

**LIKUD AND LABOR SPLIT OVER WHERE TO BUILD HOUSING FOR SOVIET OLIM**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Likud and Labor are battling over whether to build urgently needed new housing in the administered territories or in Israel proper.

The issue is directly related to allegations, made mainly by Arab states, that Israel plans to settle thousands of arriving Soviet Jewish immigrants in either the West Bank or Gaza Strip, in order to displace the Palestinian population there.

While the Likud-led Ministry of Construction and Housing wants to build in the territories to attract new immigrants, Laborites would give priority to development towns within Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Israel received strongly worded warnings Monday from both Washington and Moscow against settling the immigrants in the territories.

Israel pointed out in response that the new arrivals are hardly rushing to live there. Only 50 of the 20,000 who arrived since the summer--about a quarter of 1 percent -- have shown interest in settling in the territories.

According to Jewish Agency figures, out of the 9,980 immigrant families that arrived in Israel from "countries of distress" between April and December 1989, only 45 have settled in the West Bank.

"This is nonsense that immigrants are directed to Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip," said Uri Ariel, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in the territories.

"The days in which one could have told immigrants to settle here and there are long gone," he said.

**Gaza Strip Tours For Immigrants**

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has insisted that the immigrants are free to settle wherever they want. But his recent remark that a "large, strong state" is required to absorb the newcomers was widely interpreted at home and abroad as justification for a "Greater Israel."

Even in the absence of an official policy to populate the territories with immigrants, there is nothing to prevent the settlers from trying to increase their numbers by immigration.

Leaders of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip contact Soviet emigres at the absorption centers and try to convince them to settle in the region.

Last week, they conducted the first organized tour of the Gush Katif, a concentration of 15 Jewish settlements in the center of the Gaza Strip. The Soviet newcomers were offered housing and job opportunities, but none so far has shown any interest in moving there.

About 30 apartments are available in the Gush Katif. There are 700 empty flats in the West Bank, and plans call for building 1,500 more by the end of the year. They are at the heart of the controversy between Labor and Likud.

David Levy, the powerful Likud minister who heads the Construction and Housing Ministry, is ideologically committed to increasing the Jewish population in the territories.

The availability of attractive, low-cost

housing would be a magnet for new immigrants, considering that the price of apartments is rising rapidly in Israel proper.

But Raphael Edri, a Labor Party minister without portfolio, proposed Tuesday that the government start construction immediately of 5,000 flats in development towns in Israel.

Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin, also of Labor, said allocating funds for housing in the territories would be a "total waste" because the immigrants are not likely to go there.

Meanwhile, Ha'aretz reported Wednesday that the Cabinet will soon discuss disturbing reports of rising anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and the entire Eastern bloc.

A report on the situation prepared for the Cabinet recommends top priority for the emigration of Jews from those countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said efforts must be made to get Jews out of the Soviet Union while the Soviet authorities continue their liberal emigration policies, which, he implied, could be reversed at any time.

According to Netanyahu, about 300,000 Soviet Jews already hold exit visas, but have been unable to leave because of lack of funds and lack of flights to Israel.

An official of a Soviet Jewry advocacy group in the United States said that it is currently impossible to book a flight out of the Soviet Union before January 1991.

**WARNING OF SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM, SHARANSKY RAISES MILLIONS IN U.K. London Jewish Chronicle**

LONDON, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Comparing the threat of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union to that in Nazi Germany a half century ago, Natan Sharansky raised a record-breaking \$11.8 million here Tuesday night to help absorb Soviet Jews in Israel.

Sharansky, who spent nine years in the Soviet Gulag before he was freed to immigrate to Israel in February 1986, held an audience of 448 guests spellbound at a dinner launching the Joint Israel Appeal's largest ever campaign to save Soviet Jews.

With pre-dinner donations, the rescue fund now stands at over \$25 million.

According to Sharansky, whatever happens to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his program of perestroika, or reconstruction, there is no future for Jews in the Soviet Union.

He said that while in the Ukraine and other republics, some nationalists see Jews as allies, there is "very strong anti-Semitism" in Russia itself.

The anti-Semitic Pamyat movement attracts hundreds of thousands of people to its meetings, Sharansky claimed.

He said that as the Communist ideology dies, the Russian people make the Jews scapegoats for the system's failure.

"It reminds me of the 1930s in Nazi Germany," said the Israeli activist. "That's why Soviet Jews want to leave and leave in large numbers."

"If you fail and do not be quick enough, who knows what will happen," Sharansky warned.

## TWO SENATORS QUESTION BUSH'S PACE ON WAIVING SOVIET TRADE SANCTIONS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Two senators criticized President Bush on Tuesday for moving too slowly to waive trade sanctions against the Soviet Union. But a third said he did not necessarily disagree with the president's judgment.

The subject came up during a Capitol Hill news conference during which the three senators proposed a \$511 million aid package for Eastern Europe.

Responding to a question, Sens. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) and Paul Simon (D-Ill.) said they felt Bush should have moved more quickly to issue a waiver of trade sanctions under the 1975 Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

But Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) said it was a "close call" as to whether Bush should issue a waiver of the amendment, which denies most-favored-nation trade status to Eastern European countries until they improve their emigration policies.

The Bush administration indicated in December that it would consider a waiver after U.S.-Soviet negotiations on a trade bill are completed. This would give the Soviets time to adopt and implement promised legislation instituting emigration reforms.

The two largest Soviet Jewry groups in the United States are split on whether Bush should issue a waiver. The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said last June that it would favor a waiver if Bush receives assurances from the Soviets in four areas, including that they will sustain a high level of Jewish emigration.

But the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, a grass-roots confederation of 1,200 local Soviet Jewry groups, is still opposed to a waiver, until "fair implementation" of the Soviet emigration reforms is achieved.

### U.S. Now An Emigration 'Barrier'

Congress could conceivably repeal the amendment and then send the measure to Bush to sign or veto. But members of Congress have yet to make a united effort to approve a waiver.

Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "As months go by, it will be more and more inevitable that we will repeal" Jackson-Vanik.

"I think it has moved a little slowly," in issuing a waiver, Pell said of the administration.

Simon said a waiver should have been issued on Oct. 1, "when we shifted the process for refugees from the Soviet Union."

At that time, he said, "we became the great barrier to emigration, rather than the Soviet Union. So I think the time has come for a reappraisal of it."

Simon was referring to the administration's Oct. 1 decision to no longer consider allowing Jews who leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas to come to the United States as refugees. Those wishing to settle in the United States must apply for American visas while still in the Soviet Union.

This fiscal year, the administration and Congress agreed to allow 50,000 Soviet refugees to enter the United States. By contrast, an estimated 200,000 Soviets have reportedly applied for U.S. refugee status.

During the news conference, Biden was asked about the recent proposal by Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) to cut U.S. foreign

aid to the largest recipients, including Israel, by 5 percent. The savings would be reapportioned to Eastern European countries and Panama.

Asked about Senate support for Dole's proposal, Biden said, "I think the prospects of it passing are zero."

"The Dole proposal is particularly insidious, in my view," he said. "It pits longtime allies against emerging, potential democracies."

"I think it would be particularly dangerous if the Poles and the Hungarians" thought that the reason why they were not getting additional assistance was because of Israel, he said.

## PRAGUE CONFIRMS PLANS TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL NEXT WEEK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Czechoslovakia announced Wednesday that it will formally restore full diplomatic relations with Israel on Feb. 9.

The ceremony will be held during an official visit to Prague by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Czechoslovakia will become the second Eastern European country to resume diplomatic ties with Israel, broken after the 1967 Six-Day War.

Hungary was the first. It re-established full relations with Israel on Sept. 18.

Yosef Govrin, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, who is in charge of East European affairs, said Wednesday that Arens' visit to Prague is also expected to produce an agreement on educational, cultural and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Davar reported, meanwhile, that the outgoing inspector general of the Israeli police, David Kraus, has been selected to be Israel's next ambassador to Hungary.

But his potential nomination has run into trouble from the Foreign Ministry staff, which is wary of the addition of any non-professional, political appointees to the foreign service.

## 84 PERCENT RISE IN ALIYAH REPORTED, ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO SOVIET EXODUS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Immigration to Israel increased 84 percent in 1989 over the previous year, according to official figures released Sunday.

About 24,000 immigrants and potential immigrants arrived last year, compared to 13,000 in 1988. Almost all of the increase was accounted for by the rise in emigration from the Soviet Union.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, 18,900, or 74 percent, of last year's arrivals were immigrants and 5,100, or 21 percent, were potential immigrants.

The Soviet Union accounted for 12,900, or 54 percent, of the new arrivals, up from 2,300 in 1988. East European countries apart from the Soviet Union provided 1,900 immigrants, compared to 1,700 in 1988.

Immigrants from Africa amounted to 1,900, up from 1,300 the previous year.

Europe provided 3,800 immigrants, compared to 3,700 in 1988.

The combined total from the Americas and Oceania was 4,150, up from 3,950 the previous year.

The number of immigrants from Asia declined from 1,700 in 1988 to 1,200 in 1989.

## ISRAEL WILL NO LONGER DEPORT ARABS LACKING RESIDENCY STATUS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Israel has postponed all outstanding deportation orders against Palestinians in the administered territories who have no residence permits or have overstayed their tourist visas.

The action followed a rebuke from the United States to Israel for imposing "difficult tests of residence."

The new policy calls a halt to administrative deportations, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset on Tuesday.

He explained that those were deportations specifically licensed by the government's coordinator of affairs in the administered territories.

But deportations will continue to be ordered for those who take part in terrorist or intifada-related activity, or any work on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Rabin spoke in response to a written parliamentary question from Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement. Leftist circles in Israel have long protested the splitting of families by deportation.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler made clear Tuesday that the United States has expressed "concern" to Israel over its deportation policy, "particularly with regard to divided families."

Rabin told reporters here Wednesday that the United States and other countries practice similar policies. Visitors overstaying their tourist visas or found working illegally are required to leave the country, he said.

The PLO and the Arab states are linking the deportation issue with the mass influx of Soviet Jews into Israel. They charge that Israel is, in effect, carrying out unilateral "population transfers" by flooding the country with new immigrants while deporting indigenous Arabs.

## SOME RECRUITS BEATEN OR HARASSED IN TRAINING, ISRAELI ARMY ADMITS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force admitted Tuesday that junior officers in a few basic-training camps "sometimes beat and harass recruits."

The admission followed the inspection of six training camps by a team of senior IDF officers assigned by the chief of staff to investigate complaints.

"Only a few cases" of misconduct were found in three of the camps, an IDF spokesman told reporters at a news conference.

He insisted they were in no way connected to the recently publicized suicides of soldiers who allegedly had been harassed by their superiors or their peers.

Disciplinary action has been taken against officers found guilty of abusive conduct toward soldiers under their command, the spokesman said.

The news conference was called after Ha'aretz's respected military correspondent, Ze'ev Schiff, disclosed that a "very serious" report on abuse was submitted to the army chief of staff.

According to Schiff, the report said that commanders at many training bases were found to "degrade soldiers, sometimes to a point verging on brutality." Schiff said in some cases, soldiers had been beaten.

## PALESTINIAN FACING EXTRADITION FROM GREECE BLAMES U.S. ZIONISTS

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- A Palestinian suspect in an American airplane bombing eight years ago has accused the "Zionist lobby" in the United States of forcing the U.S. administration to demand his extradition from Greece.

According to Mohammed Rashid, who claims his surname is actually Hamdan, the Zionists want to use him to counteract the bad publicity Israel has been getting from the intifada.

Rashid was arrested at Athens airport on May 30, 1988, and charged with carrying a false passport.

He expressed his views in a three-page interview published Sunday in the newspaper Eleftherotyppia. It was the first interview he has granted since his arrest.

Rashid was responding in theory to questions submitted in writing in November. But his answers avoided their substance, reading more like propaganda from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Observers are convinced they were written by Rashid's lawyers, inasmuch as the prisoner can read, write and speak only Arabic.

Rashid is wanted in the United States, in connection with the 1982 bombing of a Pan American airliner over Honolulu. He claims he is the victim of mistaken identity and that he was framed by authorities.

Many here following the case, including some objective journalists, are not entirely convinced the Americans have the right man. Nevertheless, the Greek Supreme Court decided on May 12, 1989, that Rashid could be extradited to the United States.

But under Greek law, extradition orders must be approved by the justice minister. This has not been done, mainly because of the political instability in Greece.

The last three justice ministers, one of whom was murdered for political motives, have postponed a decision. The present incumbent has put off a decision until September.

The case has more than domestic ramifications. The Americans have hinted publicly and privately that future U.S.-Greek relations could hinge on Rashid's extradition.

## PLO NOW ISSUING 'PASSPORTS' IN HOLLAND

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization has added a new twist to its efforts to represent itself as the embodiment of a Palestinian state.

After failing in several attempts to win diplomatic representation in various international bodies, it has begun issuing "passports" to the "State of Palestine."

The first such document was issued this week by the PLO representative in The Hague, Afif Safieh.

It cost the equivalent of \$100 and was issued to Mariam Khoury, 82, a former resident of Bethlehem who has lived in Holland since 1983.

Khoury, now a Dutch citizen, is the mother of the late Georges Khoury, the first PLO representative here, who died over two years ago.

The steep price of the passport makes it an attractive source of revenue for the PLO. Safieh expressed hope that the 500 Palestinians living in the Netherlands will all apply.

## EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS FETE ISRAEL AT PRAYER BREAKFAST IN WASHINGTON

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Israel was exalted grandly Wednesday by Evangelical Christians, including former Rep. Mark Siljander (R-Mich.), who tried to recite part of the Shema and the Hebrew blessings over bread and wine.

Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to the United States, warmly accepted the support for Israel at the ninth annual National Christian Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel.

Arad was so overwhelmed by what he called the "electricity" of the friendly crowd that he scrapped his prepared remarks.

The breakfast took place during the 47th annual convention of National Religious Broadcasters, but it was sponsored by unrelated pro-Israel Evangelical groups, including the Tennessee-based Religious Roundtable, the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem and Beverly LaHaye's Concerned Women for America.

Americans for a Safe Israel was the principal Jewish group involved, sponsoring a "gold table," as did former Jewish Rep. Herbert Tenzer (D-N.Y.).

The breakfast drew a crowd of about 400 Christians and 75 Jews. A Messianic Jew, as Jews who believe in Jesus are sometimes called, sang various Israeli songs and the prayer "Oseh Shalom," as participants clapped along.

El Salvador's vice minister for foreign affairs was congratulated because his country and Costa Rica are the only nations that recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and have their embassies there.

The five-tier, 90-person dais featured a Who's Who of U.S. conservatives, including Howard Phillips, chairman of the Conservative Caucus, and Phyllis Schlafly, who heads the Eagle Forum.

### Jewish Leaders Participate

Ultraconservative Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.) was also there, sitting next to and chatting with Arad.

Also on the dais were Ruth Popkin, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, and Herbert Zweibon, president of Americans for a Safe Israel.

Douglas Bloomfield, former legislative director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, was attending his first prayer breakfast.

He said that there was "good will and support" expressed, "yet it does not seem to have translated into solid votes" for Israel on Capitol Hill.

At the breakfast, one award was given to former Attorney General Edwin Meese, who was praised by Ed McAteer, president of the Religious Roundtable, for the large influx of conservatives into federal judgeships under President Reagan.

A "Friend of Israel" award was given to Dr. Ben Armstrong, who recently retired as executive director of the National Religious Broadcasters and is strongly pro-Israel.

Jack Kemp, secretary of housing and urban development, gave the keynote speech. He received a 40-second standing ovation after saying, "I don't think Israel ought to give up an inch" of the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Dr. Elwood McQuaid, director of the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry in Bellmawr, N.J., quoted from the prophets Jeremiah and Zachariah, as well as from Ecclesiastes and Psalm 133.

"God has said of Jews, 'They are the chosen

people. They are people of my heart and they are a people of destiny,'" he said. "So we love you, because God said it. We should, and we do."

Afterward, McQuaid's ministry distributed free copies of his Bible prophecy books. Additional information about Israel was distributed by various groups, including the International Christian Embassy.

But outside the Washington Sheraton Hotel, where the breakfast took place, supporters of anti-Zionist Dale Crowley Jr. distributed pamphlets that questioned how the Religious Roundtable can honor Israel, a nation "that has no constitution, that has no First Amendment-type guarantees" and that supports a state religion, Judaism.

The pamphlet mentioned the Pollard spy affair, the accidental 1967 attack by Israel on the USS Liberty and the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres in Lebanon, carried out by Christian Phalangists while the refugee camps were under Israeli control.

## WOMEN OF THE WALL WIN SUPPORT FROM CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla., Jan. 31 (JTA) -- An Israeli government regulation that outlaws the activities of a women's prayer group at the Western Wall is "an offense to all Jewish women in the world," the president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism declared this week.

Launching a campaign to have the ordinance reversed, Women's League President Evelyn Auerbach urged the 200,000 members of Conservative women's groups to send letters of protest to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"You tell him we have the right to worship where we please in our beloved land of Israel," Auerbach told the women gathered Monday at the group's South Florida World Affairs Conference. "Cancel the ruling immediately!"

Auerbach was reacting to a regulation issued earlier this month by Israel's Religious Affairs Ministries. It prohibits any religious ceremony at a holy place that is "not in accordance with the custom of the holy site and which offends the sensibilities of the worshipers toward the place."

The regulation was issued to curb the activities of a group called Women of the Wall, which has been trying to hold monthly prayers at the Western Wall. The Orthodox religious establishment in Israel objects to women conducting prayer services at the holy site.

The group of Israeli women, which has received support from Jewish women in the United States and Europe, has gone to court to obtain the right to pray collectively at the Wall, without harassment.

They want to be able to read from the Torah scroll and use prayer shawls. The Orthodox restrict both practices to men.

But Auerbach told the 130 women gathered at the conference here that "the Torah belongs equally to women and men." She cautioned Shamir that "this is hardly the time to alienate Jewish women."

In New York, Rivka Haut, a leader of the International Committee for the Women of the Kotel, welcomed the show of encouragement from the Conservative women.

She reported that the Women of the Wall "feel somewhat beleaguered" at this point in their struggle. Words like Auerbach's "give them the strength to keep going," she said.