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**ISRAEL URGES WORLD TO SEE IRAQ AS MOST SERIOUS MIDEAST THREAT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- While comparing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to Adolf Hitler's aggression in the 1930s, Israel urged the world community Thursday to recognize that the threat to peace in the Middle East and beyond comes from Baghdad and not from the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

But the incursion by President Saddam Hussein's forces into Iraq's oil-producing Arab neighbor early Thursday does not necessitate an immediate military response from Israel, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated.

He said Israel's deterrent strength provided a bulwark, from which it could follow events in the region with quiet confidence.

Israel has no common border with Iraq. Its longstanding policy has been that an intrusion of Iraqi forces into Jordan would trigger an Israeli response.

Meanwhile, the Israelis are utilizing the latest events to press their view internationally that Iraq is the chief menace to peace and stability in the region, while stressing that Israel is not involved in any actions Washington may take in response to the invasion of Kuwait.

Israel's "lesson to the world" was delivered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's media spokesman, Avi Pazner.

**Danger Comes From Iraq**

"This is the same Saddam Hussein who attacked Iran 10 years ago," Pazner observed. "The world should reconsider its perceptions of the Middle East and should understand that if there is danger, it comes from Iraq."

The Hitler analogy was used by Arens, and by the right-wing Tehiya party.

Appearing on U.S. network television, Arens compared Hussein to the Nazi leader, "gobbling up one country after another," and that "Saddam represents a danger to the entire world," just as Hitler had more than a half-century ago.

"The world is not going to put up with this kind of aggressive behavior. I don't like to say 'I told you so,' but I told you so," Arens added.

He stressed that Israel wants to avoid conflict with Iraq, but does not fear it.

"Israel is a small country, but we have a strong army, and I think we're in a position to deter any aggression by Iraq against Israel," Arens said.

"If that doesn't turn out to be the case, we're certainly in a position to defeat them on the battlefield," he stated.

An aide to Arens said the Iraqi invasion underscored Iraq's recent and repeated threats against Israel. On April 2, Hussein threatened to destroy "half of Israel" with chemical weapons if Israel repeated its 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The invasion of Kuwait disrupted Israeli government routine. The Cabinet, which convened in special session Thursday to discuss economic and immigration issues, had to adjourn at mid-point to allow Shamir, Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy to be briefed on the situation in the

Persian Gulf by senior officers of the Israel Defense Force.

The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee went into special session early Thursday afternoon to hear an assessment of the situation from Brig. Gen. Danny Rothschild, deputy commander of the IDF's intelligence branch.

Yossi Sarid of the opposition Citizens Rights Movement told the committee that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait should prompt Israel to define in the clearest possible terms what it would consider a cause for war with Iraq.

He said the entry of Iraqi troops into Jordanian territory should automatically set off a preemptive military response from Israel.

Observers recalled that a similar doctrine prevailed long before the 1967 Six-Day War, when the government of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion made it clear that Israel would regard any Iraqi troop movement into the West Bank as a *casus belli*.

The right-wing Moledet and Tehiya parties used the occasion to take swipes at the Israeli peace movement and advocates of territorial compromise.

Moledet said the collapse of Kuwait demonstrated the importance of strategic depth and the impotence of U.S. support.

Hussein has thumbed his nose at Washington, a Moledet Knesset member said.

Meanwhile, Israel is seeking strenuously to mobilize world opinion against Iraq.

Shamir's spokesman, Pazner, said Hussein was using the million-man army he built up for his eight-year war with Iran, which ended in 1988, to dictate to his neighbors.

"The danger to peace and stability in the region flows not from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which everyone talks about all the time, but from Iraqi policy," Pazner said.

**JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS PRAISE BUSH FOR SANCTION ACTION AGAINST IRAQ**

By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations praised President Bush on Thursday for moving swiftly to impose economic sanctions against Iraq after its troops invaded Kuwait.

They also urged that U.S. allies join Washington in freezing all Iraqi assets in their countries and banning all trade with Baghdad.

"If Iraq is not isolated immediately, it will be a clear signal that it has free reign to continue a policy of aggression and destruction," said Melvin Salberg, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Iraq's ruler, Saddam Hussein, "must be stopped, not only as a way of supporting Kuwaiti sovereignty, but to restrain him from striking at some other Arab oil-producing state and to prevent him from carrying out his threats against Israel," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

At the same time, the Jewish organizations saw the invasion as further proof that the United States must maintain the military strength of Israel as the only democratic and reliable ally in

the Middle East.

Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, said that the invasion "reminds us of America's continuing need for strong, dependable allies around the world."

In this connection, "the importance of maintaining and strengthening the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel is clearly underlined," Comay added.

Arden Shenker, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said that Iraq's invasion, as well as Hussein's "recent threat to 'incinerate' Israel, clearly make the Iraqi leader the primary enemy of peace and stability in the Middle East."

Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that Israel was "the only reliable bulwark against the expanding appetites of the Iraqi government."

Bush imposed the economic sanctions after Iraqi troops crossed over the border into Kuwait early Thursday morning and easily routed the outnumbered Kuwaitis. Casualties were reported as heavy.

"There is no place for this sort of naked aggression in today's world," Bush said.

He also froze Kuwaiti assets in the United States to keep them from any government Iraq might install.

Kuwait's rulers fled to Saudi Arabia after the invasion. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States still considers them the "legitimate" government.

He called a "fraud" Iraq's assertion that it had gone into Baghdad at the request of a revolutionary group in Kuwait.

Iraq had been threatening Kuwait for weeks because Hussein claimed that Kuwait had been hurting Iraq's oil revenues by keeping the world price of oil low by glutting the market.

"We would like to have military assistance in order to survive," Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Saud Nasir al-Sabah told a news conference here Thursday.

"I think U.S. intervention at this stage is of paramount importance."

But Bush and other administration officials indicated that the United States would not go beyond economic sanctions and moral support at this time.

### Ships Sent To Persian Gulf

However, Bush ordered the giant aircraft carrier Independence along with six escort ships to the Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean. They will join eight U.S. warships already in the gulf.

Secretary of State James Baker, who was visiting Mongolia, where he was to have stayed until Sunday, was ordered by Bush to return Friday after first stopping in Moscow, where he will issue a joint statement with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze condemning the Iraqi action.

Jewish groups were quick to point out that the invasion of Kuwait demonstrates that Hussein's threats cannot be ignored. Reich called him the "new Hitler of the Middle East."

"It is Hussein, after all, who brazenly violated international law with the use of chemical weapons both against Iran during the eight-year-long war and Iraq's own Kurdish minority," said Comay, of the AJCommittee.

"It is the very same Hussein who more recently threatened to use those same weapons against Israel," Comay said.

Reich also said that the Iraqi action "makes clear" that the Middle East peace process must include all the Arab states and not focus just on the Palestinian issue.

"Israel can conclude no settlement with the Palestinian Arabs while its neighbors persist in refusing to come to the peace table," Reich said.

Meanwhile, Bush's economic sanctions drew support in Congress, but many said the Bush administration should have acted long before the invasion.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) said the State Department had been "mommy-coddling" Iraq, and that others in the administration had appeased Hussein during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war because they believed Iran was the greater threat.

The administration had opposed the sanctions bill introduced by D'Amato in the Senate and by Rep. Howard Berman (D-N.Y.) and Daniel Glickman (D-Kan.) in the House because they said it would not be effective unless other countries also impose sanctions.

D'Amato's bill was adopted last Friday by the Senate. The House, by a 416-0 vote Thursday, approved a much more sweeping sanctions bill similar to the sanctions ordered by Bush.

### **HEAD OF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS PRAISES U.S. ON AIDING ETHIOPIAN JEWS** By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said this week that the Bush administration has been instrumental in maintaining the emigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, and that he believed the rate of emigration would soon be increased.

"We understand that the administration has advised Ethiopia that Ethiopian Jews are the highest of priorities for the United States," Reich said. "That, we believe, has been very helpful in helping to resolve this issue."

Reich said this message was delivered by the administration to Ethiopian foreign minister Tesfaye Dinka, who visited Washington on July 26 and met with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

The meeting was a coup for the Ethiopians. Their Marxist, hard-line dictatorship under Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, currently under siege by rebel forces, has few friends in the Bush administration and they have had difficulty in the past gaining high-level meetings in Washington.

Tesfaye's visit took place at a time when the American Jewish community was deeply concerned over the temporary halt of Ethiopian Jews going to Israel at the rate of 500 per month.

There was a great deal of speculation at the time that the government was holding the Jews hostage in exchange for Israeli military assistance, though Tesfaye denied such a linkage during remarks at a news conference.

Reich confirmed, however, that "the Ethiopian government was putting a lot of pressure on Israel and Israel could not meet the needs that were being requested by Ethiopia."

On the same day as Tesfaye's meeting with Eagleburger, Reich met with White House officials and Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, to discuss the issues at hand.

After those meetings, and observing the progress of the past week, Reich expressed confidence that the rate of emigration for Ethiopian Jews would increase.

**EMIGRATING SOVIET JEWS ARE TARGETS  
FOR MUGGERS SEEKING QUANTITY OF CASH**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Jews who are preparing to leave the Soviet Union have become targets of robbers and even killers because they hold large sums of cash, according to a report in Ma'ariv.

The paper reported that three Jews were brutally murdered last Friday in the northern Caucasus region, near the Turkish and Iranian border, and that since then a family in the region that was about to leave for Israel was beaten by thugs who planned to rob them.

Ma'ariv quotes Jews in the area as saying that attacks against families leaving for Israel have become rampant, since the Jews sell their belongings and keep comparatively large amounts of cash on them.

The robberies and murders appear to be largely the result of the abysmal economic situation in the Soviet Union, according to Soviet Jewry activists.

Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jews, quoted Leonid Stonov, a former refusenik in Moscow who has received permission to leave, as saying that the murders were not anti-Semitic acts but criminal.

Myrna Shinbaum, director of the Soviet Jewry Project of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said, "One just has to look very carefully into what the motives were."

Shinbaum maintains ongoing contact with members of the Soviet Jewish Va'ad, the umbrella organization of Soviet Jews. There have been several incidents of murder of Jews recently, she said, "but they were not specifically anti-Semitic."

The fact has been debated on a regular basis. One questionable situation took place May 2 in Andizhan, in Uzbekistan, where Jews were killed and about 16 Jewish shops and homes burned by a reportedly huge Uzbek mob, said to have been enraged when a planned soccer match did not take place.

A Jewish activist in Leningrad told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the killers had prepared a list of the addresses of Jews in Andizhan.

However, Shinbaum said the targets were from a number of ethnic groups, including Armenians and Russians.

That incident was of sufficient import that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker discussed it with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shinbaum said the ADL will, nevertheless, continue to confirm the information about murders of Jews with the Va'ad.

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

**GOVERNMENT OK'S SHARON'S REQUEST  
TO IMPORT PREFABRICATED HOMES**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The government has granted Housing Minister Ariel Sharon permission to import prefabricated homes to ease the housing crisis brought about by large-scale immigration.

While the decision, made at a special Cabinet session Thursday, fell far short of the crash program urged by Sharon, it was a victory for the

housing minister over Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, who has warned that Sharon's plans could wreck the economy.

The Cabinet adopted a compromise proposal offered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The housing ministry was authorized to import 9,000 prefabricated and 5,000 mobile homes. In addition, 6,000 permits will be issued in the private sector to import housing.

Sharon told the Cabinet on July 22 that prefabricated housing could be expected to arrive in November or December, Ma'ariv reported last week.

The entire program will cost an estimated \$500 million. Sharon's plan called for the purchase of 50,000 mobile homes and 40,000 prefabs over the next two years, at an estimated cost of \$3 billion.

The Cabinet also rejected Moda'i's plea to include the cost of the imports in the regular budget, so that it could be balanced by corresponding cuts in other areas.

If not, the finance minister argued, an additional budget would be required, which would threaten economic stability and possibly reignite the inflationary spiral.

Although Shamir and a majority of the ministers thought otherwise, it remained unclear Thursday from where the additional half-billion dollars would come.

In Moda'i's view, employment takes precedence over housing, and national resources should be devoted to creating jobs for immigrants arriving in large numbers.

Sharon argued that the lack of adequate housing would lead to social unrest and could bring about an end to aliyah from the Soviet Union.

Originally, the housing was to go chiefly for Soviet immigrants, who have been coming to Israel in unprecedented numbers, and for whom there were totally inadequate preparations.

Now, however, much of the imported housing is planned for young couples, who have been forced out of their homes by soaring rents.

The increase in rentals has come about because landlords have raised rents three and four times in keeping with the higher amounts Soviet immigrants can pay, because of substantial stipends they receive from the government and the Jewish Agency.

**ITALY SEEKING ABU NIDAL MEMBERS**  
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Two members of Abu Nidal's terrorist gang have been placed on the wanted list for a murder and attempted murder here six years ago, *Il Messaggero* reported.

Rome Magistrate Rosario Priore issued warrants this week for the arrests of Michael Roupheal and Waddud Al-Turk, who allegedly planned the attack in 1984 in which the second secretary of the United Arab Emirates Embassy was seriously wounded in his car and his Iranian companion was killed.

The attack on the Arab diplomat was supposedly a warning to Arab countries allegedly "soft" on Israel.

Jihad Otman, a young Arab arrested and subsequently convicted of the shooting, is presently serving a 24-year prison sentence.

*Il Messaggero* said Al-Turk is in prison in Pakistan for attempting to hijack a Pan-Am airliner.

## ANNE POLLARD ARRIVES IN ISRAEL, WILL UNDERGO MEDICAL TREATMENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Anne Henderson Pollard, estranged wife of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, arrived in Israel Wednesday evening to undergo medical tests and said she was "emotionally overwhelmed to be here."

Pollard, who is suffering from a gastrointestinal disorder, will spend about 10 weeks in treatment at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, where she was admitted Thursday.

She indicated she was unhappy over the divorce proceedings initiated by her husband, who is serving a life sentence in the Marion, Ill., maximum-security federal prison for spying for Israel.

She expressed hope for a reconciliation and said she would continue to work "to secure Jonathan's release. My most fervent desire is to see him released from that most awful prison," she said.

Anne Pollard, convicted as an accessory after the fact, was recently paroled to a halfway house after serving two-and-a-half years of two concurrent five-year sentences.

The U.S. authorities waived parole restrictions to allow her to come to Israel for medical treatment.

But she is constrained from making public statements or pleas on behalf of her case or that of her husband, who was convicted in 1987 of passing classified information to Israel.

Pollard was met at the airport by a group of supporters, including Knesset members Geula Cohen of Tehiya and Edna Solodar of the Labor Party, and Herut Lapid, a kibbutznik active in helping former prisoners.

## JNF MOBILIZING MANPOWER, MACHINES, TO TACKLE ISRAEL'S HOUSING CRISIS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund is mobilizing manpower and machinery to tackle Israel's immigrant housing crisis, JNF Chairman Moshe Rivlin disclosed last week.

At almost a dozen building sites, from Eilat in the far south to Nazareth and Carmiel in the north, earth-moving equipment is preparing the ground for major residential homebuilding projects under the government's accelerated housing program.

Up to 30 percent of the actual machinery at each site and the operators belong to private contractors. But JNF planners, engineers and foremen are directing the work.

Senior officials at JNF's head office in Jerusalem are in regular contact with Housing Ministry officials and Treasury aides. They have to make the financing available until the government's expanded housing budgets get formal approval. And it takes time for the money to work its way through the bureaucratic pipeline.

Rivlin reckons that JNF will ultimately shoulder \$35 million of the budgetary burden itself. It will have to add some \$25 million to its \$100 million budget this year and transfer a further \$10 million from other projects to the residential groundwork that is now a national emergency.

That \$35 million, he says, will account for about one-third of the cost of the work, which JNF has taken upon itself.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon told a high-level meeting that he well remembers the speed and commitment with which JNF worked to prepare the ground at Pithat Shalom for the settlers evacuated from Sinai and the Rafah area in 1981 and 1982, under the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

He also recalled JNF's energetic drive in the late 1970s to prepare the "mitpim," strategically located hilltop settlements all over Galilee.

"You worked three shifts, day and night. That's what I want to see again," the housing czar said.

Rivlin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that work at three residential sites in Eilat these past two-and-a-half months were a test-case.

JNF has not previously focused on urban or suburban areas, he explained. Most of its knowledge and experience is in preparing land for agriculture or rural settlement.

But the Housing Ministry and the local authorities found its efforts praiseworthy, Rivlin said.

Since then, JNF staff and equipment has gone to Beersheba, Sderot, Netivot, Ashdod and Ofakim, cities in the Negev, and to Migdal Haemek, Carmiel and Nazareth in the north.

"We leave the center of the country to the commercial 'kabblanim' (contractors)," Rivlin noted wryly. "We go where they aren't so keen to go."

While committing a good deal of its manpower and energy to residential sites, JNF is not neglecting its basic land reclamation and development mission and some very large and ambitious tourism-related projects in the Negev and the Galilee.

In Eilat, for example, JNF is not only clearing the ground for three new apartment blocks. Its bulldozers are also at work on two parks in the city.

JNF planners are also preparing the next stage of the highly successful Timna Park project north of Eilat. It will link the Timna tourism area with the planned new Eilat International Airport by means of a forest studded with recreational facilities.

## LAKE KINNERET'S WATER LEVEL DROPPING A HALF-INCH A DAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Israel faces a severe water shortage next month if the level of Lake Kinneret continues to drop at its present rate of just over a half-inch a day.

The level Wednesday was 699.9 feet below sea level, and experts predict it will fall another 1.1 feet by mid-September, well before the rainy season starts.

When the level reaches 701.2 feet below sea level, the Mekorot water company is required to cease pumping from Israel's largest natural reservoir.

The harp-shaped fresh-water lake, also known as the Sea of Galilee, provides a quarter of Israel's domestic, agricultural and industrial water needs.

It is the second-lowest spot on the globe, the first being the Dead Sea, which is over 1,000 feet below sea level.

If Lake Kinneret is taken out of the national water system before the winter rains, the country would have to rely on the water table in the coastal plain, which is itself at a dangerously low level.