

# MANDELA TO MEET WITH JEWISH GROUPS ON EVE OF VISIT TO UNITED STATES

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 6 (JTA) -- South African leader Nelson Mandela is scheduled to meet privately in Geneva on Sunday with representatives of the organized American Jewish community, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned.

The planned meeting is the culmination of months-long diplomatic efforts by national Jewish groups and the New York Jewish community aimed at asking Mandela to issue a clarification of his views on Israel before his scheduled arrival here June 20.

"There has been continuing dialogue between the Jewish community and people in the anti-apartheid movement in the city and people involved with the African National Congress," said Herbert Block, New York Mayor David Dinkins' liaison to the Jewish community.

Since Mandela's release from prison, there has been great distress in the Jewish community worldwide regarding his harsh statements on Israel.

The African National Congress leader has repeatedly equated the nationalist struggle of black South Africans with the Palestinian struggle, and has been photographed at least twice embracing Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

## Easier To Celebrate

A clarification from the South African leader would make it a great deal easier for the Jewish community to take part in celebrating Mandela's fight against apartheid, an effort in which many Jewish groups have been active.

Sources close to the meeting confirmed that participants will include Robert Lifton and Henry Siegman, president and executive director respectively of the American Jewish Congress; Al Vorspan, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Herbert Wander of Chicago, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council's committee against apartheid, as well as an as-yet unnamed representative from the American Jewish Committee.

A source said that the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith have also been invited to participate in the meeting. He said that the ADL has officially accepted their invitation, though the Conference of Presidents has not yet responded.

Neither ADL national director Abraham Foxman nor officials from the Conference of Presidents would comment on their plans.

Efforts to elicit a clarification from Mandela have stemmed from ongoing dialogue between black and Jewish groups, but have been fueled recently by concern over the current atmosphere of racial tension in New York.

Jewish leaders are aware, along with Dinkins, that any action against a revered figure like Mandela could break open wounds with the black community here which would be slow to heal.

Mayor David Dinkins, the first African-American leader of the city, does not want Mandela's visit to be marred by demonstrations by

Jews, or for Jews to be conspicuous by their absence in the celebration.

The Jewish community has been actively supporting Dinkins' efforts at reconciliation, and have praised his strong stand in favor of a state law against bias crimes.

"We want this to be harmonious event," Block said. "We want the Jewish community to be participating and we don't want this to lead to greater tensions in the city."

Dinkins sent a message to the Jewish community against verbally attacking the South African leader when he said in a speech to the American Jewish Committee last month that both blacks and Jews should avoid "attacks on the symbols that are at the heart of our identity."

Mandela, he said, is such a symbol.

"To supporters of a free South Africa, he is Martin Luther King, he is Moses -- the leader and liberator -- and his visit to our city will be a celebration," Dinkins told the AJCommittee luncheon.

But even if a clarification is offered by Mandela, there are still elements in the Jewish community which have vowed to mount protests against Mandela.

Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, who led a demonstration against South African Bishop Desmond Tutu at Dinkins' inauguration, said he will definitely protest Mandela, whether or not a clarification is offered.

Just as "I will not march with anyone anti-black," Weiss said, he would not expect Dinkins to march with Mandela, who had so deeply offended Jews.

But the larger and more mainstream Jewish organizations in New York appear to be more flexible on the issue, more eager to show strong support for Dinkins in light of his public struggle to restore racial harmony in the city.

"We trust that through various channels, Mr. Mandela will in fact reorient his views and state unequivocally that Israel has a right to exist as well as other comments that he might make, which would set many of the concerns and fears at rest," said Michael Miller, executive director of New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

## SENATE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED CALLING FOR END TO PLO TALKS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 6 (JTA) -- A resolution was introduced in the Senate on Wednesday calling on the Bush administration to end its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization unless it condemns an attempted raid on Tel Aviv last week.

The resolution, introduced by Sens. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), proclaims that "the commitments of the PLO to recognize Israel's right to exist and renounce terrorism (have) been violated" because of the May 30 incident.

"The United States is obligated . . . to cease all contact with the PLO until the PLO's adherence to said commitments is fully and fundamentally demonstrated by concrete actions," the resolution states.

Such acts include PLO condemnation of the

attempted raid by the Palestine Liberation Front, and expulsion of the PLF leader, Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, from the PLO executive committee.

Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.) is planning to introduce a similar version Thursday in the House, said Paul Bledsoe, Smith's press secretary.

The administration is not expected to announce any decision on whether to end the dialogue with the PLO until after Secretary of State James Baker returns from Europe on Saturday.

U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau met with the PLO on Tuesday for the third time since the incident. The United States has formally asked the PLO to explain its role in the incident.

A State Department source said the PLO has never expelled anyone from its executive committee because of pressure from outside the umbrella organization.

The source dismissed Abbas' claim that the raid's purpose was to hit Israeli military targets in Tel Aviv.

Under a 21-year-old State Department definition of terrorism, reiterated last month by John Kelly, assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, an attack cannot only be deemed as terrorist if its intended targets are civilians.

The department source called the May 30 raid a "terrorist act because of where (PLF guerrillas) came ashore on the beach."

"It would have been very difficult for civilians not to have been involved even if that was not their target," because the intended area for the invasion is "next to a row of hotels," the source said. "It's pretty hard to say that this is purely a military thing," he added.

At a news conference in front of the Capitol, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) said the raid "proves" that the PLO's "intentions are not for serious, peaceful negotiations."

#### Calls For Abbas' Expulsion

On June 1, Lautenberg and 43 colleagues wrote Baker to urge him to call on PLO chief Yasir Arafat "to unequivocally denounce the attempted terrorist attack" and to expel Abbas from the executive committee.

The letter referred to Kelly's statement at the hearing that the PLF, as a member of the PLO's executive committee, is bound by Arafat's December 1987 pledge to cease terrorism.

Also attending the news conference was Lisa Klinghoffer, whose father was thrown off a ship and murdered in 1985 by Abbas' group.

She met with various lawmakers as part of the Leon Klinghoffer Foundation of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Earlier in the day, meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) said on the Senate floor that "some who are associated with (the PLO leadership) continue not only to condone, but to conduct, terrorism."

"The United States should not, and will not, negotiate with terrorists," said Dole. "On that basic point, all Americans agree."

He said that two months after having visited five Mideastern countries, including Israel, "some of the hopes with which I returned from that visit have been undermined by subsequent events."

He cited an "upsurge in violence over the past two weeks" in Israel and the administered territories, and called "a decisive move toward peace" to prevent a "gradual, perhaps not even so gradual, drift toward renewed violence."

#### **OPINIONS STILL VARY IN ISRAEL OVER U.S. TALKS WITH THE PLO** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- The government's appeal to the United States this week to break all contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization reflects only one body of opinion in a polarized nation run by a limited caretaker government.

The basis for the urgent message to Washington was the aborted seaborne terrorist attack on Israeli beaches May 30, which had the potential to kill or maim countless innocent civilians.

Transport Minister Moshe Katsav, speaking for the Likud interim regime, said a breaking off of the U.S.-PLO dialogue would "contribute to peace and stability in the region and advance the peace process."

Katsav spoke in the Knesset on Monday where 12 separate agenda motions on the raid were pending.

Acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose deadline to form a new government expires at midnight Thursday, sent the same plea to Washington.

"Cut off your contacts with terror organizations, if not for our sake, then for the sake of peace," the prime minister urged.

But there is more than one set of opinions in the Knesset.

#### No Choice But PLO Negotiations

Amir Peretz of the Labor Party said that ultimately there is no choice but to negotiate with the PLO, directly or indirectly, "and not with anonymous residents of the territories."

He was referring to the Shamir government's refusal to talk to any Palestinians except residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip who have no links whatever to the PLO.

Haim Oron of Mapam urged the PLO to dissociate itself from the terrorist attack.

Oron said the Israeli right wing maintains "there is no one to talk to" on the Palestinian side, and is trying to implant that perception in the public mind.

Its aim, therefore, is identical to that of the Palestine Liberation Front, which conducted the raid in order to prevent the peace process from advancing, the Mapam Knesset member charged.

Several members spoke of Israel's need for a more effective propaganda effort overseas.

But according to Geula Cohen of the right-wing Tehiya party, it would only be undermined by "the left's anti-Israel positions, both on the question of the territories and settlement."

The U.S.-PLO dialogue began in December 1988, after PLO chief Yasir Arafat publicly renounced terrorism and said that the PLO accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which implies Israel's right to exist.

That statement met U.S. conditions for beginning talks with the PLO.

But Israel insisted from the outset that it was fraudulent and has ascribed a number of terrorist incidents since then to the PLO.

The May 30 raid was carried out by the PLF, a PLO constituent group whose leader, Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, is a member of the 15-man PLO executive committee.

Arafat, while claiming the PLO had no part in the action, refused to condemn it unequivocally and said he lacked authority to oust Abbas from the Executive Committee.

## ISRAEL CRITICIZED FOR MOVING TOO SLOWLY ON IMMIGRANT HOUSING

By Mark Joffe

NEWARK, June 6 (JTA) -- The Israeli government is moving too slowly to construct housing for the thousands of Soviet immigrants arriving in the country, an official of the Jewish Agency for Israel said here Wednesday.

Gad Ben-Ari, who is the spokesman for the non-governmental social service agency, said that although tens of thousands of new apartments will have to be built to house the immigrants, construction work has begun on only 9,000 units so far this year.

"That's not good enough for us," he told members of the American Jewish Press Association, which is holding its annual convention here.

Ben-Ari, whose agency works in partnership with the government to assist the absorption of new immigrants, said his agency has "been pushing the government" to speed the construction of housing.

But he said the political turmoil in Israel, where the government collapsed March 15, has stymied thoughtful planning on the absorption effort. Meanwhile, more than 38,000 immigrants have arrived from the Soviet Union this year.

Pointing out that a new government is expected to be presented to the Knesset next week, Ben-Ari said, "We are hopeful that the new government will have more time" to address absorption issues such as housing and the creation of jobs.

### Contingency Plans Made

Ben-Ari also made clear that the Jewish Agency has developed a contingency plan in the event that Israel runs out of housing, as the Soviet immigrants continue to pour into the country at a current rate of roughly 10,000 a month.

The plan calls for mobilizing hotels, youth hostels, guest houses and even army camps, if necessary, to house the immigrants for a transitional period until permanent housing can be found.

An American Jewish leader who also addressed the Jewish journalists agreed that the Israeli government had been slow to address critical issues concerning the absorption of immigrants.

Ben Zion Leuchter, president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, or HIAS, said that public statements made by some Israeli leaders had been "insensitive" and could endanger the flow of immigrants to Israel.

"The performance of leading politicians has been less than statesmanlike," he said.

By contrast, the "people of Israel have been welcoming the Soviet olim in many tangible ways," he said, adding, "There is a great spirit in the land," referring to various volunteer efforts.

Leuchter addressed the press group primarily on the question of resettling Soviet Jews in the United States, an issue that is the main concern of HIAS.

Also addressing the press group were Marvin Lender, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and Martin Kraar, executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations.

Lender reported that UJA has now raised \$265 million toward its \$420 million goal for Operation Exodus, the massive special campaign to aid the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel.

## MEMBER OF SOVIET VA'AD CHARGES YELTSIN IS NO FRIEND OF THE JEWS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 6 (JTA) -- A visiting leader of Soviet Jewry has linked Boris Yeltsin, newly elected president of the Russian Soviet Republic, to the virulently anti-Semitic Pamyat and the "strong Palestinian lobby" in Moscow.

Evgeny Satanovsky, who belongs to the governing committee of the Va'ad, the umbrella body of Jewish organizations in the Soviet Union, described Yeltsin as the fulcrum of a dangerous alliance between Soviet anti-Semites and anti-Israel Palestinians.

Yeltsin is "no friend to the Jews," Satanovsky said here Saturday, in addresses before two synagogue congregations in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

As president of the largest and most populous of the Soviet republics, Yeltsin is widely perceived to be Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's most dangerous political rival.

Satanovsky maintained that Yeltsin "has some contacts with Pamyat," and his relationship with the group will become stronger if "he decides that Pamyat is a strong force."

His opinion was seconded by Soviet Jewry leaders here.

Myrna Shinbaum, director of the Soviet Jewry Project of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and a past director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, verified that Yeltsin had given permission to demonstrate and had met with Pamyat when he was head of the Moscow Communist Party.

### Yeltsin Knew

"There is no question that Yeltsin knew who Pamyat was and that he participated in their public meeting," she said.

Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, also recalled Yeltsin's meeting with Pamyat.

"We are concerned about Mr. Yeltsin's commitment to the rights and freedom of Soviet Jews. We question whether he will support the right of emigration," she said.

According to Satanovsky, Pamyat has become close to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and its members are often guests at the elaborate PLO "embassy" in Moscow.

"The Jews have no such place," Satanovsky observed.

He recalled that Palestinians were present at the menacingly anti-Semitic Pamyat demonstration during the founding meeting of the Va'ad last December.

Satanovsky spoke of a "strong Palestinian lobby in Moscow, which pushes and pulls our government."

Satanovsky also severely faulted the emigration law that the U.S. Congress insists the Soviet parliament must enact before it will grant most-favored-nation status.

He said a lawyers' group within the Va'ad, which has studied the draft legislation, believes it will enable employment supervisors more easily than ever to sign papers hindering the emigration of Jews on the basis of being privy to state security.

The long-awaited new legislation provides "no concrete word on what work is secret. And without this, every small bureaucrat can determine what work is secret," Satanovsky said.

## FEINSTEIN WINS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR GOVERNORSHIP OF CALIFORNIA

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, June 6 (JTA) -- California Democrats chose Dianne Goldman Feinstein as their standard bearer for governor of the country's most populous state on Tuesday, and if she beats Sen. Pete Wilson, the Republican candidate, in November, she will become California's first Jewish and first woman governor.

In Tuesday's primary election, she defeated her chief rival, State Attorney General John Van de Kamp, by a 52-41 percent majority.

Feinstein ran on a political platform that combined conservative and liberal planks, including enforcement of the death penalty for criminals so sentenced; abortion rights for women; and empowerment of women and minorities.

Perhaps most important to her election was a feeling among most Democratic voters that it was time to give a woman a shot at the top state post.

The 56-year-old Feinstein, a former mayor of San Francisco, told a reporter two years ago that "my mother, who was from St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) and belonged to the Russian Orthodox Church, and my father, an East European Jew, met and settled in Eureka (in northern California)."

As she was growing up, Feinstein attended both a Catholic convent school and a Jewish school. At the age of 20, she chose Judaism, "because I liked its simplicity and directness," she said, and was converted in a Reform temple. In 1988, she visited Israel and spoke out sharply against changes in the Law of Return.

The fact that Feinstein is Jewish was never an issue in the campaign, and her more liberal opponent, Van de Kamp, received considerable Jewish support.

There are currently two Jewish governors in the United States, Neil Goldschmidt of Oregon, and Madeleine Kunin of Vermont. Both have announced that they will not run for re-election in November.

## EL AL PLANS TO BUY SHARES OF NORTH AMERICAN AIRLINES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 6 (JTA) -- El Al is planning to buy almost a quarter of the shares in North American Airlines (NAA), a five-month-old U.S. airline, which the Israeli national carrier has been using to ferry its passengers arriving at, or departing from, Kennedy Airport from destinations in Miami and Los Angeles.

The Israeli Transport Ministry and El Al's temporary receiver, Amram Blum, ratified the plans. El Al assured them that the \$400,000 investment, which will buy 24.9 percent of North American's stock, should save some \$3 million a year through the use of the American company's one leased Boeing 757 plane rather than using El Al's own jumbo jets.

U.S. law stipulates that no foreign entity may own more than 25 percent of an American airline.

Blum is quoted Wednesday by the Jerusalem Post as saying that the decision to invest in NAA was also influenced by the belief that the European Economic Community countries will put up new barriers once new regulations go into effect in 1992.

El Al, which carries little weight in the European Community, hopes that concerted U.S. pressure will wrest landing concessions from the E.C., in return for rights granted in the United States.

If this happens, El Al might well use NAA's rights for itself, as well.

The cooperation with NAA increases from two to three the number of El Al's weekly flights to Israel from Los Angeles, and eliminates stopovers in Boston, Chicago, Brussels and Amsterdam.

(JTA reporter Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

## PROPOSAL IS FLOATED FOR U.S.-SOVIET-ISRAELI PLANE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 6 (JTA) -- An intriguing proposal for the joint design and production of a new passenger plane by the United States, Soviet Union and Israel is currently under discussion.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of the idea with members of Congress last Friday, during the Washington summit. Outlining several "interesting projects," he said the Soviet Union could build the bodies, the United States the engines and Israel the avionics and cockpit instruments.

Israel and the Soviet Union signed a memorandum of understanding in January for cooperation in communications and industry, despite the absence of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. IAI has sent representatives to the Soviet Union to discuss the project.

But Mordechai Hod, chairman of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), which would handle the Israeli end of the proposed project, warned that the idea is still in its infancy.

Hod is quoted by the Jerusalem Post as saying that the initiative for the development of the plane came from a group of U.S. entrepreneurs, including Armand Hammer, chairman of Occidental Petroleum; Al Schwimmer, the former director of IAI; and Israeli multimillionaire Shaul Eisenberg.

The proposed project would compete with plans for a new European aircraft.

Yitzhak Geva, previous general manager of the Bedek division of IAI and former head of the Israeli air force's equipment division, also had words of caution.

"You do not have to be an aeronautics expert to determine that the Russians and the Americans can manage without us and build an aircraft without our involvement," Geva told Ha'aretz.

Gorbachev's statements were prefaced by comments made by Jewish financiers, such as media mogul Robert Maxwell, Hammer and Eisenberg.

The financiers have expressed their intention to assist the Russians in developing their civilian aeronautics industry, on condition that Israel participate in development and production together with the Americans.

"It appears that Gorbachev is willing to accept this condition as long as the money enabling him to develop the industry is invested and the foreign markets are opened up to it," Geva said.

He added that the technical manpower coming into Israel with the current wave of new immigrants from the Soviet Union could be a key reason for the discussion of the new project.