

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1990

NO. 35

**FOR NOW, U.S. SEES LITTLE HOPE
SOVIETS WILL OK DIRECT FLIGHTS**

By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union is refusing to institute direct flights between Moscow and Israel, at least for the immediate future, Bush administration officials and Jewish leaders have confirmed.

But they said the United States is still hoping to persuade Moscow to implement an agreement on direct flights signed last fall by El Al Israel Airlines and its Soviet counterpart, Aeroflot.

Secretary of States James Baker raised the issue with Soviet officials during his recent visit to Moscow, but the "Soviet response to Secretary Baker was not encouraging," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Tuesday.

She would not reveal what the Soviets actually said.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Tuesday that the United States is "disappointed" that they have not approved direct flights, "but we are hopeful that they may still have them."

He said direct flights "would be helpful in increasing the number of Soviet emigrants to Israel."

Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, who just returned from the Soviet Union, said he was told by Soviet Foreign Ministry officials that the prospects for direct flights are not encouraging.

The Soviets did not reject implementing the agreement, but said it was not "in the cards" for the immediate future, Wenick said.

Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said he had learned from the State Department that the Soviets are not willing to implement the agreement at this time.

Bush Concerned About Anti-Semitism

Jewish leaders who met with President Bush and with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger just prior to the Baker trip urged that the direct flights issue be raised.

They pointed out that regular flights to Israel through Budapest were booked up through January 1991. They also expressed the urgency of increasing the number of Jews actually leaving the Soviet Union, because of growing concern about anti-Semitism there.

Fitzwater said Tuesday that President Bush "is concerned about reports of growing anti-Semitism" in the Soviet Union.

Tutwiler said Baker presented the Soviets with actual anti-Semitic leaflets being distributed in the Soviet Union. Baker received the material from Bush, who was given them by Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

But Naftalin appeared disappointed that Baker had not mentioned anti-Semitism in his public appearances in Moscow. Only after Baker returned to Washington did the State Department announce that the secretary had raised the issue.

Naftalin also said he was concerned that Baker had not met with refuseniks while in

Moscow, as has been the practice in the past. Baker said that this was because of the pressure of time, as well as an indication of improved human rights conditions in the Soviet Union.

But Naftalin called it a "signal" that the State Department is playing down human rights.

Bush Against Further Settlement

The Soviet unwillingness to institute the El Al-Aeroflot agreement is believed to be in part the result of pressure from Arab nations. The Arabs have been lobbying the Soviets to curtail Jewish immigration, because they fear Israel will settle the new immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, thereby forcing out the Palestinians.

Fitzwater said it is "unfortunate" that Soviet Jews are settling in the West Bank. Bush "has made his views directly known" to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, he added.

Shamir has stressed that while it is not Israeli government policy to settle Soviet immigrants on the West Bank, it will not deny any Jew the right to live where he or she chooses.

Fitzwater reiterated the U.S. position that "we do not believe the new settlements in the occupied territories is helpful to the peace process, nor do we believe that encouraging Soviet emigrants to settle there is helpful to the peace process."

But he stressed that concern about Jewish settlements on the West Bank "does not mean that we don't want to increase the number of immigrants that are able to go to Israel."

**NJCRCAC RESOLUTION VOICES CONCERN
ABOUT SETTLING OLIM IN TERRITORIES**

PHOENIX, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Building homes for Soviet Jewish immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "can only increase tensions between Israelis and Palestinians living there," members of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council warn in a controversial resolution narrowly adopted Monday.

Construction of housing for olim in the disputed territories could also damage fund-raising efforts in the United States for immigrant absorption, the resolution says.

The four-point resolution was adopted, after heated debate, by a vote of 216-207 at the annual plenary of NJCRCAC, an umbrella group of Jewish national agencies and local community relations councils nationwide.

The measure's adoption reflects a concern among many delegates here about whether the Israeli government has been sincere in its public declarations that it will not direct Soviet immigrants to the administered territories.

The first two parts of the resolution simply state that NJCRCAC's top priority at the moment is the resettlement of Soviet Jewry and that it approves past statements by the Israeli government that it will not "encourage" resettlement in the administered territories.

Controversy centered on the third and fourth parts of the resolution.

The third point expresses the concern that, as the housing situation continues to tighten in Israel, Soviet olim "will settle wherever jobs and affordable housing are made available to them;

and therefore, the construction of new housing in the administered territories will have the direct effect of encouraging settlement there."

A 'Mischievous' Resolution

Such construction "may detract from the aliyah potential and our fund raising," the resolution states.

The fourth point declares that "the construction of new housing in the territories can only increase tensions between Israelis and Palestinians living there, possibly disrupting delicate negotiations."

A move to delete the controversial third and fourth points ended in a tie vote of 199-199. According to NJCRAC rules, the tie resulted in the strong language remaining in the resolution.

One of the strongest supporters of the resolution was Theodore Mann of Philadelphia, past president of the American Jewish Congress.

He called it "an expression of great concern by the sense of the plenum that fund raising for Soviet aliyah may be jeopardized by the question of whether housing is going to be provided for olim in the West Bank."

Referring to reports that the Soviets have decided not to allow direct flights to Israel, Mann said the issue "can't be put to rest until the housing issue is put to rest."

Mann, who is , said that the NJCRAC dele

But Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called the measure "inappropriate" and "mischievous."

The question of settling Soviet Jews in the territories "is not a relevant issue today," Reich said. "When you talk about 'construction of new housing in the administered territories' and include that in a statement about Soviet immigration, it sends Arab countries the line that Israel is going to settle them in the territories. That's what's mischievous."

He maintained that "there are no plans by the Israeli government to construct housing in the territories of any sizable nature."

Shamir Letter 'Unresponsive'

It is believed that the measure was at least partially fueled by dissatisfaction with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's response to a letter sent by NJCRAC on Feb. 15.

The letter, sent by NJCRAC's chairman, Arden Shenker of Portland, Ore., asked Shamir to reaffirm that "it remains the policy of the Israeli government to enable Soviet Jews, as all olim, to choose where they wish to reside."

In his response, Shamir stated only that "we must devise ways to combat the coordinated Arab onslaught on Jewish immigration to Israel." The letter did not address directly the issue of the administered territories.

Even Reich, who generally stands behind Shamir, was highly critical of the letter, calling it "insufficient" and "unresponsive."

NJCRAC officials stressed that resolutions passed at the plenary do not automatically become official NJCRAC policy.

This resolution was officially a recommendation to NJCRAC's Israel Task Force to consider the issue when it draws up language for the 1990-91 NJCRAC Joint Program Plan.

(Contributing to this report were JTA staff writer Allison Kaplan in New York and Washington Jewish Week staff writer Andrew Silow Carroll in Phoenix.)

UJA DELEGATION FINDS INTIMIDATION, BUT NO VIOLENCE AGAINST SOVIET JEWS By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Although many Jews are fearful and feel intimidated, there have been no reports of physical violence against Jews in the Soviet Union, according to members of a United Jewish Appeal delegation that just arrived here from Moscow.

That was the case at least up to a week ago, the UJA leaders reported.

On Feb. 13, while the UJA group was in the Soviet Union, the Moscow newspaper Trud reported that Jewish apartments in the Ukrainian city of Kharkov were broken into and that about 20 Jews there were beaten. But the Trud report has not been independently confirmed.

Marvin Lender, national chairman-elect of the UJA, told Israeli and foreign journalists here Tuesday that his delegation got much of its information about the state of Soviet Jews from the Va'ad, the recently established umbrella organization representing more than 200 Soviet Jewish communities and organizations from the Baltic to Siberia.

Lender reported that Va'ad representatives informed the visiting Americans at meetings in Riga and Moscow that "although there have been no incidents of physical violence against Soviet Jews as yet, there are regular and frequent intimidation attempts against Jews known to be waiting for an exit visa or ticket to Israel."

Lender said he himself felt intimidated when the UJA group, touring the old Jewish ghetto in Riga, noticed it was being followed by two men in a car.

"Although no physical violence actually took place, we certainly felt very intimidated," he said.

He said local Jews told them of several similar incidents which "created nervousness and fear among the Jews," though no one was physically assaulted.

A Soviet Rebuff To Arabs?

The UJA delegation raised the matter with Soviet government officials and was assured they would do everything in their power to prevent attacks on Jews, Lender said.

He said the purpose of the UJA mission was to observe firsthand the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and their resettlement in Israel.

Lender is chairman of Operation Exodus, a special UJA campaign aimed at raising \$420 million over the next three years to help Israel absorb Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Morton Korreich, the outgoing UJA national chairman, said he and other ranking UJA officials met in Moscow with Soviet authorities, with U.S. Embassy officials and with the Israeli consular mission in the Soviet capital.

The question of Soviet Jews settling in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was raised briefly at a meeting with Dr. Yuri Reshetov, head of the Foreign Ministry's human rights department.

According to delegation members, Reshetov told them that "the new Soviet Union is not about to be pressured by anyone."

That was seen as a rebuff to Arab delegations recently in Moscow to protest the possible settlement of Soviet Jews in the territories.

But Reshetov informed the UJA group that the issue is one of the reasons the Soviet government has delayed approval of an agreement for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

SHAMIR RESHUFFLES CABINET POSTS, DRAWING IRE FROM LIKUD HARD-LINER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Cabinet reshuffle Tuesday drew an angry blast from David Levy, a powerful figure in Likud's Herut faction and an ally of hard-liner Ariel Sharon.

Shamir named Moshe Nissim, a minister without portfolio, to be minister of industry and trade, succeeding Sharon, whose resignation became effective Tuesday.

The prime minister appointed David Magen, a Herut Knesset member, to the Cabinet without portfolio and elevated Transport Minister Moshe Katsav to the Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making forum, where he replaces Sharon.

Levy was furious, mainly because his close supporter, Herut Knesset member Eliahu Ben-Elissar, was passed over for a Cabinet appointment.

In a stinging public statement, Levy charged that the prime minister made the appointments without consulting him, even though he is deputy chairman of Herut and a deputy prime minister.

Levy said he learned about the new appointments and promotions from the news media and that they cast doubt on "the need or point of further meetings between me and the premier."

He was referring to the several conciliatory meetings Levy has had with Shamir since Sharon announced his resignation at a stormy meeting of the Likud Central Committee on Feb. 12.

Conflicting Promises Claimed

Ben-Elissar, who is chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, told reporters that the prime minister had promised him firmly in January 1989 that the first Cabinet seat to become available would be his.

But Magen, a former mayor of Kiryat Gat in the Negev, said Shamir made him the same promise last March. Magen, a longtime Sharon supporter, has moved to a more moderate, centrist position in Herut over the years.

Nissim, a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, is a bitter foe of Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, a fellow Liberal who joined forces with Sharon and Levy to oppose Shamir's policies.

By contrast, Nissim has been a loyal supporter of Shamir's during Likud's frequent internal upheavals and has been mentioned as a possible successor.

ISRAEL AND UNIFIL IN CONFLICT OVER SOLDIERS KILLED BY SLA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Israel has become embroiled in a serious conflict with the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, after two U.N. soldiers were killed and six wounded by mortar fire from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

The incident occurred at midnight Monday. The victims were members of the Nepalese contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, a 5,800-member force to which nine nations contribute military personnel.

A full report has been sent to U.N. headquarters in New York, according to UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel. Israel expects a tough protest from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez

de Cuellar, who holds Israel responsible for the actions of the SLA.

A detailed inquiry into the events has been launched by the Israel Defense Force and Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of the SLA.

The largely Christian militia helps the IDF police the southern Lebanon security zone against terrorist infiltrators, and is financed, trained and equipped by Israel.

Reports from the area said 15 150-mm mortar shells were fired at about midnight from an SLA position near Shama'a village, in the western extremity of the security zone.

Six shells exploded in a small UNIFIL encampment. A direct hit demolished an observation tower, manned by the unit commander and two Nepalese soldiers. The officer and one of the soldiers were killed.

Six soldiers suffered shrapnel wounds or concussions.

IDF and SLA commanders said the SLA unit was defending itself against rocket-propelled grenades and mortar fire from Hezbollah terrorists in concealed positions.

A UNIFIL spokesman described the SLA's fire as "wild and indiscriminate."

In Beirut, a group calling itself the Islamic Resistance Movement claimed its forces attacked two SLA positions with rockets and machine guns.

The dead Nepalese officer had arrived in the region only a week ago. The soldier killed with him was due to return home next week.

Their deaths brought to 172 the number of UNIFIL soldiers killed in action since the force was established by the U.N. Security Council in 1978.

MURDERS OF ARAB 'COLLABORATORS' ARE OUT OF ISRAELI AND PLO HANDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The brutal murders of Arabs by fellow Arabs is fast becoming a staple of the intifada.

The Israeli authorities say the Palestine Liberation Organization cannot control it, but neither can they.

At least 13 people have been murdered just in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the year. There were 88 murders in 1989, compared to 12 in 1988. The Palestinian uprising began at the end of 1987.

The victims fit roughly four categories: so-called "collaborators," criminal elements, victims of blood feuds within the Palestinian community and victims of mistaken identity.

Neither the intifada's Unified Command nor its PLO directors approve of the killings.

Salah Khalaf, PLO chief Yasir Arafat's deputy also known as Abu Iyyad, went on the Arab-owned Radio Monte Carlo recently to urge the local population to put an end to the wanton killings. But his appeal had no visible effect.

The murder spree is expected to be mentioned in the U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights around the world, to be issued Wednesday. The report is also expected to criticize Israel's policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli authorities say that many murders committed in the name of the intifada are criminally motivated. Others may stem from the power struggle between the PLO and Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group competing with it for control of the uprising.

**THATCHER PUSHES 'LAND FOR PEACE'
IN WARM ADDRESS TO BRITISH JEWS**
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Israel should talk to Palestinians outside the administered territories and should be prepared to give up additional land for peace, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Jewish leaders here Sunday.

The problems in the Middle East "would become still worse if Israel settled Jews from the Soviet Union in the occupied territories," the prime minister warned in an address to the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Thatcher's 30-minute speech included an assessment of the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union and her view of German reunification.

The address was enthusiastically received by the Anglo-Jewish leaders, many of whom may not agree with her formula for Middle East peace.

"Israel needs to talk to representatives of the Palestinian people from inside the occupied territories and from outside," Thatcher said.

"That is the only way progress is going to be made and a solution found to the tragic situation in the occupied territories, which is so hurtful to Israel's reputation and standing in the world. We have always taken the view that land in return for a secure peace should be the basis for such a solution," the prime minister added.

On the subject of Soviet Jews coming to Israel, Thatcher said, "We have all worked very hard to secure their right to emigrate. It would be a very ironic and unjust reward for all our efforts if their freedom were to be at the expense of the rights, the homes and the land of the people in the occupied territories."

No Decision On Moscow Conference

Thatcher observed that things are much better for Jews inside the Soviet Union under President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But some are still wrongfully imprisoned and there are still long-term refusniks not allowed to leave the country, she said.

In addition, there are "worrying signs of anti-Semitic propaganda being put out by extremist organizations which have nothing to do with the Jewish government," Thatcher said.

Nevertheless, her government has not yet decided whether Britain will attend the human rights conference to be hosted in Moscow next year, she said.

Thatcher used her address to the British Jewish leaders to signal a widely reported modification of her position on German "unification" as she called it, as opposed to "reunification" with 1937 frontiers. Those were the frontiers of the Third Reich that existed before the Anschluss with Austria.

Thatcher said unification would happen. But it "must take into account not only the feelings of the two German states, but the sensitivities and interests of others in Europe as well.

"Nor must it make any of us, in Eastern or Western Europe, or the Soviet Union, feel less secure," she stressed.

Thatcher lauded "the contribution of the Jewish community to our national life." It "has been quite outstanding, whether in the sciences, the arts, business or the professions," she said.

Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies, declared the group was "honored beyond measure" by the prime minister's presence.

**BIG RISE IN CANADIAN ANTI-SEMITISM
CREDITED TO ABORTION BLOOD LIBEL**
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Anti-abortionists promulgating a new version of the ancient blood libel against Jews are one of three factors a Jewish academician says is responsible for the 57 percent rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in Canada last year.

According to Professor Stephen Scheinberg, a professor of history at Concordia University in Montreal, the other factors are the Skinhead phenomenon and the Alberta appeals court's reversal in June 1988 of the 1985 conviction of former high school teacher Jim Keegstra for preaching anti-Semitism in his classroom.

Scheinberg, who is chairman of B'nai Brith Canada's Quebec chapter, said Monday at a news conference of the group's League for Human Rights that there were 176 anti-Semitic incidents across Canada in 1989 compared to 112 in 1988.

Scheinberg said the publicity given the Keegstra case, which is now before the Canadian Supreme Court on appeal by the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada, is partly responsible for the rise.

So are the activities of Skinheads, shaven-headed young hooligans who often sport Nazi-like regalia and attack Jews and other minorities.

The most virulent anti-Semitic campaign is directed against Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a Polish-born Jewish physician and Auschwitz survivor who is in the forefront of the movement for government funding of abortions for poor women.

"The anti-abortionists refer to abortions as the 'real Holocaust,' thus demeaning the suffering of our people during the Nazi era," Scheinberg said.

"The anti-abortionists blame Jews for plotting to kill Christian babies through abortions," he said, with Dr. Morgentaler, who is a gynecologist, "leading the conspiracy."

Scheinberg said bumper stickers have been spotted in Montreal's Notre Dame de Grace area reading "Jewish abortionists -- more Jewish babies."

The professor accused the news media of creating a stereotypical image of Jews from data supplied by Statistics Canada, a government institution which issues an annual report on the economic, social and cultural trends in Canada.

The Jewish community is invariably in the top socio-economic bracket, according to the media. This "stereotype of Jews as rich and powerful generates contempt and jealousy among non-Jews," Scheinberg said.

EL AL, KENYA AIR INK AGREEMENT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- El Al and Kenya Airways have signed an agreement to exchange passengers on their respective routes.

The Kenyan airline, scheduled to start flights to Tel Aviv, will encourage its passengers to continue with El Al to European or trans-Atlantic destinations.

El Al, which has a weekly flight to South Africa via Nairobi, will feed passengers bound for other African destinations to Kenya Airways.

The Kenyan government has granted Israel landing rights at Mombasa. The Indian Ocean port will serve as a transfer point for El Al flights to Bangkok, once the Thai government approves them.