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**ISRAEL MUST TAKE RISKS FOR PEACE,
RABIN TELLS WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday that his country needs to "take the risks that are needed for the peace process."

Rabin spoke briefly with reporters outside the White House, after meeting for 30 minutes each with Vice President Dan Quayle and Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser.

President Bush did not take part in the meetings, said Ruth Yaron, the Israeli Embassy spokeswoman.

Rabin, who is scheduled to meet Thursday morning with Secretary of State James Baker, said that at the White House, "I gave my own estimation of the possibilities on the peace process and, at the same time, the need of Israel to be strong, to take the risks that are needed for the peace process."

In addition, Rabin and the administration officials "discussed the problems in the Middle East, bearing in mind that the governments in the Soviet bloc and Eastern Europe" have new leaders, which have "implications for our region."

Asked if he thinks the administration is sending any subtle signal for Israel to be more flexible on the peace process, Rabin said, "I believe that we have the kind of relationship in which we can discuss openly and freely most of the issues, and whenever there are differences, we know on what we are differing to bridge over our differences."

No Mention Of Dole Proposal

Rabin was asked about a proposal by Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) to provide more foreign aid to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe by making a 5 percent cut in the U.S. foreign aid grants given to the largest recipients, including Israel.

The defense minister said the only mention of it he has heard while in the United States was from The New York Times, which printed Dole's proposal on its op-ed page Tuesday.

"I've heard about certain difficulties of the United States, but I have not seen any sign that (it will) affect the coming fiscal year support of Israel," he added.

Rabin also told reporters that he has no plans to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, who met with Baker twice on Tuesday.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said that a second unscheduled meeting between Baker and Meguid was held at the Egyptian minister's hotel Tuesday night, so they could continue their discussion of the Middle East situation.

Meguid is in Washington primarily to discuss Egypt's economic problems with the International Monetary Fund. His first meetings on the IMF lasted so long that there was no time to discuss the peace process, Tutwiler said.

She said Meguid and Baker will meet again Friday.

Tutwiler said that Baker and Meguid did not discuss the scheduling of a proposed meeting in

Washington that would include the two of them, along with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

She said Baker telephoned Arens on Tuesday morning, but refused to confirm a report in Israel that the meeting, originally expected this month, would be held in late February.

"There is no lack of desire on any of the three foreign ministers for such a meeting to take place," Tutwiler said. "But all three agree that there is substance to be worked out" before such a meeting can be held.

Rabin, who also met Wednesday with Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's policy planning staff, was scheduled to meet late Wednesday afternoon with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and separately with the secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

**PERES TO VISIT PRAGUE AND CAIRO,
USURPING LIKUD FOREIGN POLICY ROLE**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres will pay official visits to Czechoslovakia and Egypt next week, his office announced Wednesday.

The Labor Party leader will be the first Israeli minister to go to Prague since the Czechs broke diplomatic relations with Israel in the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War.

He is scheduled to meet with Czechoslovakia's new president, Vaclav Havel, and other senior officials.

Peres was invited to Cairo by the Egyptian government to review the state of the peace process. He will be talking with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, who will be fresh from a series of meetings with Secretary of State James Baker in Washington this week.

Peres' provocative venture into the foreign policy arena clearly does not sit well with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud-controlled Foreign Ministry.

Shamir's aides said Wednesday that Peres informed the prime minister of his plans, which is all he is required to do under the unity coalition agreement.

But the Foreign Ministry apparently was neither consulted nor informed in advance.

The announcement of Peres' travel plans came on the heels of an embarrassing lampoon of Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his staff by one of Israel's leading political columnists, Yoel Markus, writing in Ha'aretz on Tuesday.

It depicted a ministry that has lost control over foreign policy-making and the conduct of the country's foreign relations.

Weizman Coup In Moscow

In light of the Markus piece, Peres can be seen as seizing the initiative.

It is he, not Arens, who is going to Prague shortly after the visit to Israel last week by a high-level Czech delegation that came here to discuss the resumption of diplomatic ties.

And he will be going to Egypt at a time when the diplomatic process has been stalled by what the Egyptians consider Shamir's inflexibility over an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Peres is not the only Laborite to seize the foreign policy spotlight.

Ezer Weizman, the minister of science and development who fared poorly in a confrontation with Shamir earlier this month, recouped some of his lost stature by having a two-hour meeting at the Kremlin last week with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Weizman was the first Israeli received at so high a level since the Soviet Union broke with Israel more than 22 years ago.

He captured headlines afterward by announcing -- without Kremlin confirmation -- that the Soviets were prepared to resume diplomatic ties with Israel on the level of legations, only a degree below embassy representation.

Markus referred in his Ha'aretz column to Weizman's Moscow trip, to remind readers that the head of the Israeli consular mission there, Arye Levin, was excluded by the Soviets from the Kremlin meeting, in an apparent slap at Arens.

Weizman's trip to Russia, like Peres' earlier visit to Poland, outflanked the Likud foreign minister, the Ha'aretz commentator said.

Other examples of Foreign Ministry disarray he mentioned were the continuing delay in naming a new ambassador to the United Nations because of Likud-Labor disputes, which also affect the selection of new envoys to Washington and Paris.

According to Markus, Arens is widely perceived to consider himself Shamir's anointed heir.

While grooming for the prime ministerial job, he does not seem to be fighting to preserve, much less enhance, the Foreign Ministry's scope of authority, the writer said.

SHAMIR CLARIFIES REMARKS LINKING SOVIET ALIYAH WITH GREATER ISRAEL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is trying to repair whatever damage might have been done by his suggestion this week that the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union would affect territorial policies.

Israelis are concerned by the impact his remarks might have in the United States, which helps Israel absorb newcomers.

The prime minister told Likud supporters in Tel Aviv on Sunday night that the rising tide of aliyah would lead to a "bigger Israel, a stronger Israel, Eretz Yisrael."

That was widely interpreted here as meaning that massive immigration will require a "Greater Israel," usually defined as pre-1967 Israel plus all of the administered territories.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Wednesday that Shamir's remarks "were not helpful."

"Our position is clear," Tutwiler said. "We do not think that building settlements or putting even more settlers in the territories promotes the cause of peace."

Shamir told a news conference in Rishon le-Zion on Tuesday that all he meant by his remark was that large-scale immigration would require a "strong, united Israel."

He expressed surprise that anyone should think that could hurt aliyah, "since the Soviet Union has changed its policy and has given every Soviet citizen the right to live wherever he wants."

Immigrants to Israel also will henceforth be free to settle wherever they choose, be it Tel

Aviv, Jerusalem or a West Bank settlement, Shamir said.

In past decades, immigrants were generally shunted away from the main population centers to outlying areas requiring development.

No U.S. Funds For Territories

But officials of both the Jewish Agency and the Israeli government have asserted that no U.S. government or philanthropic funds will be used to settle immigrants in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

In Washington, Tutwiler affirmed that the United States does not provide "resources or funds for settlement of new immigrants in the occupied territories. Our current program is explicitly limited to Israel inside the Green Line," she said.

Tutwiler said that Israel provides the United States with accounts on how the \$3 billion in U.S. economic and military aid is spent.

Nevertheless, Israeli officials are troubled by the impact Shamir's remarks may have in the United States, where Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) has just suggested a paring of U.S. economic aid to Israel, Egypt and three other countries in favor of aid to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and Panama.

"Greater Israel" has always been the policy of the Israeli right wing. Shamir has vowed never to relinquish an additional inch of territory for the sake of peace with the Arabs.

Advocates of territorial compromise, on the other hand, cite Israel's demographic disadvantage compared to the Arab population. They say that if the territories are not returned, Arabs will become the majority in Israel in the near future.

The quarter-million Soviet Jews expected in the next three years could correct that imbalance.

Mainly Settle In Big Cities

But visions of a predominantly Jewish-populated West Bank and Gaza Strip were rejected by a leading geographer and demographer, Dr. Elisha Efrat.

Writing in Ha'aretz, he cited published figures showing that Soviet immigrants are not drawn to the towns and settlements in the administered territories.

In 1988, half the newcomers chose to live in one of the three largest cities: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv or Haifa. Twice as many settled in Jerusalem as Tel Aviv.

A quarter of the immigrants settled in the Gush Dan area, including Herzliya, Petach Tikva and Rishon le-Zion, all dense population centers of Israel proper. Less than 12 percent settled in development towns.

In 1989, the trend changed. According to figures for the first nine months supplied by the Jewish Agency, Haifa was the main absorption site, followed by Netanya.

But half of the newcomers continued to gravitate to the three largest cities.

According to Efrat, if Israel gives the immigrants freedom to settle where they want, few will move outside the major cities.

Those who choose development towns will select the relatively successful ones, such as Beersheba, Upper Nazareth and Carmiel.

Efrat said there is no tendency among the immigrants to settle in areas across the Green Line, which separates pre-1967 Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(JTA correspondent David Friedman in Washington contributed to this report.)

**OFFICIAL SAYS ALL ETHIOPIAN JEWS
WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO ISRAEL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- The entire Jewish community in Ethiopia will be able to come to Israel in the foreseeable future under a family reunification plan, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Reuven Merhav, the ministry's director general, made the statement upon his return from a visit to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, which now has diplomatic relations with Israel.

Virtually all of the Jews remaining in Ethiopia have relatives in Israel, Merhav said.

Most are among the 8,000 to 10,000 Ethiopian Jews who came here during Operation Moses, the clandestine series of airlifts from Sudan that were aborted in January 1985 because of premature disclosures.

But even after the airlifts ended, small numbers of Ethiopian Jews continued arriving in Israel, Merhav told army radio in an interview Wednesday.

That fact was widely known. But it was believed to be the first time an Israeli official had publicly confirmed it.

Merhav offered no time frame for the family reunification program. Such things move slowly in Israel, and months will elapse before it gets into full swing, he said.

He strongly denied reports that the Ethiopians were easing their emigration policies in exchange for Israeli military training and equipment. There is no such linkage, he insisted.

Ethiopia and most other black African nations broke diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Relations with Ethiopia were restored last year, after a 16-year hiatus.

Merhav said ties with Ethiopia are based on civilian cooperation and commercial projects, not military aid. He cited a blood bank originally set up in Addis Ababa by Israeli doctors, which Israel would now help to expand.

INVITATIONS TO JEWS IN BAKU ARE MISSING
By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Israel is investigating the disposal of hundreds of invitations sent to Jews in Soviet Armenia, which are a prerequisite for their application to emigrate.

Apparently, they did not reach their destinations because the mails were disrupted by fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, according to Michael Kleiner, chairman of the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee.

The Likud Knesset member said on a television news program Tuesday that Israel is aware of the urgent need to hasten the immigration of Jews from Armenia and Azerbaijan.

But he said Israel has no information to confirm reports from Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, that Jews were among the casualties of the ethnic strife.

However, he expressed concern for the safety of Jews in Baku because of the Iranian presence there. The Azerbaijanis, like the Iranians, are mainly Shi'ite Moslems. The Armenians are predominantly Christian.

Kleiner said Israel is presently seeking different ways to send the immigration documents to Jews in those Soviet republics and is investigating the possibility of direct flights from Armenia to Israel.

**FLOOD OF SOVIETS POURING INTO ISRAEL
TAXING LIMITS OF BEN-GURION AIRPORT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- The heavy influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union is causing problems at Ben-Gurion Airport, where Absorption Ministry personnel have been processing the new arrivals as soon as they land.

As many as 500 emigres have arrived on a single night, interfering with the normal operations of Israel's only international airport.

Their processing lasts into the wee hours of the morning. While the ministry has the staff available, the space problem has become awkward.

Rafi Harlev, director general of El Al Israel Airlines, suggested this week that the Airport Authority and the ministries of Transport and Absorption consider moving the immigrant terminal from Ben-Gurion to an alternative site.

One proposal is to divert planes carrying immigrants to Atarot Airport, northeast of Jerusalem.

Another is to convert the domestic flight terminal at Ben-Gurion, used only by the inland air carrier Arkia, into an immigrant processing center.

A third proposal is to establish a processing center at the Absorption Ministry's facility in Tsrifin, about five miles from Ben-Gurion Airport, which is located in Lod, outside Tel Aviv.

The newly arrived immigrants and their personal effects would be bused there from the airport.

**ROMANIAN BABIES TO BE UNITED
WITH ADOPTIVE PARENTS IN ISRAEL**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- The overthrow of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has had a happy side effect for more than 30 Israeli couples, who adopted babies in Romania in recent years but were forbidden to take them out of the country.

Now the ban is lifted. On Monday, 17 Israeli couples flew to Bucharest and 15 of them returned home with the children, age 3 to 5, whom they had adopted as infants.

Two couples remained in Romania because their children are ill. Another 14 couples will be going there shortly to pick up their children.

Many childless Israeli couples look to foreign sources for adoption because they are unable to meet Israel's strict criteria for adoptive parents.

Romania had encouraged adoption by foreigners, and a considerable number of Israelis and Europeans filed adoption papers in recent years. The Israelis paid the Romanian authorities \$2,000 each for their babies.

But soon after the formalities were completed, Ceausescu's wife, Elena, ordered a halt to foreign adoptions.

It was part of a harsh program of enforced childbearing among Romanian women, who were expected to make the Romanian population the largest in the Eastern bloc.

Abortion was forbidden, and women were watched in the workplace and given frequent medical examinations to ensure that they did not abort.

Israelis were permitted to visit their babies in Romania but could not take them home. The restriction ended with the revolution and the execution of the Ceausescus last month.

SKINHEAD ACTIVITY UP 180 PERCENT; ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS SET RECORD

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States reached their highest level of the decade last year, according to the annual audit compiled by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

In 1989, anti-Semitic occurrences in the United States rose to 1,432, the highest level since 1979, the year ADL began conducting the nationwide audit.

The 1,432 figure represents a nearly 12 percent increase over 1988, when the number of incidents totaled 1,281. This reflects the same pattern of increase shown the preceding year.

This increase is noteworthy, considering that it occurred despite the absence of two major factors that influenced the 1988 figures: the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht and the initial impact of the Palestinian uprising.

Dividing the incidents by category, the study reported 845 incidents of vandalism; 587 episodes of harassment, assaults and threats; a record 116 neo-Nazi Skinhead-attributed incidents (a 180 percent increase); and 69 college campus incidents.

The figures, said Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, "are disturbing but not surprising," in light of "the rise in hate-inspired violence generally around the country.

He added, however, that "there were more serious types of anti-Semitic vandalism and desecrations last year than ever recorded in ADL audits."

More Serious Violent Crimes

The year 1989 saw the highest combined total of the most serious violent crimes, including arson, bombing and cemetery desecration (30 incidents). The high was attributed to increased activity on the part of racist, neo-Nazi Skinheads, and a 30 percent rise in incidents reported on college campuses.

The audit, compiled by the research department of ADL's Civil Rights Division, reflects incidents in 44 states and the District of Columbia, as reported to ADL's regional offices and to law enforcement officials.

New York state reported the highest level of anti-Semitic vandalism, with New Jersey, Massachusetts, California and Florida following close behind. A number of incidents in these areas received considerable national attention in 1989.

New York also reported a high number of cases of harassment and assaults.

In Brooklyn, Max Kowalsky, a Holocaust survivor, was murdered in July after protesting against swastikas scrawled across his front door. And in October, on the eve of Yom Kippur, two Brooklyn College students were harassed and beaten on their way home from a fraternity party.

Incidents in Massachusetts, on the other hand, mainly involved vandalism.

In Marblehead, "Burn the Jews," "Mengele" and "Belsen," were found spray-painted on a synagogue and community center in July. On the eve of Yom Kippur, property in Wellesley was defaced by swastikas and neo-Nazi graffiti.

In California, numerous bombing incidents received national news coverage. The offices of the San Diego Jewish Times were firebombed in April and August, and in May, a firebomb was thrown into Beth Shalom Synagogue.

"The general nationwide increase in anti-

Semitic acts demands an ever more forceful response through those means available," the audit said, suggesting several steps for combatting the rise in hate crimes.

These include increased law enforcement and community counteraction and information programs; expanded educational efforts in the nation's schools; more effective security measures in Jewish religious and cultural centers; stricter enforcement of existing anti-bias crime statutes; and consolidated lobbying on behalf of a national anti-bias crime law.

The proposed Hate Crime Statistics Act, now pending before the U.S. Senate and already passed in the House of Representatives, would mandate the Justice Department to collect and publish data on hate crimes motivated by ethnicity, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Forty-eight states now have statutes dealing with hate crimes.

EX-NAZI SPARS WITH JEWISH LEADER OVER RISE IN GERMAN ANTI-SEMITISM

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- The chairman of the West German Jewish community and the leader of an extreme right-wing, reputedly neo-Nazi party here are locked in verbal battle over who bears responsibility for a resurgence of anti-Semitism in West Germany.

Heinz Galinski, the chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, reacted sharply Tuesday to charges made by the leader of the Republican Party that it was Galinski himself who was responsible for the anti-Semitic binge.

In an interview with the daily newspaper Augsburg Allgemeine, Galinski said the allegation, made by Franz Schoenhuber, was one of the most vile claims he had ever confronted.

Schoenhuber, a former Waffen SS officer who heads the Republicans, made his accusation against Galinski at the Republican Party convention in Rosenheim, Bavaria, last week.

He said it was high time Galinski stopped "slandering German patriots," meaning himself and his followers.

Galinski observed some "similarities" between the Republicans and the Nazis, such as their use of the term "patriot" to imply that those who disagree with them are not patriotic.

Galinski said, "If any other politician had said this, I would have considered suing him." However, he continued, "Schoenhuber is in no way a partner. I won't deal with him."

Schoenhuber has not been coy in previous remarks about Jews, either. Last year, Schoenhuber referred to the German Jewish community as "the fifth occupying power in our country," the other four being the wartime Allies.

On another occasion, he declared that "contrary to some other politicians, I do not feel myself obliged to love Galinski just because he is Jewish."

West Germany's Jewish community regards the Republican Party with growing alarm, especially since it has declared German reunification to be its main goal.

Galinski pointed out that the dangers posed by the Republicans have become more acute in view of recent developments between the two Germans.

The Republicans claim they have thousands of followers in East Germany, where they hope to make a strong showing in the May 6 elections.