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# **ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE RISE IN USSR, ACCORDING TO AJCOMMITTEE SURVEY**

**By Susan Gilman**
**The New York Jewish Week**

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union is on the rise and is potentially dangerous to the Jewish community there, according to a recent survey of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union -- the first to be conducted there since the 1920s.

The study, based upon lengthy interviews with 506 adults in the Moscow area, revealed "a disturbing climate of anti-Semitic feeling in the Soviet Union," but also "some hopeful findings," according to two political scientists from the University of Houston who conducted the survey.

Working in conjunction with Soviet sociologists, Assistant Professor Raymond Duch and Professor James Gibson found that almost half the people they interviewed believed that anti-Semitism is on the rise in the Soviet Union.

Eighty-two percent were unwilling to say they "liked" Jews, while 77 percent admitted that some or most of their fellow citizens were anti-Semitic.

"Soviet Jews have been telling us through meetings, through their behavior, through their level of emigration, that they fear they are in danger," said Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, which jointly sponsored the study with the University of Houston and the National Science Foundation.

## **'Working With Fact'**

"This is the first time we have real data (to support their fears). Now we are working with fact rather than supposition," Comay said.

The survey consisted of 350 questions concerning political tolerance in the Soviet Union, with a particular focus on the attitudes toward Jews.

The results of the survey were made public Thursday at a meeting of the American Jewish Committee in Manhattan. Presenting the findings were Duch and Gibson; David Singer, director of AJCommittee's Research and Information Services; David Harris, director of AJCommittee's Government and International Affairs in Washington; and Comay.

Of particular concern was the fact that, when asked to rate their degree of like or dislike for Jews, 18 percent of the respondents registered dislike, while 65 percent said they were "neutral."

"It points to a classic anti-Semitic syndrome," said Comay, "in which there is a core element of the population with an extremely high degree of anti-Semitism and a large group of 'neutral' citizens who don't care one way or the other -- who are not prepared to resist."

Given the current political and economic instability and uncertainty in the Soviet Union, he said, the large "neutral" population could be swayed to support anti-Semitic extremists.

When asked to rate their feelings for the ultranationalist, anti-Semitic group Pamyat, 14 percent expressed liking, while another 23 percent were indifferent toward it.

Similarly, 33 percent agreed with the state-

ment "When it comes to choosing between people and money, Jews will choose money," while another 29 percent were uncertain whether it was true.

Twenty-three percent agreed that "Jews have too much influence over Russian culture," with another 21 percent being "uncertain."

On the positive side, 91 percent believed Jews should be free to decide for themselves whether they want to emigrate or remain in the Soviet Union.

Ninety percent said they believed that "the government should make every effort to see that the rights of Jews to equal educational opportunities are respected throughout the Soviet Union."

Eighty-eight percent maintained that the government should ensure Jews equal employment opportunities.

Seventy-four percent also thought the government should be doing more to control anti-Semitism.

Experts also noted that the Soviet Union has a history of using Jews as scapegoats during times of political unrest. The AJCommittee was founded in 1906, in fact, to counter pogroms in czarist Russia.

Furthermore, experts said, the population interviewed for the study represented some of the Soviet Union's more educated, sophisticated citizens. The lower the level of education, the higher the propensity for anti-Semitism, they said.

"Moscow is not typical of the Soviet Union," said Duch. "The population is generally more educated and on the vanguard. Therefore, these results are a baseline measurement of anti-Semitism. Once outside the region, we can expect to find higher levels of anti-Semitism."

In light of the survey's results, the AJCommittee's board of governors has adopted a 15-point plan of action concerning anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

Among its courses of action are calls to repeal the United Nations "Zionism is racism" resolution; to press the Soviet government to permit direct flights to Israel from the Soviet Union; and to the development of ties with Soviet church groups in order to promote inter-religious harmony.

Of the 506 adults randomly surveyed, 88 percent were of Russian nationality, 3 percent were Ukrainian, 2 percent were Armenian and 2 percent were Jewish. Measures were taken to gauge the sincerity of people's responses, and the margin of error was placed at 5 percent.

## **SOLIDARITY SUNDAY REVIVED IN N.Y., BUT WITH A NEW SLANT AND SLOGAN**

**By Elena Neuman**

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- After more than two decades of activism on behalf of Soviet Jews, the rallying cry of "Let My People Go" was changed to "Let My People Fly" and "Bring My People Home."

It was the first Solidarity Sunday amid glasnost.

Official police estimates of 127,000 people-- although more realistic figures put the number at a fraction of that -- gathered at the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza opposite the United Nations on

Sunday for what was called this year an emergency "rally of response."

Although the U.N. setting, the Israeli songs, the colorful placards and the refusenik speakers seemed to evoke memories of past Solidarity Sundays, the tone and the feeling of this year's event was markedly different.

"We say to Mikhail Gorbachev, we have nothing against you or against the Soviet Union," said Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, chairman of the Greater New York Coalition for Soviet Jewry, which organized the rally. "But we demand that you crush the anti-Semitic savages in your country."

The agenda of the rally was threefold: to protest recent manifestations of grass-roots Soviet anti-Semitism; to challenge mounting Arab pressure on the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to stop the flow of Soviet Jewish emigration; and to urge continued financing of the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel.

### Calmer Rally

The rally was noticeably calmer than in past years. With Soviet Jewish emigration figures for 1989 topping 70,000 -- the largest annual number of Jews to leave the Soviet Union in history -- the need to push for freedom of emigration may have seemed to many less urgent.

"We had to walk a fine line," admitted Zeesy Schnur, executive director of the Coalition. "We had to say to the Soviets: 'Yes, you've been doing a fine job regarding emigration,' and yet get our concerns about anti-Semitism, direct flights and Arab terrorism across."

For the Coalition, an umbrella organization of 85 metropolitan area organizations, the rally would be either boom or bust.

Having called off the rally for the last two years in an effort to foster fledgling Soviet efforts to open its doors, organizers of the rally were nervous that the spark that had kept over 100,000 protesters coming to New York every year might not reignite.

They were also worried about the strong possibility of rain and cold weather that threatened to dampen the proceedings.

But with almost 200 busloads of protesters from schools unloading by midday Sunday, breaking the record of 180 in past years, the Coalition's fears were proven unfounded.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, criticized American leaders. "It is the U.S. government that has not pressured the USSR. We demand direct flights now!" he screamed into a megaphone in a counterdemonstration after the rally.

### Nervous Over Washington Reaction

Jewish leaders were reportedly nervous about the reception the rally would have in Washington. "There were some individual leaders in the Coalition who had serious misgivings about the rally," admitted Lookstein.

"A lot of people in the organized Jewish community feel this rally is wrong. They didn't want to rock the boat," Lookstein said.

City Councilman Noach Dear was one of those people. "Jews are getting out finally," he said in an interview Friday. "We applaud the efforts of the Soviet Union and the things that have been happening. It's not government-sponsored anti-Semitism."

"The rally sends a bad message. And it may offend Soviet leaders and come in the way of

negotiations."

Only one member of the Bush administration addressed the rally, although both Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle sent statements of support.

Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Richard Schifter read the presidential statement, calling Soviet anti-Semitism an "odious scourge," and reprimanding terrorist groups who impede "transit as well as direct flights to Israel."

But Shifter refused to comment on the possibility of American-sponsored direct flights from Moscow to Ben-Gurion Airport.

Also speaking at the rally were Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, Cardinal John O'Connor, Natan Sharansky, State Attorney General Robert Abrams, Mayor David Dinkins, Israel's Consul General Uriel Savir, former Mayor Edward Koch and recently-released Soviet refuseniks Vladimir and Karmela Raiz.

Reactions to the rally were varied. Organizers sitting at the podium, viewing the vast masses of protesters thronging in the plaza, seemed pleased with the turnout.

But Weiss as well as Jewish Defense Organization leader Mordechai Levy were not satisfied. Both led counterdemonstrations after the rally.

Demanding that the United States airlift Soviet Jews out of the Soviet Union and that the Jackson-Vanik amendment not be waived until there are direct flights, Weiss led a sit-in protest at the U.S. mission to the U.N., in which he and 48 others blocked traffic and were later arrested.

(JTA intern Adam Dickter contributed to this report.)

### **FIRST \$40 MILLION RAISED IN CASH IN OPERATION EXODUS WIRED TO ISRAEL By Richard Rubin**

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- More than \$40 million was wired to Israel on Friday to assist the resettlement of Soviet Jews there, United Jewish Appeal officials have announced.

The \$40 million is the first cash monies of the nearly \$100 million so far pledged in the UJA's Operation Exodus campaign to resettle Soviet Jews in Israel. The organization will officially begin its \$420 million 1990 campaign Tuesday.

The announcement was made by Morton Kornreich, UJA national chairman, and Marvin Lender, Operation Exodus chairman.

"These sums are the result of the compelling cause of Soviet Jews coming to Israel," UJA President Stanley Horowitz said.

Israeli officials estimate that 230,000 Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel in 1990, up from earlier estimates of 100,000 new arrivals. In response, UJA officials are now considering increasing their original \$420 million goal.

"The numbers are increasing so much, there will have to be a revision down the line," a UJA spokesman said.

The \$40 million was raised by 38 UJA federations nationwide.

Another \$5.6 million was pledged last week in Israel by American Jewish leaders on a Prime Minister's Operation Exodus Mission.

Operation Exodus will officially begin April 3, when Vice President Dan Quayle and 50 U.S. senators and members of Congress are scheduled to join hundreds of Jewish leaders in Washington for a "Freedom Seder," electronically linking Jews in the United States, Israel and the Soviet Union

## HOUSE PANEL APPROVES RESOLUTION AS BAKER SOFTENS U.S. STAND ON JERUSALEM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- Congress has taken a strong lead on the issue of Jewish rights in a united Jerusalem, while the Bush administration, which has waffled on the matter for the past month, appears now to be softening its hard-line stance.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday unanimously approved a resolution reaffirming Congress' view that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel. It is virtually assured of passage on the floor.

The resolution, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), closely resembled the non-binding resolution of Sen. Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) that was adopted by the Senate on March 22.

Secretary of State James Baker, meanwhile, has softened an earlier administration position by asserting that Jews have a right to live anywhere in East or West Jerusalem.

"I am also well aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for the Jewish people, as well as for the people of all religions," Baker wrote in a March 16 letter to Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.), which was released over the weekend.

"Clearly, Jews and others can live where they want, East or West, and the city must remain undivided," Baker said in the letter.

His words were warmly welcomed by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the umbrella organization of Jewish leaders.

"We believe that the secretary's statement is important, as it clearly indicates what we have believed U.S. policy to be -- that Jews, like Arabs, should be able to live today in all of Jerusalem," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the conference.

Unlike the Congressional consensus, the Bush administration does not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, nor has any U.S. administration done so since East Jerusalem was annexed by Israel in 1967.

But the sentiments expressed by Baker to the California congressman were a significant departure from Bush's unexpected rebuke to Israel on Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem, which he equated with the West Bank.

Egypt, meanwhile, expressed concern over the earlier Moynihan resolution, which refers to Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Any attempt to change "the status of East Jerusalem unilaterally goes against the basic principles of international law and U.N. resolutions on the Middle East problem," the Foreign Ministry in Cairo said Saturday.

## ADMINISTRATION, SENATORS, JEWISH GROUPS LOOK TO REPEAL U.N. ZIONISM RESOLUTION

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- The Bush administration, key senators and Jewish groups vowed Friday to explore possible ways to repeal the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

At a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, a senior U.S. official said the United States has "called on the Arab world to repudiate the odious line that Zionism is racism."

The hearing was devoted to a discussion of a

sense-of-the-Senate resolution introduced Jan. 31 by Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), which calls on the U.N. General Assembly to repeal the resolution. A similar version had been introduced in the House on Jan. 23 by Rep. Bill Green (R-N.Y.).

The official, John Bolton, assistant secretary of state for international organizations, noted that in recent years, the United States and Israel felt that "the time was not opportune to seek reversal."

Bolton did not provide any timetable for requesting a vote for repeal except to say that "now is the time to reassess the situation."

He said that the United States is consulting with the 35 countries that joined it in opposing the resolution in 1975. In addition, it is consulting with governments that voted for the resolution "but which have subsequently acquired new governments and new thinking," Bolton added.

Burton Joseph, an honorary chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, testified that "the European Parliament and the parliaments of Holland, Australia, Peru, Uruguay and Guatemala have formally criticized the resolution."

## JEWISH GROUPS SPLIT OVER PASSAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL CHILD CARE BILL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- Most Jewish groups strongly oppose a child care bill approved by the House of Representatives on Thursday that allows federally funded vouchers to pay for sectarian child care.

The \$27 billion measure, similar to one the Senate adopted last year, passed by 265-145, despite a threatened veto by President Bush, who cited its high cost.

Among the few Jewish organizations supporting the measure were the Orthodox Agudath Israel of America and the Council of Reform Jewish Day Schools.

Both had warm praise for the House action, although Reform and Orthodox groups usually are fiercely at odds over state-church issues.

Abba Cohen, Washington representative of Agudath Israel, praised the House vote, and argued that "the entire Jewish community will greatly benefit from this landmark legislation and ought to applaud the House action."

The Reform movement, however, is sharply split on this child care bill.

Irwin Schlachter, president of the 15-member day school council, said he supported the measure because as headmaster of the Rodef Shalom School on Manhattan's Upper West Side, he was concerned about "escalating" tuition costs, while parents had "less and less (tax) deductions" available to them.

But Rabbi David Saperstein, Washington representative of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, warned, "The precedent of cracking the wall of separation between church and state is too dangerous a principle to legitimize in a bill such as this."

The UAHC, the American Jewish Committee, the National Council of Jewish Women and other organizations also opposed the Senate bill, which had almost identical church-state language.

Only four of the 31 Jewish House members voted for the bill. They are Reps. Gary Ackerman and Ted Weiss, both New York Democrats, Anthony Beilinson (D-Calif.) and Willis Gradison (R-Ohio).

# **ETHIOPIA DISCUSSING DIRECT FLIGHTS TO BRING ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL**

By Cathrine Gerson

**JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) --** The Ethiopian government is discussing an agreement between El Al and Ethiopia's national air carrier to fly Ethiopian Jews directly to Israel.

Kassa Kabede, a ranking Ethiopian official now visiting Israel, told a news conference here Friday that his government considers the reunification of families to be among the highest humane endeavors.

Kabede, a special adviser to President Menigistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, said he suggested to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens that their countries establish joint teams of social workers to locate family members and facilitate unification.

Ethiopia was one of the many black African nations that broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The two countries resumed ties only last year.

In the winter of 1984-85, some 10,000 Ethiopian Jews were secretly air-lifted to Israel from Khartoum in neighboring Sudan by a roundabout route.

The clandestine movement, known as "Operation Moses," was halted by the Sudanese authorities after it was leaked to the news media.

Recently, Jewish immigration from Ethiopia has increased, but figures have not been made public. A Jewish Agency official said it was about 100 a month.

Israel has hotly denied widespread reports that it provided Ethiopia with cluster bombs to use against Eritrean separatist rebels in exchange for allowing Jews to emigrate.

Meanwhile, a bomb exploded Sunday at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, but caused no injuries to the recently arrived Israeli ambassador and his staff, who have taken up temporary domicile in the hotel.

Meir Yoffe, the recently appointed Israeli envoy, said there is no information to suggest that the explosion was directed at him or his staff.

## **MARCHES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES MARK LAND DAY; SEVEN POLICE INJURED**

By Gil Sedan

**TAIBA, April 1 (JTA) --** Most of Israel's more than 700,000 Arab citizens and 1.5 million Palestinians in the administered territories held protest marches and demonstrations Friday, in honor of Land Day.

A general strike shut down public transportation, while schools were closed and businesses and shops were padlocked.

Land Day marks the annual commemoration of the events of March 30, 1976, when six Arabs were killed during rioting that broke out over the expropriation of Arab land in Galilee.

For 14 years the anniversary was peaceful. This year was no exception, except in Taiba, an overgrown village of 24,000 about 20 miles north-east of Tel Aviv, which is soon to be elevated to the status of a town.

Here violence erupted suddenly with the ferocity of the intifada. In this village 14 years ago, a Palestinian youth was killed in rioting on the first Land Day. A monument marks the spot.

This year, masked youths hurled stones and bottles at heavily reinforced police, who respond-

ed with tear gas. Before the day was over, seven policemen were injured, including one who was stabbed in the back.

The police made 22 arrests. Fifteen suspects were remanded by a magistrate's court in Kfar Sava, while three were released.

Unlike the territories, where soldiers can shoot masked assailants, police in Israel proper are under orders to use firearms only if their lives are clearly endangered.

The youngsters in Taiba, well aware of this, dared to assault the police at close range.

It was during one clash that officer Avi Biran was stabbed in the back as he grappled with a youth. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was treated for a superficial wound.

The attack was viewed gravely by the police command, who acknowledged that while Israeli Arabs have thrown stones, they have never tried to kill a police officer.

## **HERZOG REBUKES RABBI SCHACH FOR COMMENTS ON KIBBUTZNIKS**

By Hugh Orgel

**TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) --** President Chaim Herzog, during his monthly radio chat on Friday, indirectly rebuked Rabbi Eliezer Schach, who last week declared the kibbutz movement outside the Jewish fold because its members do not observe religious practices.

Herzog coupled a forceful defense of the kibbutzim and their contribution to Israel's defense with a renewed appeal for electoral reform in Israel.

A new electoral system is needed, he said, to replace a failing setup where small religious parties hold the balance of power and exert disproportionate political influence.

The presidents' remarks incurred the wrath of the strictly Orthodox, although he mentioned no individuals or parties by name.

But the polemic against all non-religious Jews, and kibbutzim in particular, is fresh in the minds of Israelis, and has drawn sharp reactions from other prominent Israelis across the political spectrum.

Schach, the 92-year-old head rabbi of Ponizevsh Yeshiva in Bnei Brak, who is founder and spiritual mentor of both the Degel HaTorah and Shas parties, made his caustic remarks about the kibbutz movement at the Degel convention in Tel Aviv on March 26.

Herzog's rebuke was countered by Shas Minister of Immigration and Absorption Yitzhak Peretz, who on Sunday accused the president of "polarization" and alienating a large section of the community.

Avraham Ravitz, head of Degel's two-man Knesset faction, demanded that Herzog resign.

Herzog, whose father was chief rabbi of Ireland, is a former Israel Defense Force general and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations.

As president, a prestigious but largely ceremonial office in Israel, Herzog normally avoids public commentary on controversial issues.

But he is known to be deeply troubled by divisiveness in Israeli society and the repeated political crises. There have been five governments since he took office seven years ago.

"Those who have never heard the din of battle are prepared to label as traitors those who led the IDF to victory and success during its shining moments," Herzog said.