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**ISRAEL HOPING TO KEEP AID INTACT
AS SUPPORT FOR DOLE IDEA FALTERS**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Suspense is building as to how Israel will fare when President Bush presents his 1991 budget to Congress on Monday.

But the expectation on Capitol Hill and in Israeli circles here is that the budget will include the full \$3 billion in economic and military assistance that the Jewish state has enjoyed for the past half-decade.

Oded Eran, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy here, said Wednesday, "To the best of my knowledge, there won't be any cut. There won't be any changes and so I don't expect that."

Concern about a possible cut was heightened last week when Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) proposed that aid be reduced to Israel and other large foreign aid recipients by 5 percent, or \$150 million.

Dole called for the cuts to free up money to bolster the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and Panama. While there is widespread agreement here that such funds must be found, few politicians have been prepared to back publicly his strategy for coming up with the money.

"From what I've heard, there wasn't a great deal of support for the idea of cutting 5 percent across the board or from certain recipients," said Eran. "However, I think Senator Dole has drawn attention to the situation."

"There is a need for other countries to be assisted by the United States," he added. "I think from my conversations with senators and congressmen that they will be looking for ways to deal with the needs other than by cutting aid to the traditional recipients."

Eran said one way Congress is considering helping other countries is by increasing the foreign aid budget overall.

Dole Is 'Completely Isolated'

On Capitol Hill, no other senator has spoken in support of Dole, said one Senate source. "There is not exactly a procession of people supporting it," the source said.

An aide to Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "The president has been hoping to gain both more funds and more flexibility overall" for the foreign aid budget.

The aide said he does not know if Bush will ask for an increase in the foreign aid budget, to help Eastern Europe and Panama, or if he will ask Congress to reduce its earmarks of aid to Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, the Philippines and Greece.

Those six countries received close to \$7 billion of the \$14.6 billion in U.S. foreign aid this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1.

Israel and Egypt alone received \$5.3 billion of that amount. Because of the relatively large amounts for those countries, which Congress required to be spent, the State Department has smaller amounts available for dozens of other countries.

Bush's 1991 foreign aid request was a low

priority this week at meetings between White House officials and Senate Republican leaders.

On Tuesday, when White House Chief of Staff John Sununu visited Capitol Hill, the topic was not discussed, said a Senate aide.

At a luncheon on Tuesday between the Senate Republican Policy Committee and Secretary of State James Baker, it was "more of a non-event" in terms of foreign aid, said a Capitol Hill source.

"There was no acrimonious debate or anything like that," the Capitol Hill source said. A few senators "spoke up" supporting foreign aid. "That's really it."

A staunchly pro-Israel source put a different spin on it, saying, "Dole was completely isolated. The whole (Republican) leadership told him to drop the idea."

Pressure to cut the federal budget deficit resulted this year in a reduction of Israel's \$3 billion foreign aid package, for the first time ever. Congress cut all non-defense programs by nearly half a percent to fight the war on drugs.

As a result, Israel's foreign aid this year is \$2.986 billion, \$13.5 million less than the \$3 billion originally earmarked, said an Israeli Embassy official. He said that Israel will be unable to recover that amount.

**PERES SAYS HE AND MUBARAK AGREE
OBSTACLES TO TALKS CAN BE OVERCOME**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres emerged from talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday saying the two agreed that remaining obstacles to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue can be overcome.

Peres also said he unequivocally favors including two Palestinians deported from the administered territories in the delegation representing the Palestinian side at the dialogue. He said this position is backed by his entire party.

Peres' meeting in Cairo triggered immediate criticism among Likud ministers and Knesset members back home. They claimed that both Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who visited Washington last week, were advocating positions not agreed upon by the full Cabinet.

Likud opposes including deported Palestinians, because it believes they would, in effect, be representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Egypt and the PLO have insisted on their inclusion, saying that any talks about the future status of the territories should involve representatives of the Palestinian "diaspora."

Peres, for his part, in an interview on Israeli army radio from Cairo, agreed that he was, in effect, "enlisting Mubarak's support" for Labor's positions on the peace process.

The Labor Party leader said he had been "very encouraged" by his talk with the Egyptian president.

"He most certainly agreed that the problems are solvable," Peres said. "He spoke with vision and enthusiasm of the future of the Middle East, of peace and of Israel."

Peres brushed aside the radio interviewer's assertion that Shamir and the Likud reject his

position of including Palestinians from outside the administered territories.

"Let him bring better ideas," he said. "If he has better ideas, all very well."

Rabin Defends Conduct In U.S.

Political observers in Jerusalem speculated Wednesday that Peres and Rabin might now be in agreement on their party's strategy regarding the continued existence of the national unity government.

Rabin denied at a meeting of the Inner Cabinet on Wednesday that he had put forward his own proposals during his talks in Washington last week. But he conceded that he had "asked questions" during his discussions with American officials.

Speaking later to Labor Party members, Rabin made it clear that he, like Peres, would agree to deported Palestinians participating in the dialogue on the Palestinian side.

Peres flew to Cairo on Tuesday night, following a visit to Czechoslovakia, where the new government announced it would re-establish diplomatic ties with Israel in February, during a planned visit to Prague by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud.

Peres said he was upset by the Likud criticism of his statements, "as though only what Likud persons say represents Cabinet policy, while what we say is not Cabinet policy."

He said he and Shamir are "on the same side, the side of Israel," yet often he does not agree with Shamir's statements, "like for instance about Greater Israel."

The vice premier was referring to Shamir's comment Jan. 14 that the massive wave of emigration from the Soviet Union would require a "bigger Israel."

Labor Not 'Wedded' To Coalition

While Peres did not threaten to bring down the government if Shamir rejects his positions in the aftermath of his and Rabin's visits abroad, the vice premier did not rule out that scenario.

"If there is no peace plan, there is no logical reason to maintain this unity government," Peres declared Wednesday. "We are not wedded to our seats."

Some of the vice premier's supporters in Labor have long been pressing the party to quit the government and seek to form a narrow coalition with the Orthodox parties in the Knesset.

Up till now, Rabin and the more hard-line factions in Labor have rejected that approach. But some sources within the party insist that Rabin is moving in that direction.

These sources cite Rabin's downbeat report to the full Cabinet on Sunday on the mood in Washington.

Rabin said he believed that Sen. Robert Dole's proposal to cut aid to Israel is linked to dissatisfaction on Capitol Hill about Israel's stance on the peace process.

At the Inner Cabinet meeting Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister David Levy reportedly attacked Rabin's conduct during his U.S. trip, rejecting the defense minister's explanation that he had only been "asking questions."

In the Knesset, meanwhile, Peres' deputy at the Finance Ministry, Dr. Yossi Beilin, said Wednesday that the PLO's tacit consent is necessary if Israel's election plan is to go into effect.

Beilin said it is hypocrisy to pretend that the PLO's consent is irrelevant.

KING OF SPAIN MAY VISIT ISRAEL, ARENS SAYS ON RETURN FROM MADRID **By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- King Juan Carlos of Spain has agreed in principle to make a state visit to Israel, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens announced Wednesday evening, upon his return from Madrid.

This would be the first visit to Israel by a Spanish head of state, and one of the very few royal visits at all to the Jewish state. No date has yet been set for the king's trip.

Arens spoke of the Spanish people as having a "strong desire for reconciliation" with the Jewish people. He reported that Spain's small Jewish community is hoping for a formal annulment in 1992 of the 500-year-old decree expelling Jews from Spain.

With regard to the peace process, Arens refused to say what he thought of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington last week.

He said he would want to discuss the substance of the visit with Rabin before passing judgment as to whether the defense minister strayed from government policy while in Washington.

INTIFADA, POLARIZED SOCIETY BLAMED FOR RISE IN DRUG CRIMES, VIOLENCE **By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- The intifada and an increasingly polarized society were blamed by officials this week for the steep rise in drug offenses and violent crimes.

Police Inspector General David Kraus offered some alarming statistics for Jerusalem, in a review of the past year that he presented at a news conference here.

A criminal offense occurs every two minutes. Every hour, violence is perpetrated against some person. Every 2.5 minutes, property is stolen or damaged.

There is a traffic accident every 32 minutes, and every 18 hours one proves fatal, Kraus said.

There was a 61.5 percent rise in last year's murder rate over the previous year. There were 105 homicides in Jerusalem in 1989, compared to 65 in 1988, the police inspector said.

The intifada was the main contributor, a breakdown of statistics showed.

About a third of the murder cases were plainly criminal. About 14.3 percent had nationalistic motives, and 15.2 percent of the victims were Arabs slain because they were suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Were it not for the intifada, the murder rate actually would have declined last year, police statistics show.

Commissioner Yehoshua Caspi, head of the national investigation division, reported a 50 percent rise in the number of police files opened on drug offenses.

He said he is particularly disturbed by the increased consumption of hard drugs, mainly heroin.

Last year, the police confiscated some 200 pounds of heroin and more than 13,000 pounds of hashish.

Kraus attributed many of these problems to the growing polarization in society.

He said the police are facing tough times ahead in dealing with these trends, because of shortages of personnel.

PALESTINIAN STAND AGAINST ALIYAH DRAWS REBUKE FROM THE ISRAELI LEFT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- An appeal by Palestinian nationalists to end the flow of mainly Soviet immigrants into Israel drew a sharp rebuke Wednesday from leftist parties in the Knesset that generally support Palestinian aspirations.

A statement issued jointly by the Knesset factions of Mapam, the Citizens Rights Movement and the Center-Shinui Movement termed the Palestinian position "unreasonable" and "detrimental."

They were referring to a memorandum addressed to the Western countries by 26 Palestinian leaders, urging them to prevent Israel from settling thousands of immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The grotesqueness of the injustice of importing 1 million Soviet Jews should now be more apparent than ever, especially while the forced exile and statelessness of millions of Palestinians is being perpetuated," the memorandum said.

Among the two dozen prominent Palestinians signing that memo were activist Faisal Husseini and Sheikh Sa'ad a-Din el-Alami, the mufti of Jerusalem, who is the most senior Moslem religious authority in the country.

Husseini, an advocate of non-violent resistance to the Israeli presence in the administered territories, is considered the leader of the group.

He was arrested on Jan. 19 for allegedly assisting a terrorist cell in East Jerusalem. But the case apparently fell apart for lack of evidence and his was released four days later.

Shamir Again Urges 'Large' Israel

The memorandum was too much for even the Zionist left, which has criticized Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for his talk about settling masses of immigrants in the administered territories.

The left-wing Knesset members maintained in their statement that large immigration will increase Israel's confidence and that a self-confident Israel would be more likely to take the risks of withdrawing from the territories.

"The Palestinians ought not to interfere in the internal affairs of Israel, in general, and in the matter of aliyah, in particular, just like Israel should not interfere in the internal affairs of the Palestinian state, once it is established," their statement said.

Shamir continued this week to feed Palestinian fears that they will be ousted from the territories to make room for Jewish immigrants.

"We need a large and strong people of Israel, as well as a large and strong state," he said Tuesday while visiting absorption centers in Jerusalem.

It was his second remark in a week implying that the territories were needed to absorb more immigrants.

Israel's foes also muddied the waters. Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's foreign affairs spokesman, told the Boston Globe in an interview that he does not accept Israel's right to even its pre-1967 borders.

Salah Khalaf, second in command of the PLO, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Iyad, urged attacks on Israel proper.

Israeli peace activists, meanwhile, have canceled plans for another joint demonstration with Palestinians.

MUBARAK AWAD'S BROTHER AT CENTER OF VISA DEBATE By Catharine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- The Israeli authorities are refusing to grant an entry visa to Alex Awad, an American citizen of Palestinian origin who has been engaged to serve as minister of the Baptist Church in East Jerusalem.

Although important American political and religious figures, including some Jewish groups, have appealed on his behalf, their intervention has been futile.

The Interior Ministry, which is in charge of entry permits, says Awad is ineligible because he overstayed his last visa. He also worked here without a permit, according to ministry spokeswoman Tova Ellison.

But many are convinced the reason is political.

Alex Awad is a brother of Dr. Mubarak Awad, who headed the Center for Non-Violent Studies in East Jerusalem, which formulated ideas for non-violent Palestinian resistance to the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Awad family lived in East Jerusalem until the late 1960s, when they moved to the United States.

Mubarak returned in 1983. Alex, an ordained Baptist minister, came to Bethlehem in 1987 and taught at the Baptist college there.

He was deported in June 1988, eight months after his tourist visa expired.

His requests for a new visa have been repeatedly denied. Awad now lives in Ohio.

A religious watchdog group, the Rabbinic Human Rights Watch, is urging the Israeli government to reconsider.

One of its leaders, Rabbi David Forman, appealed to Interior Minister Arye Deri to allow Awad into the country to fulfill his religious duties.

In a letter to Deri, Forman argued that "as a religious minority which has been persecuted through history, we have to defend the freedom of religion in the State of Israel.

"Any accusations against Alex Awad because of his family relations stand against the principles of Judaism."

Ellison said, meanwhile, that "Awad's request for a visa is still under investigation with the proper authorities and he will soon receive a reply."

TWO INJURED IN NABLUS CLASH By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Tension rose high this week in Nablus, following the killing of a leader of the local "shock committees" that exercises brutality against violators of the intifada.

The man, Moussa Sa'ad, 24, was apparently shot by Israel Defense Force soldiers while trying to flee when the soldiers came to arrest him at his residence.

Riots broke out in the city following his death, with 13 residents wounded.

In a clash between stone throwers and an IDF patrol in a village near Jenin, a 3-year-old boy was wounded by a plastic bullet in the head, and an 8-year-old was wounded in his leg. The child suffering the head injury was reported in serious condition at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem.

RIISING ANTI-SEMITISM DRIVING JEWS OUT OF SOVIET UNION, SAY ACTIVISTS By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Rising anti-Semitism and ethnic strife are rapidly driving Jews out of the Soviet Union, according to Michael Chlenov and Natan Sharansky.

Chlenov, co-president of the Va'ad, the federation of Soviet Jewish communities founded in Moscow last month, made his observation during two days of meetings here of the World Jewish Congress.

Chlenov and Co-President Samuel Zilberg of Riga were the first Soviet Jews ever to attend executive committee meetings of the WJC.

Sharansky made his remarks to a packed audience at the McGill University Law School in Montreal, where a lectureship has been established in his name in recognition of his contributions to human rights.

Sharansky, who spent nine years in prisons and labor camps before he was allowed to go to Israel in 1986, makes no secret of his abiding hatred of the Soviet system.

The only positive result of glasnost, Sharansky said, is that the anti-Semitism that surfaced with the new openness "will lead to an exodus of 500,000 to 1 million Jews to Israel."

Chlenov, who would also like to see Soviet Jews transplanted to Israel, sees anti-Semitism as a "boiling pot that hasn't yet exploded" but still "may explode."

The long-expected exodus of Soviet Jewry "has truly started," he said, as a result of "panic and hysteria."

'Driven By Fear'

Tens of thousands of Jews are now leaving the Soviet Union, but it "is an aliyah which is mainly driven by fear, frustration and hate, rather than the desire to be reunited with the Jewish people," Chlenov said.

There are "a lot of those who remained true to Yiddishkeit," he said, but "an even bigger number who don't know anything about Judaism."

Chlenov said the Va'ad intends to prepare Jews not only for aliyah but for absorption in Israel as well, and that the new organization will "try to work together with the State of Israel" to create a "siddur mukdam," a committee to prepare emigres.

It will be one of several groups formed to deal with pressing Jewish problems, including the development of organized Jewish life in the Soviet Union, anti-Semitism and reunification with world Jewry.

Sharansky, speaking in Montreal, said that "Russian traditional anti-Semitism has been made worse by 70 years of the Soviet regime and domination.

"Many Soviet citizens are now looking for a scapegoat for the bankruptcy of their country, and they are trying to pin on the Jews the suffering (which) Communism brought to the Soviet Union," he said.

As an example of scapegoating, Sharansky cited propaganda circulated by Pamyat, which he identified as "an extreme right-wing, nationalistic, Slavophile and overtly anti-Semitic organization whose ranks are growing daily."

Pamyat holds Jews responsible for the December 1988 earthquake which devastated Soviet Armenia.

It claims that the seismologists, who hap-

pened to be Jewish, kept the secret of the coming catastrophe under wraps.

"This sort of thing explains why 2,000 Jews daily request the right to emigrate," Sharansky said, adding that "1 million Jews are candidates for immigration."

According to Chlenov and Zilberg, anti-Semitism is much more prevalent in Russia than in the Central Asian republics.

Wiesel Appeals To Gorbachev

Meanwhile, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, who has just returned from the Soviet Union, appealed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to pay attention to anti-Semitism, to stop the de-Judaization of the Holocaust and to declare Stalin's crimes to have been crimes against humanity.

Wiesel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he found the public mood there "as morose as never before.

"Most Jews want to leave now," he said. "This was my sixth visit, and I have never seen so many Jews being seized by fear.

"They are afraid that if Gorbachev goes, they don't know what will happen," Wiesel said.

Wiesel was there together with more than 1,000 religious, political and scientific leaders from 83 nations, including members of the newly elected Supreme Soviet, to attend the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival, which dealt with preserving the world's environment.

After the environmental conference ended last Friday, a unique event occurred at the very core of the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York's Park East Synagogue conducted a Jewish prayer service inside the Kremlin.

(JTA correspondent Michael Solomon in Montreal contributed to this report.)

WAGNER GRANDSON, IN ISRAEL, SAYS HE UNDERSTANDS MUSIC BAN By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Richard Wagner's grandson, Gottfried Wagner, who just returned from a successful lecture tour in Israel, understands why his grandfather's music is generally boycotted in that country.

As a member of the family, he has no right whatever to criticize Israel for that, he told the Berlin newspaper Der Tagesspiegel in an interview published this week.

Wagnerian music's close association with the Nazi era is responsible for negative attitudes toward it in a nation of Holocaust survivors.

According to his grandson, the composer's personal anti-Semitism should be considered in the context of his times.

Richard Wagner lived from 1813-1883. Anti-Jewish attitudes were widely held at the time, and there was fierce competition with Jewish composers, mainly in Paris, said Gottfried Wagner, who is also a composer.

"One should have enough courage to break with horrible traditions, even in one's family. For me, the anti-Semitism in my family is something horrible," he said.

Wagner delivered four lectures at Tel Aviv University to packed audiences last week.

"They received me very warmly and I am extremely grateful. I know that I was among friends," the 42-year-old Wagner said of the Israelis.