

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1990

NO. 91

**U.S. MIGHT SUPPORT U.N. RESOLUTION
CENSURING SETTLEMENT OF SOVIET JEWS**
By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, May 15 (JTA) -- The United States could vote in favor of a Security Council resolution condemning the settlement of Soviet Jews in the administered territories, high-level State Department officials indicated this week.

Such a move would signal strong U.S. displeasure with Israeli policies and would almost certainly draw a sharp protest from the Israeli caretaker government.

Both John Bolton, the assistant secretary of state for international organizational affairs, and Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told leaders of American Jewish groups this week that American approval could come if the resolution's final language is consistent with stated U.S. policy.

"If the language reflected the U.S. position, as articulated by the president and the secretary of state, about settlements in the territories," the United States "could not properly veto it," Bolton told an American Jewish Congress delegation in Washington on Monday. His remarks were reported by Robert Lifton, AJCongress national president.

According to U.N. sources, the Arab states continued to argue Tuesday about whether they should dilute the current draft of the resolution enough to avoid a U.S. veto, or to leave in strong language that the United States has indicated it will not approve.

'Making Common Cause' With Arabs

A draft of the resolution circulated last week called settlement of immigrants in the territories "illegal," affirmed the right of return for Palestinian refugees and condemned Jewish settlement in all of Jerusalem.

Pickering, who met Tuesday morning in New York with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said such references would be unacceptable to the United States, according to people who attended the meeting.

But sources said the United States has told the Arabs that it could approve a stripped-down version of the resolution that would criticize Jewish settlement in the territories captured by Israel in 1967 -- presumably including East Jerusalem -- as being an obstacle to peace.

Bolton specifically excluded any discussion of East Jerusalem in his meeting with the AJCongress group.

At the meeting with Pickering, the Jewish organizational leaders expressed their deep concern over the efforts being made by the United States to help the Arabs craft the resolution and the possibility that the United States might approve it.

"For the first time, the U.S. seems to be making common cause with the Arabs on an issue criticizing Israel," Lifton commented after Tuesday's meeting.

Other American Jewish groups have issued statements condemning the U.S. collaboration on the resolution, which grew out of a Security Council debate on settlement of Soviet Jewish

immigrants that was begun three months ago at the request of the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said in a statement that the U.S. negotiations over the resolution represent "a breach of faith" that "has added uncertainty, confusion and suspicion to the relationship between our country and Israel."

Bad Way To Convey 'Frustrations'

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith observed that the negotiations come at a time when Israel is being directly threatened by an Iraqi military buildup.

"American policy-makers should be marshaling the international community against the forces that vilify Israel, rather than cooperating with them," Abraham Foxman, the group's national director, said in a statement.

Foxman said no matter what "frustrations exist in Washington" over the current political situation in Israel, "the United Nations, with its long record of hostility toward Israel, is an inappropriate choice for delivery of the administration's message."

Lifton of AJCongress said he stressed in the meetings with Bolton and Pickering that the dismay in the American Jewish community would heighten if the United States ends up approving a resolution that falsely implies Soviet Jews are going to the territories in vast numbers, or one that condemns Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel as a whole.

"There should be no perception and no opportunity" for the Arabs to point to a U.N. resolution and claim U.S. support for their opposition to Jewish immigration to Israel, he said.

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

**U.S. WILL NOT SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT
UNLESS SOVIETS PASS IMMIGRATION LAW**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA) -- President Bush will put off signing a trade agreement with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev if the Soviet Union has not adopted its long-awaited emigration reform law by the time the two leaders meet here May 31 to June 3.

This was confirmed Tuesday by White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater, who said Bush and Gorbachev are expected to sign various agreements June 1, after two days of talks here.

After those talks, Bush and Gorbachev will spend a day at the Camp David presidential retreat and then hold a news conference and issue concluding statements June 3. Gorbachev is then scheduled to visit Minneapolis and California, where he may meet with former President Ronald Reagan.

At their summit off Malta last December, Bush made clear he would not sign a trade bill until the Soviets adopted a law institutionalizing the improvements they have made in their emigration policies.

Fitzwater agreed Tuesday that the new law is a "prerequisite" and the "prerequisites have not changed."

Secretary of State James Baker has left for Moscow for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to nail down the final details of the summit, including what agreements are to be signed.

But Fitzwater stressed that all agreements, including a trade pact, will not be completed until the final details are worked out by Bush and Gorbachev.

The Baker-Shevardnadze meeting could provide the impetus for the Soviet parliament to adopt the emigration reform bill.

Law May Still Be Passed

Both Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said they believed the Supreme Soviet would adopt the law before the Bush-Gorbachev summit. The date of May 22 has been mentioned by some observers.

But for the trade agreement to take effect, Bush would also have to waive the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which denies special tariff privileges to the Soviet Union until emigration levels meet the president's approval.

In a speech in Texas last May, Bush said he would consider a waiver for a year if the emigration reform law were adopted and implemented. Even if the Soviets adopt the law before the summit, there presumably will be no time to implement it before Bush and Gorbachev get together.

But Wenick said that in talks with the administration, there was the suggestion that Bush would take into account Soviet performance since his May 1989 speech in considering whether to grant a waiver. During this period, Jewish emigration figures have reached unprecedented highs.

The Soviet Jewry groups want the law to end, or at least ease, two barriers to emigration: the possession of state secrets and the poor relatives law, which bars emigration by persons considered having a financial obligation to a relative.

The two groups have asked Baker to continue raising with Shevardnadze the issue of long-term refuseniks who have been denied exit visas on these criteria.

However, the situation in the Baltic republics could make all this academic, since it is doubtful that Congress will approve the trade agreement if the Soviets continue to take action against Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the three Baltic republics that are seeking to regain independence from the Soviet Union.

Linkage To Baltic Crisis Opposed

Fitzwater conceded Tuesday that the United States has differences with the Soviet Union over such issues as Lithuania, but wants to solve the problems through discussions without rancor.

"This summit will demonstrate a new sense of realism about our relationship," the press secretary said.

Jewish groups have traditionally opposed linking a Jackson-Vanik waiver to anything but increased emigration.

"Jackson-Vanik should be waived at the point they (the Soviets) have earned it," said Naftalin of the Union of Councils. But he added that it "is fair game" to link a trade agreement to the broader issue of human rights.

Naftalin said the administration will be asked to press Gorbachev on the same human rights

issues that the United States will raise at the human rights conference in Copenhagen June 5 to 29, which is being held as part of the continuing assessment of the Helsinki human rights accords.

Bush has appointed Max Kampelman to head the U.S. delegation to what is being officially called the Conference on the Human Dimension. Kampelman, long active in Jewish affairs, represented the United States at a previous follow-up conference in Madrid and was an arms control negotiator in the Reagan administration.

HUNGARY TO CONTINUE AS TRANSIT POINT FOR SOVIET JEWS, NEW PRESIDENT PLEDGES **By Allison Kaplan**

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Hungary's new president pledged Tuesday that his country would continue to act as a major transit point for Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

"We are searching for the appropriate solution by which we will be able to maintain the process of exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel in a long-term, permanent, as well as very much secure manner," said Arpad Goncz, the 68-year-old writer named president of Hungary on May 2.

Goncz made his remarks at a news conference after conferring with Jewish leaders at a meeting hosted by the World Jewish Congress. Later in the day, he met for 30 minutes with top officials of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The pipeline of Soviet Jews traveling through Budapest was threatened last March when Malev, the Hungarian national airline, temporarily stopped transporting the immigrants because of terrorist threats.

Goncz promised that Malev will transport the Soviet Jews for the time being, but said that ultimately he did not "believe Malev itself will offer a solution" to the immigration problem.

WJC President Edgar Bronfman, who also spoke at the news conference, hinted that negotiations between Israel and Hungary on transporting Soviet Jewish immigrants without jeopardizing security could soon bear fruit.

"There is a better solution on the way, but the president isn't ready to talk about it," Bronfman said.

'Ulcer Of Anti-Semitism' Will Heal

In addition to the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration, Goncz spoke with the Jewish leaders about the surge of anti-Semitism that colored Hungary's divisive elections for its first democratic government.

He said he believed the "ulcer of anti-Semitism" opened during the elections would soon begin healing.

"I believe that anti-Semitism, especially after the pretty ugly and disgusting overtones of the second rounds of the elections campaign, will not be more vigorous in Hungary, but will, on the contrary, just fade away," he said.

But while he denounced Hungarian anti-Semitism, Goncz said he thought the world news media had overreacted to its emergence in the campaign.

"I absolutely do not believe that this issue, which undoubtedly exists in Hungary but is far from being any threat to anyone, should cast such a dim shadow over Hungary's image in the international press," he said.

PANEL URGES POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST NATIONS SUPPORTING TERRORISM

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA) -- The United States should prepare for pre-emptive or retaliatory strikes against targets "in countries well known to have engaged in state-sponsored terrorism," a U.S. commission set up after the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 has concluded.

The report, issued by the President's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism, does not blame any particular group or country for the Dec. 21, 1988, bombing of the flight, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Palestinian groups linked to Iran and Syria are suspected of bombing the flight, which killed 270 people, in retaliation for the U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane, which the U.S. government maintains was an accident.

Ann McLaughlin, the commission chairwoman, told reporters at the National Press Club on Tuesday that the commission's mandate did not allow it to conclude who was responsible for the Pan Am bombing.

The report rejected suggestions that U.S. airlines try to emulate security procedures used by Israel's El Al Airlines, such as detailed luggage inspections and thorough questioning of each passenger.

Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), one of seven members of the commission, said, "The total system that El Al uses is one unique to that carrier, to its nation-state and to the state of national readiness that applies in Israel."

The United States has "many more carriers carrying many times more people -- very different circumstances," said Oberstar, who chairs the House Public Works and Transportation subcommittee on aviation.

JEWISH SETTLERS RAMPAGE ARAB AREA IN RETALIATION FOR BUS FIREBOMBING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- About 200 enraged Jewish settlers from the West Bank rampaged through the East Jerusalem Arab neighborhood of Eizariya on Monday night, beating up residents and smashing windows.

The settlers, from Ma'aleh Adumim, were avenging a gasoline bomb attack on an Egged bus bound for their town earlier that evening.

The incident was the second this month in which Jewish settlers took the law into their own hands because of what they have called the "ineptitude of the security forces."

Although large concentrations of police and Israel Defense Force troops were at the scene, their purpose apparently was to try to calm the rioting settlers.

Only two Ma'aleh Adumim residents were detained.

But Police Inspector-General Ya'acov Terner told the Knesset's Interior Committee on Tuesday that the police will not stand by idly in such circumstances and allow citizens to take over law enforcement.

Meanwhile, Samih Abu-Sheikh, a 14-year-old Arab boy from Kalkilya, died Monday at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah.

He was the victim of gunshot wounds, apparently inflicted by a Jewish motorist whose car was stoned while passing through the West Bank town Sunday. No arrests have been made.

DERANGED JEWS HELD FOR DESECRATIONS, BUT MORE CEMETERIES FOUND VANDALIZED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) -- A deranged Jew suspected of defacing more than 300 headstones in two Haifa cemeteries was ordered detained for 15 days by a Haifa magistrate Tuesday.

A possible accomplice, also considered mentally aberrant, will appear in court for remand Wednesday.

But the wave of cemetery desecrations continued. On Tuesday, several gravestones in the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem were found daubed with swastikas and Stars of David.

Previous desecrations of that centuries-old burial ground have been attributed to Palestinian nationalists.

Police have not eliminated the possibility that the Palestinian uprising motivated the assaults on the Hof Carmel and Kfar Samir cemeteries in Haifa on Saturday night.

But the prime suspect remains David Goldner, a 42-year-old resident of Kiryat Motzkin in the Haifa Bay area. He has been described as a ba'al teshuvah, or returnee to Orthodox Judaism.

He says he is a student of Kabbalistic mysticism, and claims to be an "emissary of the Messiah," who he says has been reborn and is living in northern Israel.

Goldner has been in trouble with the police previously for attacking his wife and threatening his parents. In both cases, psychiatric examinations found him fit to stand trial. He will undergo further tests.

Goldner pleaded innocent in court Tuesday and offered to give the magistrate lessons in Kabbalah.

The second suspect was identified as a 32-year-old resident of Kiryat Yam on Haifa Bay, a friend of Goldner's. The two men have frequented the desecrated cemeteries and in one instance played hide-and-seek among the gravestones with cemetery guards.

CANADA CONDENS ANTI-SEMITISM

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 15 (JTA) -- The Canadian Parliament in Ottawa and the Quebec National Assembly unanimously adopted almost identical resolutions Tuesday condemning racism and anti-Semitism, as manifested by the desecration last week of the Jewish cemetery in the French city of Carpentras.

The measure in Quebec was introduced by Gerald Godin, speaker of the governing Parti Quebecois. It expressed "indignation and profound sadness over the savage profanation of the Jewish cemetery."

The parliamentary resolution was introduced by Sheila Finestone, a member of the House of Commons from the Montreal area.

The Canadian Jewish Congress held a protest rally for the desecrated cemetery at its headquarters here Tuesday, attended by about 500 people.

In the audience were Charles and Ninette Germon, brother and sister of the late Felix Germon, whose body was brutally removed from its grave at Carpentras and mutilated.

The French consul general, Jean-Pierre Beauchateau, told the crowd, "The entire French nation speaks as a single man, saying no to racism, no to anti-Semitism."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: CAPITOL HILL LOBBYING BY CHURCHES LATEST SIGN OF PRO-PALESTINIAN TILT

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- More than 100 church activists descended on Capitol Hill this week to lobby for a sovereign Palestinian homeland and a halt to U.S. aid to Israel because of its recent settlement activity in the administered territories.

Known as Washington Advocacy Days, the three-day lobbying effort is thought to be the first public campaign on these issues by the American Christian church establishment.

The program was organized by Churches for Middle East Peace, a joint program of the central bodies of the major American church denominations launched in 1984 to "communicate to Congress and the executive branch the perspectives and concerns reflected in the policy statements and Middle East exposure of our denominations and church agencies."

Washington Advocacy Days is the latest sign of what appears to be a growing trend of pro-Palestinian activism on the part of church groups, particularly mainline Protestant groups, that tends to cast Israel in a negative light.

"This is a most serious attack on Israel," said Dr. Franklin Littell, a Protestant minister who is national president of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East.

"Washington Advocacy Days is not a unique effort. We're getting rumblings from all over," he said. "It's a massive campaign."

"These churches have been an open road for PLO propaganda for years," he added. "It's another form of warfare, and it should be taken very seriously."

'Anxiety' Among Jewish Groups

In fact, Jewish organizations are doing just that, according to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, a longtime expert on Christian-Jewish relations who is immediate past chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.

"There is anxiety about this new activity," he said. "All of the major Jewish organizations in Washington have it on their agenda."

Despite the fact that so many Jewish organizations are anxious about organized pro-Palestinian lobbying on the part of some church groups, the issue is rarely discussed publicly.

One reason is a reluctance to antagonize the Christian institutions and thereby risk harming Christian-Jewish relations. Another is the diversity of the various church groups themselves, as well as the subgroups within them.

"It's not all one way or the other," said Rabbi A. James Rudin, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee.

"There are some factions within each denomination that are committed to the missionizing concept and the super-Arab point of view, and people on the other side who are strongly committed to improved Christian-Jewish relations and are pro-Israel in orientation," he said.

Although there are subgroups within most churches that fall into different political camps regarding Israel, the Presbyterian Church USA has been among the most consistently critical.

"The Presbyterian Church historically has been the most troublesome because of its missionary activity," as well as its intellectual and democratic tendencies, Rudin explained.

For over 150 years, the Presbyterian Church has established schools, colleges and orphanages throughout the Middle East. The American University in Cairo, Bir Zeit University in Ramallah and the American University in Beirut, which has recently been a center for anti-Israel activity, were all founded by the Presbyterian Church.

Call For A Palestinian State

The Presbyterian Church USA, the church's 3.1 million-member central body, has taken strong positions on many human rights issues.

While the organization did issue a landmark document on Christian-Jewish relations in 1987 which acknowledged the biblical "promise of land to the people of Israel," it has also taken a number of strongly pro-Palestinian positions.

At its general assembly last July, the Presbyterian Church USA called for the United States to undertake "substantive discussion" with the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, "with a view to the establishment of a Palestinian state." It also urged use of foreign aid to Israel "in relation to human rights abuses during the uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Various local presbyteries have been particularly active in pro-Palestinian activities. The Chicago Presbytery's Task Force on the Middle East, for instance, has worked hand in hand with the Palestinian Human Rights Campaign.

The two groups have jointly sponsored numerous missions to Israel, where they have met with Palestinian leaders but not Israeli officials. The tours tend to raise sympathy for the plight of Palestinian refugees without getting the Israeli government's views on the peace process.

In November 1989, the Presbytery of Philadelphia sponsored an 11-day tour of Israel, Jordan and the administered territories. At its conclusion, the 36 participants issued a two-page covenant that accused Israel of "repression," endorsed the creation of a Palestinian state and expressed sympathy for the allegation that Israel's treatment of Arabs is comparable to the Nazis' persecution of Jews during World War II.

Pro-Israel Groups Within Church

Yet while there seems to be a growing pro-Palestinian tilt to church positions, there are also strong countervailing winds within the Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterians for Christian-Jewish Relations and the Presbyterian Lay Committee, two organizations of lay leaders opposed to the Middle East positions of Presbyterian Church USA, have taken staunchly pro-Israel postures.

"There is a kind of civil war going on within the Presbyterian Church," said Rudin. "It's a battle that is being waged for the soul of the church, and it's pretty well organized on both sides."

It is the pro-Palestinian groups, like Presbyterian Advocates for Middle East Peace, Presbyterian Church USA's Social Justice and Peacemaking Office and the local presbyteries, however, that have been most public in their advocacy.

"They're using the name of the church and upsetting people," explained Alan Wisdom, research director at the Institute on Religion and Democracy, a Christian think tank.

"I wouldn't describe it as a broad-based movement whatsoever. They've got a certain network of people to get their voice heard, but they are not widely known or accepted within the denomination," he said.