialogue is expected to lay the groundwork for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as proposed by Israel last spring.

There was speculation here, meanwhile, that there would be a meeting between Meguid and Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is to meet here with administration officials on Wednesday and Thursday.

Rabin had been visiting Los Angeles since Sunday. He canceled an appearance there Tuesday afternoon to fly to Washington ahead of schedule.

He was quoted as saying he would be happy to meet with Meguid if the Egyptian minister thought it would be useful. But the Israeli Embassy here said no meeting had yet been planned.

When Meguid was asked about a meeting with Rabin, he, too, replied, "We haven't had that planned."

The Egyptian official described his talk with Baker as "interesting" and "useful." He said he would be meeting with the secretary of state several more times this week.

*(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this report.)*

# SHAMIR AND SHARON TRADE BARBS AS THEY GEAR UP FOR LIKUD SESSION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his most outspoken rival, Ariel Sharon, are trading barbs in anticipation of an upcoming Likud Central Committee meeting.

The committee's 2,000-plus members will convene Feb. 7 for what Shamir hopes will be a vote of confidence in his peace initiative toward the Palestinians. He and Sharon set the date at a private meeting last week.

But Sharon, who is minister of industry and trade, clearly wants a showdown over Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections in the administered territories and his diplomatic moves with the United States to set them up.

Addressing about 100 party loyalists Monday night, Sharon claimed the erosion of Likud's electoral base in recent years was the result of unclear policies that made it hard for the public to distinguish Likud from the Labor Party.

He said he feared that in future elections the voters would have to choose "between Labor and a facsimile of Labor."

Sharon was reacting to Shamir's remarks to a Likud audience the day before. "Be silent, detractors," the prime minister urged in a passionate call for party unity.

"Whom is he telling to be silent?" asked Sharon in reply.

Israelis are well aware the prime minister was referring to Sharon and his two most powerful allies in the upper echelons of Likud: Construction and Housing Minister David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i, the minister of economics and planning.

The three have put aside their personal rivalries to oppose Shamir's initiative, especially the proposed Palestinian elections, which they warn will lead to a Palestinian state.

# PALESTINIANS NOW HELPING THE IDF PREVENT MURDER OF FELLOW ARABS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- One of the most successful security operations undertaken by the Israel Defense Force in Nabulus has encouraged local Palestinians to organize against extremists who terrorize or murder fellow Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

A month after the IDF wiped out a gang called Black Panthers, which operated in the Nabulus casbah, and arrested every member of a similar gang, the Red Eagles, a Palestinian counterforce has emerged.

It calls itself the General Security Service, and it has served notice it will not tolerate "holding suspects for questioning" or executing them for alleged collaboration.

General Security Service happens to be the name of Israel's internal security agency, known by the acronym Shin Bet. Its adoption by the Palestinians may or may not have been accidental.

In any event, the group marched through the narrow alleys of the casbah Monday afternoon armed with a rifle and three handguns.

Judging by their nationalist slogans and the colors of the kaffiyehs they wear around their heads, the marchers identify with Al Fatah, the largest and most moderate branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Fatah, which is headed by Yasir Arafat, has spoken out several times in the past against the execution of suspected collaborators.

Executions and torture had become almost daily occurrences before the IDF operation. Since then, however, only one local man, Sa'adi Bakri, has been murdered. But 15 people were kidnapped and tortured, though eventually released.

The march through the casbah Monday was seen as an attempt by PLO moderates to regain control from the violence-prone dissidents. So were the leaflets circulated in the West Bank this week, which urged students to attend classes and refrain from staging demonstrations inside the school premises.

"The Palestinian state needs educated people," the leaflets said.

Hadashot reported Tuesday that Egypt was expected to demand that Arafat, who is now visiting Cairo, declare a three-month moratorium on the assassination of suspected collaborators.

But even if Arafat loyalists obey such an order, it is hardly likely to be heeded by Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organization, which is the chief rival of the PLO.

Hamas has been responsible for a number of political assassinations, mainly in the Gaza Strip.

**NEO-NAZIS SURFACE IN LEIPZIG  
IN BID TO WIN MEDIA COVERAGE**

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Neo-Nazis mingled with pro-democracy demonstrators in the East German city of Leipzig on Monday and appeared on West German television with anti-Semitic slogans.

Assuming correctly that the city where East Germany's "peaceful revolution" began last November would be the focus of media attention, all manner of right-wing extremists have gathered there.

Last weekend, swastikas and slogans such as "Juden Raus" (Jews Out) were daubed on walls and buildings near the Jewish cemetery. The cemetery itself was not damaged, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed.

But there is growing confusion between real and contrived neo-Nazi smear campaigns.

Experts say a good part of it is the work of former employees of the disbanded secret police, Stasi, who believe they can get the security force re-established under a new name if there is enough popular fear of neo-Nazism.

The Protestant church in Leipzig appealed to the state-owned West German television stations Sunday not to give air time to neo-Nazis who displayed or circulated propaganda material during the pro-democracy rallies Monday.

The church leaders said television coverage boosted the morale of young extremists.

But Klaus Bresser, editor in chief of the Mainz-based ZDF television station, said the journalistic mission is to report what happens.

"We are certainly opposed to neo-Nazis from the East or West mixing in among pro-democracy protesters," he said. "But by failing to report their presence, we won't do any good."

**COURT RULES THAT WOLF HAGGADAH  
BELONGS TO THE JEWS OF BERLIN**

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- After weighing competing claims of ownership, the Supreme Court here has decided that the rare Wolf Haggadah belongs to the Jewish community of Berlin.

The court ruled last week that the Hagaddah should on no account be restituted to those who had unjustly appropriated it, and said its rightful owner was the Jews of East and West Berlin.

The court upheld a ruling last month by the Geneva Tribunal of the First Instance, which ruled that "no other party can offer a more likely claim" to the manuscript than the Berlin Jewish communities and the World Jewish Congress, which is representing them.

The two groups are opposed in their claim by the government of Poland, where the Hagaddah had been housed in the Jewish Historical Institute since World War II.

The WJC has tried to settle the matter with the Polish government out of court, but its attempts have so far been to no avail.

The value of the illuminated Hagaddah, which probably dates to 13th-century France, is estimated at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

The Geneva court will keep custody of the Hagaddah and levy court costs against Poland and the private individual whose attempted sale of the Hagaddah at a Geneva auction house last June, prompting the case.

The seller, Nathan Hecht of Montreal, had

remained anonymous until last month. He has been represented in transactions by an American Jew, Bery Gross of Brooklyn.

Gross was ordered to pay court costs of 1,500 Swiss francs, or almost \$1,000. The Polish government was fined the same amount.

Hecht told Reuters news service in December that he bought the manuscript for hard currency through an agent in Poland. He said he bought it in good faith and did not believe it was stolen.

The WJC stepped in on behalf of the Jewish communities of East and West Berlin and succeeded in having the Geneva courts seize the Hagaddah to prevent its auction in June.

Judaica experts, learning of the intended auction, cried foul, saying the Hagaddah had been stolen from Warsaw Jewish institute.

The Haggadah was willed to the Berlin Jewish community in 1907 by Albert Wolf, a prominent German Jew. It was displayed in the Jewish Kunstmuseum until 1938, when it was confiscated by the Nazis, along with thousands of other pieces of Judaica.

It was discovered by Russian troops in 1944 in Gdözko, Poland, which had been Upper Silesia in Germany before the war. The Russians turned it over to the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

It remained there until 1984 or 1985, when it supposedly disappeared.

**CIVIL UNREST SPREADS IN GALILEE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Civil unrest spread Tuesday in Galilee, where economic worries are affecting light industry as well as the agricultural sector.

Several hundred townspeople from Hatzor Haglilit blocked the main highway and faced down police in a demonstration against the possible loss of their jobs.

Four people were arrested, including the local schoolmaster, who brought children to the barricades.

They fear the 150 employees of the Haborim metal pipe and sanitary fittings factory will be out of work if the plant, owned by the financially crippled Koor Industries, is sold and moves away from the development town.

If that happens, "you might as well close down the town and move us all away," workers told Israel Radio.

**CHAIRMAN OF KOOR RESIGNS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The chairman of Koor Industries, Arnon Gafni, resigned Monday in protest against efforts to sell the financially ailing conglomerate to foreign investors.

Gafni accused Benny Gaon, director general of the giant Histadrut-owned enterprise, of negotiating behind his back.

Gaon, together with government and Histadrut officials, have been talking to representatives of the American Shamrock Corp. of the United States and the Toronto-based Belzberg family investment group.

Each is reported to have bid for Koor, but so far no deal has been struck.

Gafni opposes the sale of Koor to foreigners. But financial experts say that unless a buyer is found, the bankrupt enterprise will be turned over to creditors and stripped of its assets.