

**A THIRD OF SOVIET IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL AREN'T JEWISH, SAYS ABSORPTION MINISTER**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- A potential powder keg was lit Wednesday in Moscow by the Israeli minister of absorption, Yitzhak Peretz, who claimed that 30 to 35 percent of Soviet immigrants coming to Israel are not Jewish.

"I am in shock," the minister said, according to a report Thursday by Yediot Achronot's Moscow correspondent Amnon Kapelyuk.

Following a visit to the Israeli Consulate in the Soviet capital, Peretz said the problem necessitates a change in the Law of Return, which says any Jew is entitled to Israeli citizenship.

Soviet Jews have heavily intermarried over the 70 years of Communist rule and are frequently the offspring of non-Jewish mothers, which makes them non-Jews as defined by the Israeli rabbinate and Jewish tradition, apart from the Reform movement.

The Reform movement accepts as Jews the children of Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers, but this not accepted in Israel.

Peretz has long championed changing the Law of Return to say that a Jew is one born of a Jewish mother or converted according to halacha, or Jewish law.

An independent member of the present Likud-led government, Peretz quit the Orthodox Shas party last year.

**Refused To Register Convert**

As interior minister in the previous Likud-Labor government, he defied Israel's High Court of Justice by refusing to register as Jewish an American immigrant converted by a Reform rabbi.

But now Peretz is complaining that not only are non-Jewish members of Soviet immigrant families gaining entry to Israel but also people with no family connections whatsoever to Jews.

Describing the Soviet Jewish phenomenon as a tragedy, Peretz told Yediot Achronot, "This hurts me. It is a source of endless trouble. We are filling the country with non-Jews which will result in intermarriage in Israel," he said.

His statements drew angry reactions from Labor Knesset Members Arieh (Lova) Eliav and Ya'acov Tsur, who urged Premier Yitzhak Shamir to fire Peretz for his "irresponsible comments."

Shamir himself, meanwhile, is engaged in a verbal duel with State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, who holds the government responsible for being unprepared to house or employ the wave of immigrants who are arriving, most from the Soviet Union.

Justice Ben-Porat, whose role is watchdog over government operations, charged in her annual report several months ago that the government failed to prepare adequately for mass immigration from the Soviet Union.

She repeated the charge this week, claiming that better advance planning could have eased the acute problems of unemployment and the housing shortage.

Shamir used the occasion of his visit to high school students in Kiryat Yam on Thursday to reply. Though he didn't challenge the comptroller's statements, Shamir accused Ben-Porat of a

scattershot approach.

He said he could not remember a state comptroller who made such "comprehensive" charges without specifying at whom they were aimed.

"It is one thing to make such comments as an ordinary citizen, and they will be judged accordingly. But this is not the case when she speaks as state comptroller," Shamir said.

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

**LIKUD BENDING TO AGUDAH'S DEMANDS**  
IN ORDER TO GET PARTY INTO COALITION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Likud is making far-reaching concessions to the Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party in order to gain its four Knesset votes for the government.

Although negotiations were continuing Thursday, the two parties are expected to sign coalition agreements Friday morning, to be ratified by the Cabinet on Sunday.

The Agudah's Council of Torah Sages, which rules the party, gave its politicians the go-ahead Wednesday to join Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government.

That will broaden Shamir's political base to 66 of the Knesset's 120 members. Until now, Shamir has governed with a narrow 62-58 majority.

The Cabinet is expected to approve two new measures demanded by the Agudah: a ban on what the religious consider "indecent" advertising and stricter enforcement of the ban on public transportation on Saturdays.

Likud has also promised that the Knesset will pass "in less than a month" bills forbidding the sale of pork in Israel and tightening already severe restrictions on abortions.

In addition to the religious legislation, each of Agudah's four Knesset members has been promised an influential position.

They include chairmanship of the Knesset's Finance Committee and three deputy ministerial posts -- labor, social security and Jerusalem affairs.

**JEWISH POPULATION SURVEY REVEALS SLIGHT GROWTH, BUT DOWNWARD TREND**  
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Despite fears that the size of the American Jewish population is in decline, the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey has revealed a slight growth over the last 20 years.

Yet despite the slight increase, the zero or even negative rate of population growth will eventually impact the community, warned one sociologist.

The study shows that there are 5.51 million people in this country who call themselves either Jewish by religion or secular Jews, compared with 5.2 million people who did in 1970.

An additional 590,000 people were raised as Jews, or have Jewish parents, but currently report that they affiliate with another religion.

Combined, the 6.1 million people also repre-

sent an increase over the 5.4 million people who identified themselves 20 years ago as Jews and as converts from Judaism to another faith.

The increase, according to the study, is due in part to recent immigration; the fact that more people than ever before are willing to identify themselves as Jews; and because more comprehensive survey methods were used than for the 1970 study.

According to Bernard Lazerwitz, professor of sociology at Israel's Bar-Ilan University and the survey statistician on the 1970 population survey project, "When the immigration stops, as it becomes limited, then the inevitable decline will begin because of the low birthrate and the loss of Jews through intermarriage."

**Second Study Of Its Kind**

Jewish immigration to the United States over the past two decades has primarily been some 150,000 Israelis, 100,000 from the Soviet Union and about 30,000 Iranian Jews, said Lazerwitz.

"Over 20 years," he said, "that means a birthrate of not very much."

This study was the second of its kind commissioned by the Council of Jewish Federations, and the first since the 1970 survey.

Preliminary findings were announced at the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations taking place in San Francisco.

Dr. Barry Kosmin, CJF director of research and director of the North American Jewish Data Bank, directed the study, which was actually conducted by the ICR Research Group of Media, Pa.

The new findings are important because "they are the best possible way of coming up with a national portrait of the Jewish community," said David Singer, director of research for the American Jewish Committee and editor of the American Jewish Yearbook.

While other ethnic groups benefit from statistics compiled during the U.S. Census, the census does not record religious affiliation, and so there has been no data on the American Jewish community as a whole for the past two decades, though over 50 studies were conducted by individual communities.

The national study's results will have great impact on communal policy decisions, say sociologists.

**Better Equipped To Plan**

Martin Kraar, CJF executive vice president, said in a statement that the findings mean that "Jewish federations will be better equipped to plan for the development of services and facilities that are vital to the continued growth of Jewish life."

"You cannot plan intelligent community policy without knowing the facts," agreed AJCommittee's Singer. "This puts us in a stronger position."

For example, the survey found that the Jewish population, like the American population at large, is getting older.

While 21 percent of Jews in this country are under 18 years of age, 18 percent are at least 65 years old, the study found.

"More of today's older people are the children of immigrant parents, who had larger families. They, in turn, had smaller ones," said Lazerwitz. "People are also living longer."

This will lead to a closer look at community child care and elderly care options, pointed out

Steven Cohen, professor of sociology at Queens College.

The graying of American Jewry will also impact resource allocation, or where communities will decide to spend more of their money.

"Will they put money into homes for the aged, or into where the future rests, into education for the young?" asked Singer. "The issue of proportions becomes very significant."

Other findings included the fact that 27 percent of Jewish adults have visited Israel, a significantly higher percentage than had visited in 1970, when it was 16 percent, according to Cohen.

Seventy-eight percent of Jewish adults have received some Jewish education at some time in their lives, the study said, and 735,000 adults, or some 15 percent, have participated in adult education in the past year.

Also, 77 percent of Jewish households contributed to charity in 1989, although only half of them gave to Jewish charities.

The entire survey was overseen by the CJF National Technical Advisory Committee on the Jewish Population Study headed by Dr. Sidney Goldstein, professor of sociology at Brown University, and Joseph Waksberg, former associate director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**THREE THOUSAND DELEGATES GATHER FOR CJF ASSEMBLY IN SAN FRANCISCO**

By Tom Tugend

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Close to 3,000 leaders from some 200 Jewish communities in the United States and Canada who are gathered here for their annual meeting heard warnings about strained Israeli relations with the Bush administration, but also reassurances that the basic ties between Washington and Jerusalem remain strong.

Leading the Israeli presence at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, dubbed the Parliament of North American Jewry, was President Chaim Herzog, who arrived here from his state visit to Japan with a case of the flu and a barely audible voice.

Herzog did attend a private reception Wednesday evening, hosted by former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, but canceled a press conference Thursday morning with student editors of college newspapers. He was expected to address the Commonwealth Club and the plenary of the CJF later in the day.

Standing in for Herzog at the press conference, Zalman Shoval, Israel's new ambassador to the United States, criticized people, in and out of Washington, "who know better what is good for Israel than the Israelis."

Shoval questioned whether some U.S. policy-makers had a true understanding of Israel's real problems, and said he hoped for better communications between the two countries so that misunderstandings could be nipped in the bud.

During the assembly's opening plenary on Wednesday evening, delegates heard a ringing appeal from Mendel Kaplan, the Jewish Agency chairman, that future CJF assemblies be convened in Jerusalem.

Other Israeli personalities participating in the conference are Moshe Nissim, minister of Industry and Trade, who is to address a forum on Israeli economic development. On Friday afternoon, Yitzhak Rabin and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are to speak on electoral reform in Israel.

## ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE FOUGHT, LOBBYIST SAYS

By Mark Joffe

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Supporters of Israel will actively fight a proposed \$15 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia unless it is significantly scaled down, a top pro-Israel lobbyist warned here this week.

"It's time to put the brakes on the runaway arms race in the Middle East," Thomas Dine told delegates to the 59th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations here Wednesday night.

Israel, he said, cannot run forever on the "arms treadmill."

Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, expressed hope that the Bush administration would not follow through on plans to send the proposed arms package to Congress early next year.

"It is in the power of the president" to avoid a clash with the pro-Israel community on this issue, said Dine. "We hope the sale will not even be sent to Capitol Hill."

But if it is, he added, Israel's friends in Washington "will have no other choice but to oppose" the sale.

"We expect major opposition in Congress" if the arms sale is presented in its current form, said Dine.

"A further acceleration of the arms race does not help American interests in the Middle East," he explained.

The proposed sale is the second phase of what originally was a \$21 billion arms sale proposed by the Bush administration in September.

### Scaled-Down Package

After Congress raised strong objections, the administration sent a much leaner \$6.7 billion package to Capitol Hill on Sept. 27, and said it would propose the balance early next year. The scaled-down package sailed through Congress with little opposition.

Of particular concern to AIPAC is the likely inclusion in the new package of 24 advanced F-15 fighter planes, including the F-15F, which has offensive capabilities.

Dine pointed out that Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, next in line to the throne, has said publicly that "Saudi arms will be turned against Israel" someday.

The Bush administration favors such a sale as a way of bolstering Saudi Arabia against the threat of an Iraqi attack.

But Dine pointed out that most of the weapons contained in the package "won't be delivered for years, well after the current crisis in the Persian Gulf."

The AIPAC leader, who is widely admired for his effectiveness on Capitol Hill, had uncharacteristically strong criticism of the Bush administration's handling of the Gulf crisis and Middle East policy in general.

While Dine gave President Bush high marks for swiftly mobilizing world opinion against Iraq after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, he said the administration "seems to have lost its compass" on Middle East policy and U.S.-Israel relations in particular.

The Bush White House has "made the error of attempting to curry favor with the Arab countries" while "distancing itself from Israel," he said.

And when Washington moves away from Israel, he said, "the potential for Arab attacks increases."

Dine described 1990 as a "year of new tensions in the U.S.-Israeli relationship." But he also said it had been a year of tremendous accomplishments.

He recalled that the year had started out with Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) calling for a 5 percent reduction in U.S. aid to Israel and other top foreign aid recipients. But the congressional term had ended with Israel receiving all \$3 billion of its requested foreign assistance package for the 1991 fiscal year.

Furthermore, he said, the outcome of this month's elections have been a net gain for the pro-Israel community.

### Four Targeted Are Re-elected

Twenty-seven friends of Israel in the Senate were re-elected, he said, and three new members of the Senate -- in Colorado, New Hampshire and Idaho -- are expected to be more supportive of Israel than their immediate predecessors.

Arab-American groups had targeted four pro-Israel senators for defeat, Dine said, and all of them were re-elected.

In the House of Representatives, meanwhile, AIPAC figures a net gain of 19 pro-Israel members of Congress. There are two new Jewish representatives, New Hampshire socialist Bernie Sanders and Richard Zimmer, a New Jersey Republican.

But Dine conceded that the defeat of Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.) had been a major blow to the pro-Israel community. "Rudy is an irreplaceable asset," he said.

He pointed out, however, that Boschwitz's successor, progressive Democrat Paul Wellstone, is also Jewish and "has stated he is a supporter of foreign aid to Israel."

"We look forward to working with him," Dine said.

The AIPAC leader shared the platform at the CJF forum with Mark Talisman, director of the council's Washington Action Office.

Talisman also spoke about the new Congress, which he said would contain "few changes, in terms of members, but (contains) many members who have been changed" by the budget crisis that immediately preceded this month's elections.

### Widespread Voter Disgust

He was referring to the widespread disgust voters felt for a Congress that seemed incapable of trimming the massive federal budget deficit.

Talisman observed that Bush had already renewed his pledge for "no new taxes," meaning the budget-cutting environment would undoubtedly grow tougher.

That is likely to have a negative impact on a range of domestic issues of concern to American Jews, he said.

"Make no mistake -- Uncle Sugar is finished. There is no open till," he said. "Everyone's in deficit now."

Talisman talked passionately about the historic emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union -- and the high cost of resettling them in Israel and the United States.

He noted that despite the intense budget pressures, the American Jewish community had succeeded in getting full federal funding to bring another 40,000 Soviet Jews to the United States during the new fiscal year.

## CAR BOMBING AT MELBOURNE SCHOOL YET ANOTHER ACT OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Jeremy Jones

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Police are investigating the firebombing of a car parked on the grounds of a Jewish school here, the latest incident in a wave of anti-Semitic activity.

The vehicle, owned by the caretaker at the East Hawthorn campus of Bialik College, had been daubed three days earlier with the words, "The car will burn, Jude."

The marking followed the appearance of graffiti such as "Heil Germany" and "Die Jews Burn" written with a blue marker in the same handwriting.

The incident was the latest demonstration of anti-Semitic graffiti, vandalism and assaults on people and property that has swept Melbourne this year.

Although there are no publicly identified neo-Nazi or racist groups in the city, over 70 anti-Semitic incidents have been recorded in Melbourne this year, more than double the number for all of the rest of Australia.

The attacks on Jewish property began after a sensational broadcast about anti-Semitism in Australia ran on a popular television program.

In typical incidents, bricks were hurled through the plate-glass windows of a Jewish-owned grocery, and a private home was daubed with Nazi slogans.

Mal Sandon, the minister of police and emergency services in the Victoria state government, said a team of detectives has been assigned to investigate the attacks.

## JOBLESS RATE DIPS BELOW 10 PERCENT; TOURISM FROM U.S. FALLS 29 PERCENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Israel's unemployment rate fell significantly in the third quarter of the year, but there is no reason to celebrate, according to the experts.

Figures released Tuesday by the Central Bureau of Statistics indicated an overall jobless rate of 8.9 percent in the period July through September, down from 10.2 percent in the previous quarter and 9.5 percent in the first quarter of this year.

David Magen, the minister of economics and planning, warned that the decline was temporary. He predicted no substantive change in the job picture for at least two years.

Employment service officials said the lower jobless rate reflected a trend to replace Arab workers from the administered territories with Israeli Jews.

Any job vacated by an Arab in Israel and filled by an Israeli causes a drop in the rate of unemployment in Israel proper, but creates a new unemployment problem in the territories which may be more explosive, the officials explained.

They also noted that the large masses of job-seeking immigrants arriving daily from the Soviet Union have not yet entered the job market.

Although the third-quarter unemployment figures were the first this year to dip below 9 percent, the jobless rate for women stood at 10.8 percent, down from 12.1 percent in the second quarter.

Among men, the decline was from 8.9 to 7.7

percent.

Another statistical decline announced Monday, though unrelated to the unemployment figures, could affect the number of jobs available.

Tourism continued to drop from virtually every country.

France headed the list with a 31 percent decline in the number of visitors in September. The United States was not far behind with a 29 percent decrease.

Only Norway held firm as a source of foreign visitors.

Meanwhile, environmentalists had cause for concern. Yosef Givol, head of Tel Aviv's sanitation department, reported that the amount of garbage being generated in the Greater Tel Aviv region was rising at the rate of 4 percent a year.

The average Israeli disposes of 4.4 pounds of trash a day, Givol told an international seminar on environmental problems.

He said the garbage dump at Hiriya, a noxious landfill between Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion Airport, has reached capacity and will have to be closed shortly.

## GIDEON HAUSNER DEAD AT 75; WAS PROSECUTOR OF EICHMANN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Gideon Hausner, a prominent lawyer and former attorney general who won international fame for his prosecution of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1961, died here Thursday after a long illness at the age of 75. He will be buried Sunday at the Mount Herzl cemetery.

Hausner served four terms in the Knesset as a member of the Independent Liberal Party, and was a minister-without-portfolio in the governments of Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin.

Named attorney general in 1960, Hausner began prosecuting his most famous case the following year, when Eichmann was put on trial in Jerusalem.

In his opening statement, Hausner declared, "I do not stand alone here in denouncing this man. Beside me stand the 6 million who can no longer stand here to accuse him."

Eichmann was executed May 31, 1962, and Hausner subsequently wrote a book about the trial, "Justice in Jerusalem," which was published in 1966.

Hausner, who served as chairman of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Foundation, had no qualms about tackling world powers whose policies he considered harmful to Israel or the Jewish people.

In 1983 he headed an international commission that planned to put the Soviet Union on public "trial" for "violations" of its own laws by the persistent persecution of Jewish culture and the Hebrew language.

Earlier that same year, he was sharply critical of the Reagan administration for banning the sale of F-16 fighters to Israel.

He charged that President Reagan and Vice President George Bush failed to absorb "the main lesson of the Holocaust," which according to Hausner was that only a strong Israel can protect the Jewish people.

Hausner was born in Lvov, Poland, in 1915, and immigrated to Palestine at the age of 12. He studied law and philosophy at the Hebrew University and was active in the Haganah, the Jewish militia of the pre-statehood period.