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**HUSSEIN INVASION LIKELY TO STALL
U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAELI MINISTER**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- When Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy arrives in Washington on Wednesday for his first meeting with Secretary of State James Baker, he may find the Palestinian issue relegated to the back burner because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The talks are expected to center on the threat posed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein rather than the Bush administration's desire to get an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue started as soon as possible.

That threat seemed to be moving closer to Saudi Arabia on Sunday with reports that Iraq was sending 18 fresh divisions toward the Saudis.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney was to leave for that country later in the day for consultations on the Persian Gulf crisis.

President Bush said Sunday he had seen "no evidence" to substantiate Iraq's claim that it has begun pulling troops out of Kuwait.

Iraq has "lied once again," said the president, who emphasized that the United States would not accept the "puppet regime" installed in Kuwait by Iraq.

The Iraqi invasion clearly diverts attention from the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Sunday.

Real Security Concerns

What the situation does, Aspin said on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," is "strengthen Israel's claim that -- don't get on their back about the domestic situation, they've got real national security concerns."

But former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned that while Iraq may be a threat to Israel in the future, the United States should not include the Jewish state in its efforts to get Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"We should take great care not to involve Israel in it at the beginning," Kissinger said on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley."

He explained that it would "make it look at the beginning that it is a Zionist-American joint enterprise."

Kissinger warned that if Iraq is not forced to leave Kuwait, Saddam Hussein "will have hold" of world oil supplies. However, he said he believed that if the European Community and Japan join the U.S. embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, as they have promised, "then Iraq will have to listen to us."

In addition to the economic sanctions, Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze issued a joint statement in Moscow on Friday agreeing not to sell any arms to Iraq. Moscow had been Iraq's chief arms supplier.

The People's Republic of China, which also sells missiles to Iraq, joined the arms embargo Sunday.

Meanwhile, Israel has made it clear that it does not see Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as a direct threat to its security, but that it would see such a threat if Iraqi troops moved into Jordan.

King Hussein of Jordan appears to be Saddam Hussein's main supporter in the Arab world, although he is claiming he wants to be able to help mediate the crisis.

Levy will come to Washington able to point out to Baker that Israel has been warning the United States for months that Saddam Hussein is dangerous and that his threats should not be taken lightly.

More important, he is expected to stress that the Iraqi aggression proves the argument of the Likud government that Israel needs the strategic depth of the West Bank for its security.

While many in Washington have argued that territory is no longer important in the age of long-range missiles, the Iraqi invasion demonstrates that territory is still important to stop tanks.

In addition, many of those in Washington who criticized Israel's 1981 air strike that took out Iraq's nuclear reactor are now saying they are thankful that Israel acted.

This does not mean that U.S. pressure on the Palestinian issue has gone away, but it will be less urgent than it was a week ago.

American Jewish leaders and organizations meanwhile continued to praise the United States' stand against Hussein.

Hadassah's national president, Carmela Kalmanson, compared Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to Hitler's aggression in Europe in the 1930s.

"Surely now the United States and other world leaders understand the seriousness and immediacy of Saddam Hussein's threats against Israel and other nations in the region," Kalmanson said.

Sidney Silverman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said that "as long as Iraq continues to maintain its state of war against Israel and arrogantly threatens to obliterate the Jewish state with the latest technology of mass destruction, all moral, financial and military support for Israel which she requires should be forthcoming from the United States."

Meanwhile, Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) pointed out in a statement Friday that Kuwait had rarely voted with the United States on Middle East and other issues in the United Nations.

In fact, he observed, "Having supported those who would use force against Israel, Kuwait has unwittingly lent its support to Saddam Hussein's illegal occupation of its territory."

**ISRAELIS TO RECEIVE GAS MASKS;
CABINET UNUSUALLY QUIET ON IRAQ**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- As jittery Israelis learned they will soon be issued gas masks, government ministers emerged uncharacteristically reticent from Sunday's Cabinet meeting, where Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was the chief topic discussed.

Israel apparently will take no counteraction unless Iraqi troops intrude into Jordan, which Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called "a very grave act to which we would respond."

But Saddam Hussein's incursion into a neighboring Arab country shook up the Tel Aviv stock

exchange, the world's only exchange open on Sunday.

The price of blue chip securities fell 7.57 percent, and the market's main index plunged 19.65 points to close at 240.03, the sharpest one-day drop since 1983.

It followed Wall Street prices, which plummeted more than 70 points Friday in reaction to the effect of the Persian Gulf on the price of oil.

One trader said prices fell in Israel "because of the uncertainty regarding further developments in the Gulf region and Israeli military sources' announcement that the army is going to distribute gas masks to the population."

The gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits will be issued first in the densely populated Tel Aviv area and in Safed in the Galilee, Israel Radio reported.

Distribution nationwide is expected to be completed by the end of the year, according to the Israel Defense Force.

The measure was not unexpected, as plans to issue gas masks were made public some time ago, following Hussein's threat in April to destroy "half of Israel" with chemical weapons.

With Hussein now on the march, Israelis seem justifiably nervous. Iraq not only has chemical weapons but the missiles to deliver them.

Much of what transpired in the Cabinet on Sunday was classified secret. Israel Radio reported several developments, however, attributing its information to experts who briefed the ministers.

No Attack on Saudi Arabia

The consensus appears to be that the Iraqis do not seem to be preparing to attack Saudi Arabia. Most of Kuwait's advanced military equipment, excluding some planes and naval vessels, have fallen to Iraq.

On Thursday, American Congressman Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.) angrily denounced the past sale to Kuwait of American Stinger missiles, which had long faced opposition in Congress. Smith said it could be assumed that the shoulder-fired missiles are now in the hands of the Iraqis.

Meanwhile, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization have adopted subservient attitudes toward Iraq. Egypt finds itself severely embarrassed by Iraq's swift conquest of Kuwait.

Iraq said Sunday that its troops were pulling out of Kuwait, but it appeared to be a bluff.

Japan and Britain on Sunday joined the ranks of countries imposing sanctions on Iraq, and the Dutch government froze Kuwaiti assets in the Netherlands, which constitute between 7 percent and 10 percent of all foreign investments in Holland.

Iraqi assets are small and will not be frozen, sources in Amsterdam said.

Holland presently has substantial oil reserves and will not suffer severe shortages, as it did during the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization took an unprecedented measure Thursday when it condemned "Iraq's military aggression" against Kuwait and called for an "immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory."

NATO has not previously reacted to armed conflicts outside its geographic sphere.

The statement issued in Brussels Thursday on denounced the incursion as "a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations."

(JTA correspondent Yossi Lempkowitz in Brussels contributed to this report.)

KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN WARNS THOSE IN BUSINESS WITH IRAQ By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- A ranking Israeli lawmaker with past connections to Mossad issued a thinly veiled warning Sunday of retribution against foreign scientists or technicians working for Iraq, as well as foreign companies.

Likud-Herut Knesset member Eliahu Ben Elissar warned companies to get out "within days, within hours" or suffer unspecified but serious consequences at the hands of Israel.

He said his warning was aimed specifically at German nationals.

"It is entirely unacceptable that German citizens should be working for Iraq, for money," Ben-Elissar said in an Israel Radio interview.

"We cannot permit Germans -- and others too, but above all Germans -- to aid Iraq in building a military machine whose target is principally Israel."

Although Ben-Elissar, who was Israel's first ambassador to Egypt, is not a member of the current government, he chairs the Knesset's powerful Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

He said he was addressing his warning to private German citizens in Iraq's employ, though he observed that the German government sometimes "looked the other way" when such activities were pursued.

"Let them leave Iraq. Let them sever all connections if they are outside of Iraq -- within days or within hours," he said.

"I am not talking about any (Israeli) military action, and I don't intend to set out operational targets," Ben-Elissar declared.

"But Israel has acted in the past and today must do much more," he added.

Asked to be more specific, Ben-Elissar said, "What I am referring to, I assume that those who ought to understand will understand. That includes the Iraqis.

"That includes the companies which supply that which I am hinting at to Iraq. And that includes the engineers and technicians."

Ben-Elissar has previously worked as a Mossad operative before he emerged from anonymity in 1977 to become director general of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's Office.

POLICE SEARCHING FOR 2 MISSING YOUTHS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police assisted by troops and civilian volunteers combed the hills north of the city Sunday and searched from the air for two teen-agers who may have been kidnapped by terrorists.

Ronen Karamani, 18, and Lior Tubul, 17, are the objects of the massive operation which deployed a helicopter, trackers, trained dogs and mounted police.

The missing youths set out from Ramot, a northern Jerusalem suburb, for Givat Ze'ev, a settlement about four miles away. Apparently they planned to hitch a ride.

The region between Ramot and Givat Ze'ev is sparsely inhabited by Palestinians.

Jerusalem Police Chief Arye Bibi called for more volunteers to join the search on Monday.

"I would like nothing more than to get a call that they are safe and call it off," he said.

But he could not rule out the possibility that the youngsters were abducted.

JULY FIGURE FOR SOVIET EMIGRATION A RECORD 15,553; YEAR-TO-DATE: 65,412

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The number of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union continued to soar to new heights during the month of July, with a record 15,553 leaving the country.

The rate was a significant increase over June, when 11,197 Jews emigrated.

Of the July number, 15,283 went to Israel and 270 to the United States, according to both the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The total number of Soviet Jewish emigrants during the year 1990 has reached 65,412, the National Conference reported.

The monthly number of emigrating Soviet Jews has more than tripled since January, when just 4,713 Soviet Jews left.

Shoshana Cardin, NCSJ chairwoman, said that her organization was "gratified that the Soviet Union is living up to its commitment to allow Jews to emigrate."

But she added that they were still "deeply concerned over the fate of remaining refuseniks" and "troubled by continuing manifestations of popular anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union."

At the annual retreat of the United Jewish Appeal young women's leadership cabinet in Houston, Texas, this past weekend, Cardin told the 200 delegates attending that the situation confronting Soviet Jews calls for a rescue mission of unprecedented magnitude.

"We are involved in the greatest act of humanity the world has ever seen -- an act that will take years. Few in the world have ever had such an opportunity," she said.

Cardin said that the problem today with glasnost and perestroika is that "when there is major change, someone suffers, someone loses and the conservatives around Gorbachev stand to lose. In their search for weapons against him, these Soviet conservatives have found the Jews as an arrow."

LEVY, E.C. FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET OVER PROPOSED OFFICE

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will meet with the foreign ministers of the 12 European Community countries here next month for crucial talks that could help shape E.C. diplomatic intervention in the Middle East.

New strains have developed over the E.C.'s announcement last month that it will open a permanent office to monitor relief operations that it pays for in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While Israel has no objection in principle, it believes the monitoring tasks can be handled by the E.C. mission in Tel Aviv, headed by Ambassador Gwyn Morgan.

It regards the decision to open a special supervisory office as a move by the Europeans to grant the territories a separate political status.

The issue will be discussed with Levy, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said in an interview published in *La Libre Belgique*.

He said Belgium has offered its consulate in East Jerusalem to serve as headquarters of the special E.C. representative in the territories.

Eyskens also told the newspaper he had no objections to raising the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Brussels.

NEO-NAZISM A STRONG PRESENCE IN EAST GERMANY, TV REPORTS

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Neo-Nazism in East Germany is far more than a marginal phenomenon, according to a documentary broadcast on Dutch television Friday night.

The program, called "Focus," maintained that neo-Nazis are much stronger in East Berlin today than in most parts of West Germany.

It is very well organized, and requires the full-time attention of the Criminal Investigation Division, which has assigned some 30 operatives to watch the movement, the documentary said.

It is not characterized by anti-Semitism but by racism, which singles out all non-Germans, especially non-whites such as Vietnamese and Africans from Angola or Mozambique, who came to East Germany as students or guest workers under the former Communist regime.

Homosexuals are also targeted as they were in the Third Reich, the Dutch broadcast said.

CANADIAN DEPORTATION HEARING RESUMES FOR EX-NAZI SCIENTIST ARTHUR RUDOLPH

By Cassandra Freeman

TORONTO, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The deportation hearing of former Nazi scientist Arthur Rudolph resumed here last Wednesday, following a 30-day recess requested by the defense.

Rudolph, 83, who voluntarily gave up his U.S. citizenship in 1984 after the Justice Department began to probe his Nazi past, is seeking visitor's status in Canada.

But he must prove he is not guilty of complicity in war crimes, specifically those committed at the Dora-Nordhausen concentration camp, whose inmates were used as slave labor by the nearby Mittelwerk factory where V-2 rockets were produced.

From 1943 to 1945, Rudolph was a supervisor at the rocket plant. At least 20,000 Dora-Nordhausen inmates died while working there or on other projects.

The camp's workers included Jews, Russians, Poles, Czechs, French nationals, Italians and at least one American.

Witnesses said Rudolph's workers were deprived of air, light, food and medical attention.

A recess was granted in the hearing so that the defense could translate the West German government's inquiry into Rudolph's wartime activities. That inquiry concluded that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute him as a war criminal.

But the Bonn government's inquiry seems to have yielded conflicting testimony. While one former slave laborer said, "Mr. Rudolph always stood up for us," others said they were warned not to incur his displeasure or "you have had it."

Rudolph testified that his reaction to the hanging of "five or six" Dora inmates suspected of planning an uprising was "disgust."

Rudolph also said he tried to improve the prisoners' conditions, because if "they were well treated, they would do good work."

He said no one was worked beyond his or her capacity, and no one was required to lift more than 20 pounds.

Rudolph joined the Nazi party in 1931, two years before Hitler came to power. But he insisted his interest in engineering was "space work, not defense."

CHABAD AIRLIFTS SOVIET JEWISH KIDS THOUGHT TO BE ILL FROM CHERNOBYL

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- A group of 196 Jewish children from the Chernobyl area in the Soviet Union, who may be suffering from radiation sickness, landed at Ben-Gurion Airport on Friday after a delay of 60 hours because of an error by Romanian airline officials.

The youngsters are the vanguard of 3,000 who are being brought to Israel by the Chabad Lubavitch movement on a humanitarian mission.

Chabad, aided by its affiliate organization, Lishkas Ezras Achim, worked six months on the project, called "Children of Chernobyl."

The children, some of whom are known to be ailing as a result of the 1986 nuclear disaster, will be checked for medical problems at a special clinic at Kfar Chabad.

Currently unaccompanied by parents, they will live at Kfar Chabad, a religious township about 15 miles southeast of Tel Aviv.

Their arrival was delayed initially because of an error made by Tarom, the Romanian airline from which Chabad chartered two planes to pick up the children at Minsk in the Soviet Union.

All necessary authorizations had been obtained and they were ready to be flown to London, where a chartered El Al plane was waiting to take them to Israel.

The Tarom officials requested landing rights from the Soviets for the purpose of emigration, rather than for humanitarian or medical reasons. Soviet authorities declined permission.

Fresh Crew Brought In

Once that snag was unraveled, the El Al jet was no longer available. A British Airways jet was substituted, but had to be sent to Kuwait to bring home British subjects after the Iraqi invasion.

The Tarom crew was willing to fly to Israel but was not allowed to fly the extra hours.

At that point, British press magnate Robert Maxwell intervened, providing his private plane, which brought fresh Tarom crews to London.

The Tarom planes flew to Israel with the children, who had waited with their families 60 hours at the Minsk airport, about 600 people all told.

During that period, a 13-year-old girl became seriously ill and was advised to go to the hospital.

She refused, fearing she might miss the flight to Israel, and was treated by a medical team brought in by Chabad.

Chabad also provided food, clothes and blankets at the airport.

The children, ages 6 to 15, are virtually all from secular Jewish homes in the Ukrainian cities of Gomel and Mozyr, within a 100-mile radius of Chernobyl. (Soviet medical treatment was reportedly limited to people living within a 30-mile radius of Chernobyl.)

The children's parents were anxious to remove the children from the area, where soil and water was dangerously irradiated and the food too contaminated to safely eat.

Of the initial group of 196, five children are known to be suffering from leukemia. The medical condition of the others is unknown.

The ailing children will be treated by Dr. Ze'ev Washler, a former Soviet citizen who is director of the radiology department at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem. Washler, sole

survivor of a group of children who were together during the Holocaust, has dedicated himself to helping Jewish children.

He set up the special clinic at Kfar Chabad. Psychological care will be part of the treatment regimen.

A key figure in the airlift is Yitzhak Kogan, a longtime refusenik and religious activist from Leningrad who immigrated to Israel in 1986. He has been visiting Minsk and other cities regularly to coordinate the program.

Last week, Kogan received a telephone call from the prime minister of Byelorussia, giving him full authorization to complete the mission.

Kogan has been working with Rabbi Yosef Aronov, the associate director of Agudas Chassidei Chabad, the main Chabad organization in Israel.

The Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, asked that everything possible be done to assure the proper care and safety of the children.

Antiquated Airport

Minsk, whose small, antiquated airport is surrounded by pastoral land and is an unlikely place for international flights, has been a coordinating site for Jewish activists from several countries who are intent on rescuing the children.

The city, the capital of Byelorussia, still suffers from the effects of the Chernobyl accident. Food grown in Byelorussia, a heavily agricultural area, is badly contaminated by winds that blew the radioactive fallout.

Children are dying from eating irradiated food, Minsk Jewish leader Yaakov Guttman said at the end of June.

Jabbing at a map of Byelorussia that he unfolded on the occasion, Guttman spoke of the dimensions of the disaster.

"In southern Byelorussia, there are officially more than 112,000 Jews. If we think that a quarter of them are children, that is at least 25,000 Jewish children who are potentially sick and getting sicker," he said.

"I speak about this with all Jews who I meet. But only Christians from Finland did anything. They invited 27 children," he said.

A Jewish source said the Finns were well-meaning but probably Christian missionaries. It is not known if anything transpired.

Danish rescuers took in some non-Jewish children from the area.

Lingering Problems

Guttman asked that Jewish communities, particularly in Israel, offer to take Jewish children out immediately, before their parents can get visas or arrange to leave.

Guttman was one of 36 adults accompanying the children to Israel.

In Minsk, he was visited by some British Jews, who have been trying to get Jewish communities in England to also offer help.

The lingering problems that arose with Chernobyl have not been highly publicized, but natives of Byelorussia and the Ukraine know them well.

Viktoria, a young woman from Kiev who was visiting Moscow in June, told of friends who had miscarried; of her grandfather who died of radiation poisoning; of her grandmother who "sleeps all the time." In Kiev, she said, "many people sleep a lot now."

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)