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## U.S. AND ISRAEL STRIVE TO EASE STRAINS OVER TEMPLE MOUNT RIOTS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- Israel and the United States appear to be trying to ease the severe strains that have developed between them over the Temple Mount shooting, though the atmosphere remains chilly.

In Washington, Secretary of State James Baker on Wednesday reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to a "unified Jerusalem." He seemed to be saying: "Let's find a way off the limb we have both climbed onto in spite of ourselves."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has written to President Bush proposing to "turn a new leaf" and advance together. He reiterated Israel's support for U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf.

The content of Bush's reply is expected to have a strong effect on Israel's next moves.

For the time being, however, there is no sign that the Shamir government will reverse its decision not to cooperate with the special three-member team U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been mandated to send here to investigate the Oct. 8 slaying of 21 rioting Arabs by Israeli police on the Temple Mount.

Much will depend on the outcome of Israel's own investigation. The special inquiry commission set up by the government is expected to have its report ready by the end of next week.

If it finds that the security forces used excessive force and some heads roll as a result, the Israeli position may be squared with the U.S.-backed Security Council resolution that condemned Israel for using excessive force.

On the other hand, a report interpreted as a "whitewash" of the Israeli police is likely to escalate tension between the two countries.

### Teddy Kollek Clarifies Stand

Baker made his remarks about Jerusalem's status during hearings on the Persian Gulf crisis held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) said he was concerned the U.N. resolution implies Jerusalem is occupied territory. He said he could conceive of many scenarios for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, but none "where Israel gives up Jerusalem."

Baker said the U.S. position has always been that "Jerusalem should remain united," but its final status should be determined in negotiations.

Simon welcomed a reported statement by Jerusalem's mayor, Teddy Kollek, that he would cooperate with the U.N. fact-finding team.

But Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.) objected strongly to the U.N. mission. He justified Israel's opposition, saying the United States would have reacted the same way had the world body decided to probe the 1965 riots in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, in which 35 people died.

In Jerusalem, Kollek held a news conference to clarify his position on the U.N. delegation. He said he thought the delegation should be allowed to come here, but he did not personally invite it.

"I think we should see anybody who wants to come here, and talk to everybody, otherwise we show weakness, not confidence," the 76-year-old mayor said.

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

## FEARS OF UNREST PROMPT FEDERATIONS TO POSTPONE MAJOR MISSIONS TO ISRAEL

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- As American Jewish organizations stand firmly with Israel through the Persian Gulf crisis and the aftermath of the riots on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, Jewish federations across the United States are canceling major fund-raising missions to Israel because of fear that hostilities will break out.

While the national United Jewish Appeal is going ahead with its programs in Israel, five out of six major missions planned for this fall by community federations have been postponed, including "mega-missions" from Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A major mission sponsored by the Jewish Federation of South Broward, Fla., is still planned for Nov. 11 to 20, although officials said the number of participants has declined.

Federation officials stress the missions have not been canceled, but postponed, with smaller fact-finding missions being organized in lieu of the original missions.

But postponement of the mega-missions, which in the past could bring up to 1,000 people to Israel at a time, has dealt Israel's already beleaguered tourism industry a major blow.

Although federation officials say they believe it is safe to travel to Israel at this time, the Israeli army last week began distributing gas masks to its civilian population as a precautionary measure.

Fears were heightened last week after the U.S. State Department issued an advisory warning U.S. citizens to avoid traveling to East Jerusalem or the administered territories.

### 'People Have A Genuine Fear'

Washington's "Miracle Mission" started receiving cancellations as the Gulf crisis unfolded, dropping the original number of participants from just over 500 to "somewhere still in the hundreds," said Debra Adelstein, director of communications for the United Appeal Federation of Greater Washington.

"There were a substantial number of first-timers" signed up for the mission, explained Philip Margolius, co-chairman of the mission, "and some people have a genuine fear of what's going on."

"Let's face it," he said, "there could be a war. We don't think Israel is going to be involved, but people have a genuine fear."

The federation postponed the mission and instead sent a delegation of 40 people to Israel on Sunday.

Officials of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, in deciding to postpone their "Mission 1,000," cited the changed circumstances in the Middle East since the trip was originally planned.

Instead, the federation is sending a smaller fact-finding mission to Israel from Oct. 28 to Nov. 6, the original dates for "Mission 1,000."

Raphael Farber, tourism commissioner for Israel in North America, expressed outrage at the postponement of the missions, contending that

Israel is "one of the safest places in the world" for travelers.

"We were very shocked when three mega-missions for October were canceled," he said. "What is amazing today is that those people who thought it was very important to help Israel in times of crisis, when a real crisis comes, they couldn't convince their constituency to go."

He appeared to be referring to the fact that the mega-missions were originally conceived to boost travel to Israel that fell off after the intifada erupted.

#### **Jews Are 'First Ones To Cancel'**

"It's shocking again to see that the first ones to cancel trips to Israel are Jewish people, and not just Jewish people but affiliated people," he said.

Aware of Israel's strong sensitivity on the subject, some federations, mainly those with missions scheduled further down the road, are proceeding with their plans and, in some cases, issuing statements affirming their intent to travel to Israel.

The board of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma counties approved a resolution Tuesday reaffirming its commitment to the "Shalom '91" mega-mission scheduled for mid-April.

The mission is cosponsored with the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay, the Jewish Federation of Greater San Jose and the Jewish Federation of Sacramento.

In its resolution, the San Francisco federation stated: "At this time, it is especially important for Northern California Jews to demonstrate their support and solidarity with the people of Israel by making plans to visit Israel next April on the 'Shalom '91' mega-mission."

The MetroWest Federation in New Jersey is still planning its "Kehilla 2: The Celebration Continues" mission for next October, having sent its first mega-mission to Israel in March.

"We are inspired, excited and ready to go," said Gadi Aronson, the mission coordinator.

National UJA also expects its two major fall missions -- one to the Soviet Union and Israel, and the other to Poland and Israel -- to arrive in Israel early next week, as planned, despite a few cancellations by participants.

"Neither mission has been canceled, and both are scheduled to arrive in Israel with hundreds of participants in the next few days," UJA said in a statement issued by Gerald Nagel, its director of public relations.

#### **A Switch Of Hotels**

Disputing rumors that UJA would no longer hold events at the Western Wall, where the rioting occurred last week, Nagel said the missions would "include a visit to the Western Wall, as is the custom on UJA missions."

However, the missions will not stay at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in East Jerusalem, as planned, but in the Laromme Hotel in the western part of the city.

"Our lawyer advised us that if, God forbid, something would happen to someone on a mission in East Jerusalem, we could be held liable for ignoring the State Department's advisory," UJA Vice President Raphael Rothstein told the Jerusalem Post.

*(Contributing to this report were the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia and Andrew Silow Carroll of the Washington Jewish Week.)*

#### **BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS PRECIPITATE SNUB FROM PALESTINIANS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- Palestinian leaders, outraged by remarks attributed to British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in private conversations with Israeli officials, angrily called off a meeting with the visiting diplomat Wednesday.

Instead, they held a noontime news conference in East Jerusalem at which they accused the British minister of "hypocrisy" and a "double standard."

An embarrassed Hurd called the incident "very regrettable" and insisted he was "completely misrepresented" by the Israeli news media.

Hurd, who arrived here Monday from Cairo, made a determined but fruitless effort to convince Israel to receive a special U.N. team to investigate the fatal Oct. 8 shooting of 21 Arabs by Israeli police on the Temple Mount.

He had separate meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy. He also met Tuesday with members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

According to Israeli radio, television and press reports, he told them he firmly opposed a separate Palestinian state and that Israel must fix its borders in accordance with its security needs.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, head of the Palestinian Journalists Association and a prominent political figure in the administered territories, observed that there was no official, categorical denial of the Israeli media reports from the British side.

He said the statements attributed to Hurd undermined the twin pillars of Palestinian aspirations: a separate state and the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization as their sole legitimate representative.

Hurd, who held a news conference later in the afternoon, declined to point a finger of blame at the press or on the unnamed sources behind the story.

#### **Speaks Of Need For 'Secure Borders'**

British sources indicated privately that they thought some Israeli right-wing politicians had, at the very least, "hyped up" the secretary's remarks.

But Hurd's efforts to "set the record straight" may have gotten him into deeper trouble with the Palestinians, political pundits said.

He said Britain believed the outcome of peace negotiations "must reflect the right of Israel to secure borders and the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

"We do not argue for a separate Palestinian state," he said. "Equally, we would not oppose it if this were the result agreed by the parties."

Political observers predicted this formulation would not satisfy the PLO or local Palestinians, because it appears to give Israel an ultimate veto over a Palestinian state.

Hurd has been sharply critical of Israeli policies recently. But he bent over backwards during his first two days in Israel to mollify his hosts.

At his news conference, he said he was not backing away from his positions, but having made his points earlier he saw no need to repeat them while here in Israel.

He made a point of praising Israel's "low profile" policy in the Persian Gulf crisis and referred to the "very real threat which Saddam Hussein presents to Israel."

# 40,000 SOVIET JEWS TO COME TO U.S. AS REFUGEES DURING 1991 FISCAL YEAR By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- President Bush has authorized the admission of 50,000 Soviet emigres to the United States as refugees during the new fiscal year, which began Oct. 1.

Of that total, 40,000 are expected to be Soviet Jews. All of them will receive federal assistance covering transportation and initial resettlement costs.

By contrast, in the last fiscal year, 10,000 of the 50,000 "refugee slots" were not funded by the U.S. government. As a result, private Jewish groups had to provide complete funding for the transmigration of 8,000 Soviet Jews.

U.S. Jewish groups sought and obtained full funding for those costs during the 1991 fiscal year. But they did not seek an increase in the 50,000 Soviet refugee quota, so as not to divert to the United States emigres who might otherwise settle in Israel.

The Jewish groups also did not want to jeopardize the current level of refugee admissions from other countries by requesting an increase in the Soviet quota.

Overall, Bush increased from 125,000 to 131,000 the number of refugees who will be admitted worldwide this fiscal year. They are granted entry if they demonstrate a "well-founded fear of persecution."

Officials at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which helps Soviet Jews seeking entry to the United States, said the U.S. refugee processing system implemented in the Soviet Union this past year is working well in that about 95 percent of Soviet Jews seeking refugee status have been granted it so far in 1990.

But HIAS officials also note that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews would like to immigrate to the United States, but cannot for the foreseeable future because of the 50,000 ceiling.

## 20,000 Already Interviewed

Of the 40,000 Soviet Jews to enter the United States during the 1991 fiscal year, nearly 20,000 already have been interviewed by the Justice Department's Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Priority is being given to those with immediate family in the United States, said Deborah Mark, special assistant to the executive director of HIAS, Karl Zukerman.

Soviet Jewish families already in the United States cannot expect aunts and uncles to be able to immigrate here for at least two to three years, Mark said.

But to facilitate the process, Soviet families here should pay in advance for their relatives' airplane tickets, because there is a shortage of tickets available in rubles, the Soviet currency, Mark explained.

Another benefit to buying tickets here is that there is a 25 percent discount offered by airlines for tickets purchased in dollars.

By prepaying tickets, families also will not have to take out U.S. government loans to pay for transportation, which would theoretically free up U.S. refugee funds that could be spent on resettling them, Mark said.

Zukerman said HIAS is not seeking to open an office in the Soviet Union and will rely on contacts with U.S. immigration officials, staff visits and telephone hook-ups to Soviet Jews.

# FIRES DESTROY PART OF MOSHAV; ARSON AND NEGLIGENCE SUSPECTED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- A field and brush fire Wednesday destroyed part of Moshav Ahihud in western Galilee, causing damage estimated in the millions of dollars.

Several villagers were treated for smoke inhalation, but there were no casualties.

The blaze was one of many that broke out in widely separated areas of Galilee and the Golan Heights during the day, fanned by a hot, dry wind known as the Sharav.

The authorities said arson was suspected in some of the fires, but most were probably due to negligence.

Intifada activists were exhorted to kill Jews and set fire to their crops in a leaflet circulated this week by Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group based in the Gaza Strip.

But it specified Oct. 21 and 22 as the occasion for the crop burning.

Police and firefighters said the majority of the blazes were likely the results of carelessness on the part of farmers burning off garbage or people casually throwing away lit cigarettes.

The strong wind, temperatures in the high 80s and very low humidity were mentioned as contributing factors.

The fire spread rapidly at Moshav Ahihud, which is located on the Acre-Safed road.

Residents drove panicked cattle from threatened barns and herded them safely in distant fields. But some 20 cows tethered to milking yokes were asphyxiated or burned to death. A number of houses, farm buildings and an orchard were destroyed as well.

Fire brigades from nearby communities fought the blaze, helped by local residents and Jewish National Fund personnel. The air force sent helicopters and light planes to pour water from above. The fire was finally contained.

## HISTADRUT CANCELS NATIONAL STRIKE AS CHANGES IN ECONOMIC PLAN HINTED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- Histadrut has postponed a general strike called for Thursday that would have idled tens of thousands of public sector employees and probably paralyzed the country.

The strike was planned to protest the economic recovery plan approved by the Cabinet last month, which the labor federation said would threaten workers' incomes.

It was to be of indefinite duration.

But Chaim Haberfeld, head of Histadrut's trade unions department, said Tuesday night that his talks with government officials gave reason to hope that Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i would modify his plan.

The finance minister said he would submit revised proposals to the Knesset next week.

Histadrut objected, among other things, to proposals to tax capital gains from pension funds and savings plans and to reduce the minimum wage and unemployment benefits.

Also under fire was a plan to extend the value-added tax to fruits and vegetables bought at market stalls.

Haberfeld stressed that the strike could still occur at a later date if the economic package is not changed.

## GERMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY PROTESTS ASSISTANCE GERMAN FIRMS GAVE IRAQ

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- Recent revelations that German companies and individuals supplied Iraq with poison gas or the material and technology to manufacture poison gas have drawn an angry protest from Germany's organized Jewish community.

A statement issued here said it was "outrageous" that the authorities allowed the export of such material and that it failed to lead to a public outcry.

It was the first serious complaint against the government by the new Zentralrat, the umbrella organization representing the once separate West and East German Jewish communities, which merged six weeks before the two Germanys officially united Oct. 3.

The statement said it was particularly odious that Holocaust survivors who live in Israel could become victims of poison gas supplied by Germany or produced in Iraq with German help. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has threatened several times to attack Israel with chemical weapons.

The Zentralrat said efforts to effect a conciliation between Germans and Jews was losing all credibility in light of the failure of the German justice system to recognize the "appalling equation" between poison gas supplies to Iraq and the poison gas that went to the Auschwitz gas chambers.

A government spokesman said in response that new legislation has been adopted to tighten loopholes against the unauthorized export of gas. But the spokesman would not comment on allegations that the government looked the other way when such illegal shipments were being made.

The protest was prompted by fresh information that both Germanys failed to act on intelligence provided by their respective secret services and other nations about German roles in providing Iraq with the means to produce poison gas.

## RIGHT-WING PARTY NEARLY WINS A SEAT IN BAVARIAN LEGISLATURE

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- The extreme right-wing Republican Party, whose electoral fortunes plunged during the past year, came within a hair's breadth of winning seats in the Bavarian legislature in last weekend's state elections.

Computer projections gave the reputedly neo-Nazi party, headed by former SS officer Franz Schoenhuber, 5.1 to 5.2 percent of the popular vote. Five percent is necessary for getting a seat in the state parliament.

But the final vote count showed it missed with just a shade over 4.9 percent. Schoenhuber is crying foul and demands a recount.

He had been invited to the Munich television studios Sunday night, along with leaders of other parties, to comment on the Republicans' success.

Schoenhuber said he expected the other parliamentary factions to treat his faction with the respect due a legitimate political force and "put an end to the campaign of hatred against us."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who was asked in Bonn to comment on what was then the presumed success of the extremist party, observed that far-right factions drew much greater popular support in other countries. "This is not an excuse, but let us not exaggerate," he said.

Graf Lambsdorff, leader of the Free Democratic Party, played down Schoenhuber's success. He predicted that the fragmented neo-Nazi movement would soon disintegrate.

The Republicans gained virtually no support in the five new federal states which formerly comprised East Germany.

Meanwhile, the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party announced Wednesday it would sue the Social Democratic mayor of Frankfurt, Volker Hauff, for refusing to invite NPD members to official events.

The NPD, which is represented on the City Council, contends the mayor has no authority to boycott it.

Hauff's spokesman, Jo Meergans, said the mayor has the right to decide who will be invited to events organized by the municipality.

The NPD complained that it was excluded from an official reception celebrating German unification.

The mayor said he would continue to boycott the neo-Nazis.

## ANTI-SEMITIC PARTY HOLDS MEETING NEXT DOOR TO SYNAGOGUE IN LONDON

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Oct. 17 (JTA) -- Congregants of a northeast London synagogue were intimidated last weekend by members of the anti-Semitic British National Party, which held its annual general meeting in a public hall next door.

At the same time, British immigration officials barred entry to a notorious neo-Nazi from Germany who was to have addressed the British fascists.

Although no incidents were reported, a police escort was provided for worshippers Saturday evening who were leaving the Chigwell and Hainault Synagogue.

But a study group led by Rabbi Eli Sufrin declined to leave.

Earlier that day, 20 children attending a Bnai Akiva meeting at the synagogue were evacuated at the urging of fearful parents. One mother raised an alarm when she saw men on foot and in cars streaming toward the meeting hall.

"Some were well dressed, but there were Skinheads and brutish-looking young guys, and there were no black or Asian people among them. I knew they weren't from the local horticultural group," the woman said.

The British National Party posed as an environmental group to trick the Epping Council into renting it the hall. A council spokesman apologized later for any concern to synagogue members.

Scotland Yard estimated that 500 attended the meeting. But Epping officials said the hall's capacity was no more than 200.

Missing was Manfred Roeder, leader of the extreme right-wing German Citizens Initiative, who has been convicted several times for inciting hatred of Jews.

Roeder, who styles himself as the legitimate representative of the Third Reich, was the invited guest speaker at the British National Party meeting. He tried to enter Britain by way of Jersey in the Channel Islands, where he flew from Paris on Oct. 11, traveling under his own name.

Acting Chief Inspector Martin Furzer of Jersey Immigration recognized his name from a circular. Roeder was detained overnight and sent back to Paris.