

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1990

NO. 223

## NEW RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIANS IS PUSHED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

By Aliza Marcus

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Just as the Security Council was settling down this week for discussions on the Persian Gulf crisis before Thursday's vote on a resolution supporting the use of force to counter Iraqi aggression, the Palestinian issue again was pushed to the forefront of discussions.

In what was a shock to both the Israelis and the Americans, the sponsors of the latest resolution on the situation of the Palestinians in the Israeli-administered territories insisted their amended resolution be voted on before the Security Council dealt with the Gulf crisis.

In Washington, the State Department registered its disapproval of the surprise initiative.

"On the eve of the ministerial session of the Security Council and as the secretary-general plans to send his envoy to Israel shortly, we believe that this is not the appropriate time to engage in a detailed debate on the issue of the occupied territories," said Richard Boucher, the department's deputy spokesman, said Wednesday.

Boucher added that after the vote on the use of force in the Gulf, the United States would be willing to discuss issues related to Israel and the Palestinians.

Although voting was expected to be put off until Thursday or Friday, the move on the resolution put the United States in the uncomfortable position of trying to balance its close ties to Israel with its need to maintain an Arab coalition against the Iraqi president.

### A 'Dangerous Resolution'

"I think it is a dangerous resolution, and if the U.S. wants to avoid linkage of this issue and the Gulf crisis, then it can't accept this resolution," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"The United States must bite the bullet and, if necessary, veto the resolution," he said.

The latest draft of the resolution before the Security Council, sponsored by Cuba, Yemen, Malaysia and Colombia, no longer calls for the stationing of U.N. military observers in the West Bank.

Instead, it calls for the Security Council to appoint an ombudsman to be sent to the administered territories, "to monitor and observe the situation, with the help of the United Nations personnel stationed there, and to report on it to the secretary-general of the United Nations and the Security Council."

But as in the previous resolution, it endorses the idea of holding a meeting of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which protects the rights of civilians living under occupation.

It also urges the Israeli government to accept the legal applicability of the convention to the administered territories and "welcomes the calls" for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Reich said acceptance of the resolution could accelerate U.N. involvement in Israeli affairs and

finally lead to the stationing of military observers in the administered territories, something Israel strongly opposes.

Already the United States has twice backed Security Council resolutions critical of Israel since the Oct. 8 riots on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, in which 17 Arabs were fatally shot by Israeli police.

### Visa For PLO Official In Process

Reich added that anything short of a U.S. veto would be contrary to the spirit of the agreement reached between Washington and Jerusalem a few weeks ago over the expected visit to Israel of Jean-Claude Aime, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's personal representative.

In Washington, meanwhile, a State Department official disputed reports that the United States had denied an entry visa for Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's top foreign policy adviser.

Kaddoumi was expected to attend Thursday's General Assembly debate on the Palestine question, which is scheduled each year to coincide with the anniversary of the 1947 U.N. resolution that partitioned Palestine and led to the creation of the State of Israel.

Kaddoumi's visa application "has been received and is being processed," said the State Department official, pointing out that Kaddoumi had previously received visas to attend General Assembly sessions.

(JTA correspondent Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

## SOVIET PANEL CHARGES ZIONISTS HAVE SET UP SPY NETWORK IN USSR

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The founding congress of a Soviet Zionist federation was nearly thwarted Tuesday, when about 100 delegates who showed up for the meeting in Moscow found the hall closed and themselves assailed in the media for trying to subvert the Soviet Union.

The attack was spearheaded by the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public, whose communique denouncing "Zionist activity" was carried by the official news agency Tass and published in Soviet newspapers, including the right-wing Sovetskaya Rossiya.

There was also a mass demonstration in Moscow by some 300 people, including Palestinians, who waved banners with the slogan "Stop Zionists in Lenin's Land," according to a telephone report from Moscow received by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

The Anti-Zionist Committee, to which some highly placed Jewish personalities once lent their names, was frequently used in the past as a channel for Soviet attacks on Israeli policy.

It charged Tuesday that Zionists have set up a spy network, which has penetrated the government and the new private sector.

"They have infiltrated the highest levels of government and are using joint enterprises to amass resources they need to finance their plans," the communique charged.

It estimated that Zionist groups were active in 50 Soviet cities.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry

protested strongly Wednesday over "the continuing existence" of the Anti-Zionist Committee, "despite assurances from highly placed Soviet officials that the committee was in the process of being disbanded."

### 'Anachronism From The Past'

"We call upon the Soviet leadership to immediately condemn the Anti-Zionist Committee's statement as inappropriate at a time of increasingly warm relations between the Soviet Union and the Jewish national homeland," the statement said. "We once again urge the Soviet leadership to disband this anachronism of the past."

In fact, a key member of the committee had told American Jewish leaders two years ago that the committee was being disbanded.

According to the account received by the Long Island Committee, the idea for a Soviet Zionist federation originated with Lev Gorodetsky, head of the Irgun Zioni.

The group invited representatives of Soviet Jewish organizations to a congress in Moscow on Nov. 27. The list was obtained from the Vaad, the umbrella body of Jewish organizations in the Soviet Union, which decided to support the idea of a Zionist federation.

But when the 100 delegates arrived at a club rented by the Irgun Zioni, they found it closed. They decided, after much discussion, to meet instead at the Shalom Theater, which has become a center of Jewish cultural life in Moscow.

By that time, the Anti-Zionist Committee's attack had already appeared in the media, and a demonstration was arranged.

The Anti-Zionist Committee charged that the conference and the federation were planned to collect secret military information about scientists and well-known Soviet Jews and transmit it to the Israeli Foreign Ministry. It urged the Soviet parliament to put a stop to this activity.

### **OFFICIAL ASKED TO PROVE CLAIM THAT MANY OLIM ARE NOT JEWISH** By Cathrine Gerson

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz was challenged in the Knesset on Wednesday to back up his charge that 30 to 35 percent of immigrants arriving in Israel from the Soviet Union are not Jews according to halachah, or religious law.

The minister, who sits in the Cabinet as an independent since he quit the Orthodox Shas party, dropped his bombshell while visiting Moscow two weeks ago.

He has since been assailed by many public figures for raising a very sensitive issue at a time when it could only harm immigration.

Peretz told a news conference here Tuesday that while he wanted to broach the subject with care and sensitivity, "it is impossible to continue sweeping the problem under the carpet."

The Knesset devoted Wednesday's session to immigration and absorption. Volunteer organizations dealing with immigrants were invited. Ministers concerned with the various aspects of immigrant absorption were on hand to field questions.

But the orderly discussion soon degenerated into a shouting match between Peretz and his predecessor, Laborite Ya'acov Tsur.

Peretz claims he has secret documents proving beyond doubt that 30 to 35 percent of the Soviet immigrants do not satisfy halachic criteria of Jewish identity, though they are eligi-

ble for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return.

Soviet Jews had a very high rate of inter-marriage during the 70 years of Communist rule, and many are offspring of mothers who would not be Jewish as defined by the Israeli rabbinate. Except for the Reform movement, Jewish identity is passed on only through the mother.

### More Mobile Homes Ordered

The Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported Tuesday that Arye Levin, who heads the Israeli consular mission in Moscow, sent a secret report to his superiors at the Foreign Ministry, stating that about 25 percent of the Soviet immigrants are halachically not Jews.

But Interior Minister Arye Deri, a former Shas colleague of Peretz's, insists that no more than 4.8 percent of the immigrants can be defined as non-Jewish.

The two Orthodox ministers have been summoned to meetings with the Ashkenazic and Sephardic chief rabbis, Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliahu, to try to rationalize the differences.

Also invited was Interior Minister Avner Shaki of the National Religious Party, who was asked to explain what his ministry is doing about issuing marriage licenses.

So far, no decisions have been made.

Meanwhile, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon announced Wednesday that the government has decided to buy another 33,000 small mobile homes, which he claims will house 150,000 new immigrants.

Observers said it was only a "drop in the bucket" that will hardly help solve the immigrant housing shortage.

### **MODAI'S SURPRISE TAX MOVES RAISE FEROCIOUS OPPOSITION** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i sprang two surprise tax measures on the public Tuesday night and ran into ferocious opposition from the Histadrut labor federation.

The levies, a well-kept secret until now, are intended to help finance immigrant absorption. They were disclosed after gaining near unanimous support in the Cabinet from ministers relieved not to have to pare their own budgets any further.

One measure is a 2 percent rise in the value-added tax, bringing it to 18 percent. It is to go into effect some time before March 31, 1991.

The second is a 5 percent surtax or "absorption levy" that will be added to everyone's income tax starting in January.

Together, they are expected to net the Treasury an additional \$275 million toward reducing the projected budget deficit next year.

The new taxes mean in effect that Israeli wage earners will again be turning over more than half their pay checks to the government.

Histadrut threatened a general strike Sunday that would shut down the entire economy.

The labor federation only last month reached an agreement with the Treasury to accept an economic austerity package it disliked but admitted was necessary. Several constituent unions balked, but a threatened general strike was averted.

Histadrut leaders, kept in the dark about the new tax proposals, now feel betrayed. A strike seems likely, barring last-minute negotiations.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:**

**MAJOR'S VIEWS ON ISRAEL UNKNOWN  
BUT LIKELY NO MATCH TO THATCHER'S**  
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- British policy toward Israel is unlikely to change much under John Major, who officially replaced Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday as prime minister.

But leaders of British Jewry seem to feel that no matter how friendly and attuned to Jewish concerns Thatcher's hand-picked successor may be, he will not be able to match the so-called "Iron Lady's" empathy with Jews, which is rooted in shared values.

The British government announced Wednesday that it was renewing diplomatic relations with Syria immediately, but sources at the Foreign Office stressed there was no connection between the move and Thatcher's departure.

Thatcher had always opposed the resumption of relations, which were broken off in 1988 in the face of evidence of Syrian involvement in the abortive attempt to blow up an El Al airplane at London's Heathrow Airport.

Douglas Hurd, who is to remain foreign secretary in the new government, told Parliament on Wednesday that Britain had received a "confidential account" of the Syrian position on the attempt to blow up the plane, as well as "confirmation that Syria rejects acts of international terrorism and will take action against the perpetrators of such acts that are supported by convincing evidence."

The restoration of ties with Syria follows closely on President Bush's meeting last Friday in Geneva with Syrian President Hafez Assad. Both countries would appear to be shoring up ties with Damascus in appreciation for its support in efforts to isolate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

**Will Meet With Shamir Next Week**

The Persian Gulf crisis is likely to remain the top international priority of the British government under Major. Like Thatcher, he is said to favor focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict only after Iraq withdraws its forces from Kuwait or is defeated in a military confrontation.

Major's stance on Israel is largely unknown. His stint at the Foreign Office, from July to October 1989, was too short to reveal his views on the Jewish state and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We really do not know much of his thinking on the Middle East or what he feels about Israel," said a senior Israeli official here. "We will be waiting to see not only what positions Mr. Major adopts, but who he appoints to key foreign policy positions."

The official will not have to wait long. Major is scheduled to meet Yitzhak Shamir when the Israeli prime minister passes briefly through London next week en route to the United States.

Before he joined the Cabinet, Major visited Israel, as part of an official parliamentary delegation, and the West Bank, as a guest of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

On domestic issues, Major opposed Nazi war crimes trials in Britain by voting initially against the enabling legislation supported by the government. When the War Crimes Bill came up for a second reading in the House of Commons last March, Major failed to cast a vote either way.

But parliamentary observers pointed out that a number of prominent politicians, including Jews, opposed such trials in principle.

Regardless of how supportive for Jewish concerns Major turns out to be, his predecessor will be held in deep affection by British Jews. They already regard her tenure, the longest of any British premier this century, with nostalgia.

**Pushed Hard For Soviet Jews**

The "Iron Lady" rarely shed tears in public. Jews recall one occasion, however, when a group of Soviet Jewish mothers described the agony of having their sons held captive in the Soviet Union. Profoundly moved, Thatcher listened and wept silently as they told their stories.

During her incumbency, the doors of No. 10 Downing St. were always open to Jews from the Soviet Union and to delegations seeking to help them. Soviet Jewry campaigners were astonished by the persistence with which Thatcher pressed Soviet leaders to let their Jewish citizens leave.

Thatcher herself traces her sympathy for the Jewish people to a time just before World War II when Edith Muehvaer, an Austrian Jewish girl, wrote a poignant appeal for help.

Muehvaer was the pen pal of the young Margaret Roberts' sister. After she wrote about the Nazi threat, the future prime minister's father invited her to stay with the family. It was then that Margaret learned firsthand about the tragedy unfolding for European Jewry.

When she was first elected to Parliament for Finchley, Thatcher paid 10 shillings (about \$1) to be the first subscriber to the Anglo-Israel Friendship League and was elected its president.

In one of her earliest public tributes to the Jewish state, Thatcher maintained that "Israel has achieved more in the 16 years of her existence than most states achieve in a century."

Her secretary of state for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkind, once observed that Israel "is the very embodiment of Margaret Thatcher's own values: self-help and hard work." According to Rifkind, Thatcher and Israel share two characteristics: "stubbornness and enterprise."

The prime minister was an enthusiastic member of the Conservative Friends of Israel. She joined the Friends of the Hebrew University and became a patron of the Tel Aviv University Trust.

**Appointed Record Number Of Jews**

Thatcher visited Israel both as an opposition leader and while in the government. She took genuine pleasure in the fact that her daughter Carol lived on a kibbutz for some time.

On her official visit to Israel in 1986, Thatcher was told by Shimon Peres, who was prime minister at the time, "Our people have taken you to their hearts."

Thatcher appointed a record number of Jews to Cabinet office. It is widely accepted that her political and moral outlook was shaped to a significant degree by two Jews: Lord Joseph and Lord Jakobovits.

Keith Joseph was her early political mentor. The policies that came to be known as "Thatcherism" might well have been labeled "Josephism."

Thatcher, an archconservative in politics and economic matters, made no secret of her admiration for the Jewish ethic of close family life, hard work, self reliance and initiative articulated by Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, the recently retired chief rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth.

She was said to be perfectly happy with commentator Hugo Young's description of the chief rabbi as, "in effect, the spiritual leader of Thatcherite Britain."

**HERZOG CALLS ON ISRAELI ARABS  
TO BE BRIDGE TO JEWISH PEOPLE**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog called on leaders of Israel's Arab community Wednesday to "face up to their need and obligation to be a bridge between Arabs and Jews, to recognize that Israel is their country" and it "will not disappear."

Herzog's speech wound up a daylong seminar on the crisis of intercommunal relations in Israel, attended by about 150 people representing 37 voluntary groups in Israel that are actively trying to improve Jewish-Arab relations.

The event, whose main sponsor was the New Israel Fund, was held at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. The seminar moved to the nearby presidential residence for its concluding session.

Herzog was sharply critical of Arab leaders in the administered territories who, along with hostile Arab states and terrorist organizations, "continue to call for increased violence, extremism, hostile relations between the two people."

The president also rebuked Jewish extremists who take the law into their own hands. But he pointed out that the Jewish political leadership "almost without exception" speaks out for restraint.

He said he was heartened by the large number of groups taking part in the seminar, but there still were "very disturbing signs of alienation between Jewish and Arab citizens."

Several other key speakers criticized the national leadership for failing to face the challenge of worsening relations.

Edna Margalit, vice president of the New Israel Fund, spoke of "a widening chasm" between Arab and Jewish citizens.

She warned, "If the public and its leadership persist in their apathy, by the time people get around to doing something, it may be too late, and we will all pay the price."

**Israeli Lack Of Understanding**

Makram Khouri, an Israeli Arab actor from Haifa, complained of a lack of understanding on the part of Jews.

"We have identified, as Israeli Arabs, with our Palestinian brethren since, after all, we are talking about one people," he said. "This is a natural and human identification."

"But the Israeli public has not understood this need and, to my great sorrow, has turned somewhat hostile."

"They forget that they too identified with their Jewish brethren in distress. Is what is permitted to others forbidden to me?" he asked.

Alouph Hareven, a senior fellow at the Van Leer Institute, offered an optimistic view of a future he said was possible.

It would be a time when Jews could visit Arab villages and Arabs could walk the streets of Tel Aviv without fear, he said.

"A day will come when the Israeli government will include an Arab minister, the supreme court an Arab justice, the police an Arab commissioner."

"After peace with our neighbors, young Arabs will also be called on to serve in the Israel Defense Force. And Arabs will serve in senior posts in civil service, and large economic enterprises will also be headed by Arabs, and there will be Arab university professors," Hareven predicted.

**ISRAELI PIG BREEDERS SQUEALING  
OVER LEGISLATION PROMISED AGUDAH**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli pig breeders, whose livelihood may be threatened by legislation promised to the Agudat Yisrael party by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, are unhappy with proposals that would give the treif industry a year to phase out pork production.

Private breeders, Israel's pig lobby and members of the pig-raising Kibbutz Mizra staged a loud protest Wednesday outside the Knesset. In the chamber, sympathetic members of the Knesset Interior Committee demanded that the industry be paid hundreds of millions of shekels in compensation if the anti-pig legislation goes through.

The law banning production and sale of pork in Israel is part of a package of strict legislation that Shamir promised the Agudah in exchange for its joining the coalition, which it did on Nov. 16. He also pledged legislation that would tighten already severe restrictions on abortion.

The shadow of the pig law has non-kosher restaurateurs in Tel Aviv vowing they will go to prison rather than stop serving pork, which some say accounts for more than half their business.

"Better 'white meat' on our plates than 'black' in our minds," a chorus of demonstrators chanted as the committee session, the sixth on the contentious issue, proceeded in the legislature.

"White meat" is an Israeli euphemism for pork because of its rather covert nature in Israel. "Black" is the disparaging term used to denote the Orthodox haredim.

The anti-pig law, which will ban the breeding and marketing of pig everywhere except in Arab areas of the country, also enjoys support among non-Orthodox politicians who accept the argument that the pig is a symbol of non-Jewishness and not just a halachically forbidden species.

But there is concern in Labor and Mapam for Kibbutz Mizra and other farms. Mizra has over the years built up a multimillion-dollar pork industry, both for export and domestic consumption, and the kibbutz says it will be destitute if this is closed down by dint of the law.

**FIRST ISRAELI ENVOY TO PRAGUE  
IN 23 YEARS PRESENTS CREDENTIALS**  
By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Joel Sher, Israel's first ambassador to Czechoslovakia in 23 years, presented his credentials Tuesday to President Vaclav Havel.

Havel made restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel a priority after the Communist government that ruptured those ties fell last December and he was chosen to lead the nation.

The reception at Prague's Hradcany Castle, which followed the traditional salute of the honor guard, was televised during the Tuesday evening news program. However, the Israeli ambassador was mistakenly identified as a visiting minister from Finland.

But after being advised by viewers, Czechoslovak Television apologized for the error in the next news bulletin and broadcast an interview with the new envoy.

In the interview, Sher emphasized the need to make up for the missing 23 years in relations between the two nations. He said 11 Israeli-Czechoslovak accords were being prepared to foster cultural, economic and social cooperation.