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ARRIVAL OF 2,500 SOVIET OLIM SETS ALL-TIME ONE-DAY RECORD By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The one-day record of immigration to Israel was broken Thursday when nearly 2,500 newcomers, almost all of them from the Soviet Union, arrived in a fleet of planes.

It brought to 24,000 the number of immigrant arrivals so far in November. The total for the first 11 months of the year is about 160,000, 65 percent of whom came from the Soviet Union.

A partial walkout by employees of the Absorption Ministry appeared to have little effect on the new arrivals. They were processed quickly and in an orderly manner.

Because of the labor problem, however, they will have to return to the airport to complete their paperwork before looking for housing and jobs.

Shortly after landing, the immigrants were bused to temporary quarters at hotels all over the country, where they will remain in the interim.

Absorption Ministry personnel went on strike this month to protest the failure to hire additional help to cope with the immigrant influx. They are demanding extra pay for extra work.

ON EVE OF U.S. TRIP, SHAMIR BLAMES U.N., EGYPT, U.S. FOR WRONGDOINGS By Cathrine Gerson

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sounded a series of sour notes on the eve of his departure for the United States.

On Thursday, he accused the United Nations of interfering in Israel's affairs; held Egypt responsible, along with Jordan and Syria, for allowing an atmosphere of hostility toward Israel to fester; and less than two weeks before his scheduled meeting with President Bush on Dec. 11 in Washington, complained that the United States was prepared to sacrifice Israel's interests in order to hold together its anti-Iraq coalition.

American efforts to obtain a Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force to get Iraq out of Kuwait "is bringing in its wake dangerous plans for Israel," said the prime minister, at the annual Editors Committee Luncheon held at the Journalists Association headquarters here.

The occasion was the 43rd anniversary of the U.N. General Assembly's Nov. 29, 1947, resolution calling for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

Shamir assailed the United Nations for trying to investigate the killing of at least 17 Arabs by Israeli border police during the Temple Mount riots in Jerusalem on Oct. 8.

"This line of intervention in Israel's affairs in different and strange ways, by sending delegations and ombudsmen, makes the atmosphere sour and places mines on the diplomatic road," Shamir said.

He blamed the recent spate of attacks along Israel's borders on what he called the general anti-Israel atmosphere in Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

"Egypt, which maintains formal relations of peace with us, has not succeeded, and maybe not

even tried, to dam the wells of poisoned propaganda against us," Shamir said.

Shamir denied published reports that his office has placed a blackout on any new peace initiative he may raise with Bush next week. "There is no censorship on ideas for diplomatic moves, that is simply not true.

"If there will be a need for new diplomatic ideas, we shall prepare them, and there are already some plans," Shamir said without elaborating.

But he said there would be no diplomatic moves in the Middle East before there is a resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis.

DERI INQUIRY YIELDS LITTLE MORE THAN FRAYED NERVES, WIDER RIFT By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The six-month investigation of alleged malfeasance on the part of Interior Minister Arye Deri seems to have produced little more than frayed nerves and a widening rift between the national police and their political bosses.

The 31-year-old Deri, the youngest member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Cabinet and a rising star of the Orthodox Shas party, threatened to resign because he is "sick and tired" of the ongoing police inquiry, which has so far produced neither formal charges nor exoneration.

He was persuaded by Shamir to stay in the government. According to some reports, the prime minister assured him the inquiry was drawing to a close, but there was no information from the police to bear that out.

Deri is alleged to have illicitly funneled his ministry's funds to Shas-affiliated institutions. He has also been accused of personal improprieties in connection with the purchase of apartments in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the police are furious over Police Minister Ronni Milo's threat to take action against unnamed high-ranking officers for allegedly leaking details of their inquiry.

Milo was reportedly angered because press photographers were at police headquarters when a former senior Shas official, Yehezkel Schayek, was due to report for questioning.

Schayek is a personal aid to Rabbi Eliezer Schach of Bnei Brak, Shas' spiritual mentor. Milo demanded to know where the media received advance information that he would be present.

Sources close to Police Commissioner Ya'acov Ternier said the leak came from Shas, not the police. They intimated that Milo was exerting unfair pressure on the commissioner and on other top officers for political reasons.

Sources close to Deri have countered with charges that the commissioner is deliberately dragging out the investigation to prolong his tenure in office.

They said that with 50 detectives working on the Deri case, the inquiry would have ended long ago were it not Ternier's "insurance policy."

The sources claimed Ternier knows that Milo and Shamir would like him to resign. They cannot however, force the issue while the Deri case is still ongoing because it would look like political intervention.

HISTADRUT STRIKE SET FOR SUNDAY DESPITE COURT'S RESTRAINING ORDER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Histadrut has no intention of calling off a crippling general strike set for this Sunday, despite a temporary restraining order issued by a Tel Aviv district court Thursday.

The powerful labor federation plans to bring the entire economy to a virtual standstill on the first day of the work week, the head of its trade unions department, Chaim Haberfeld, declared at an emotional news conference here.

Histadrut is protesting a series of austere economic measures proposed by the government which the union says will fall most heavily on wage earners.

The restraining order was obtained by the Israel Chamber of Commerce, which contended that the strike call was politically motivated and calculated to harm business.

The decision to defy it was questioned in principle by some veteran trade unionists, who said "the founding fathers would turn over in their graves."

But the labor federation complained that since it was not represented in court, the injunction was one-sided.

The judge ordered both sides to appear Sunday morning, but the strike is scheduled to start at 6 a.m., before the courts open.

Haberfeld said Thursday that he would try to arrange a court hearing Friday with both sides in attendance, and that he hoped to convince the judge of the legitimacy of the work stoppage.

Objections To Economic Program

Labor has long objected to Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i's economic program, which would reduce the minimum wage, raise taxes and allegedly rob savings and pension programs.

A general strike planned for last month was called off after Haberfeld met with Moda'i and other Treasury officials, who had reportedly agreed to more balanced measures.

But the labor leaders were stunned Wednesday when the finance minister unveiled two previously secret proposals amounting to substantial tax hikes.

The value-added tax is to be increased from 16 to 18 percent next year, and a 5 percent surtax will be added to everyone's income tax effective Jan. 1.

The surtax was called an "absorption levy" because it is intended to help pay for the absorption of the hundreds of thousands of Soviet immigrants expected to arrive in Israel next year.

"How dare they take away the rights of the poor and the elderly in the name of new immigrants and in the same breath give hundreds of millions to ultra-Orthodox institutions?" Haberfeld declared.

He was referring to the generous government stipends to religious schools run by the Orthodox parties that give Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's coalition its Knesset majority.

The economic measures were approved by a Cabinet majority after a full day of deliberations and announced only Wednesday evening.

The strike call followed almost immediately.

The walkout will affect both public and private sectors. Government and private factories will be idled, airports and seaports will be shut down, and railroads and most other public trans-

portation will be suspended.

Schools from kindergartens to universities will be closed. There will be a radio and television blackout, and no banks will open.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES CONCEALED NEWS OF CEMETERY DESECRATION

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Enfield, northern London, was concealed from the public for three weeks by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which has admitted the concealment and is taking the blame.

Some 54 gravestones at the Enfield Jewish cemetery were daubed with swastikas. It was only the latest of more than 50 such incidents since April, when the Jewish cemetery in nearby Edmonton was desecrated.

The withholding of information has some board members angry. "The policy of keeping things under wraps is bankrupt -- it is deceitful," said Professor Geoffrey Alderman, a member.

Raymond Kalman, chairman of the board's defense committee, said that the board had agreed not to publicize the incident, which occurred Nov. 9, at the request of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, which runs the cemetery.

The union is an independent organization with a membership of over 6,000. No one was available for comment at its Stamford Hill headquarters. It was said, however, to be fearful that publicity would only bring more trouble.

In private, board officials have complained about taking the flak for the union. When the incidents finally came to light, the board ends up "carrying the can," another member of the defense committee said.

BLACKOUT IMPOSED ON INQUIRY OF PALESTINIAN PLANE BOMBER

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The public prosecutor has imposed a news blackout on the pretrial investigation of suspected Palestinian terrorist Mohammed Rashid, who has been implicated in the 1982 bombing of a Pan American jet airliner over the Pacific.

Judicial sources said last week that publication has been banned of all testimony and documents related to the investigation.

The orders were issued jointly by Eleftherios Moisisdis, the public prosecutor, and Aspasia Karellou, the investigating magistrate, the sources said.

The ban is permitted by a 1938 law that prohibits the publication of witness testimony or any related documents while an investigation is in progress, in order to preserve confidentiality and protect the rights of the accused.

Rashid, said to be 34, has been charged with premeditated murder, planting explosives, causing an explosion and illegal activities on an airliner. The bombing resulted in the death of a Japanese teen-age passenger and injuries to 15 other passengers.

The United States had repeatedly asked for his extradition.

But Justice Minister Athanassios Kanellos Poulas announced in September that Rashid would be tried in Greece in accordance with local legislation and the 1971 Montreal Convention, which permits people charged with terrorist acts against aircraft to be tried in the country holding them.

DESTROYING IRAQI MILITARY IS NOT IN U.S. INTERESTS, CONGRESS TOLD

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- U.S. interests might not be served if Iraq's military power is destroyed, former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger told Congress this week.

"We know that the reduction of Saddam Hussein's power will lead to other sources of instability," Schlesinger said Tuesday at the first of a series of Senate Armed Services Committee hearings on U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf.

Israel wants Iraq's military completely destroyed, because "that would reduce the Arab order of battle and they would be a principal beneficiary of that," Schlesinger said.

But the United States "must think through the balance of power in the region without acting precipitously simply to achieve our current objective of inflicting punishment on Iraq," said Schlesinger, who was secretary of defense from 1973 to 1975, under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, who was to have testified Tuesday, was rescheduled for next week. Secretary of State James Baker also will testify next week, but before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

On Wednesday, retired Adm. William Crowe, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the committee that the process of bringing peace to the Middle East "will be protracted with or without Saddam Hussein."

Crowe, who served from 1985 to 1989, under President Ronald Reagan, said that to achieve such a peace, a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict is needed.

References to Israel were rare during the first two days of hearings, but Sen. Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.) said, "With regard to Israel, it seems to me that a U.S. military incursion has an enormous downside for long-term stability, and we've made this situation more difficult by our unnecessary and unwise overtures to (Syrian President Hafez) Assad."

Destroying Nuclear Might Justified

Listing reasons for not destroying Iraq's military, Schlesinger cited the concerns of two of the key Arab members of the U.S. coalition against Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

"They would like to see (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein go, but they do not want to see Iraq removed from the balance of power," he said.

The former defense chief expressed concern about any shift in the balance of power to Syria. He said that Assad "until quite recently was higher on our list of rogues than was Saddam Hussein."

Schlesinger also rejected the possibility of a longer-term U.S. relationship with Syria beyond the Gulf crisis. "President Assad continues to lead a country that we describe as terrorist," he said.

"Therefore we ought not to assume that these relationships are anything but ephemeral. Americans tend to develop toward other countries loyalties that extend over too long a period."

Schlesinger said it would be strongly in the U.S. interest to attack Iraq for the purpose of destroying its nuclear capabilities.

He cited a New York Times poll published last week, which he said concluded that the only basis on which the American public would support

a war in the Middle East "would be to eliminate Iraq's nuclear capability."

But he said destroying Iraq's chemical weapons capabilities would not be a strong enough justification for going to war.

BONN KNEW OF HELP ON IRAQI GAS, LIED TO U.S., NEW BOOK CLAIMS

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A book scheduled to be published here this week claims that the Bonn government was fully aware of the help German industry was giving Iraq to manufacture poison gas while angrily denying allegations to that effect from several sources, including the U.S. administration.

The book, "Exporters of Death," was written by two German journalists, Hans Leyendecker and Richard Rickelmann.

They allege that the BND, the former West German counterespionage service, hired as an informer a man, Peter Leifer, who was illegally exporting raw materials to Iraq for the production of chemical weapons.

Leifer was identified as one of three managers of WET, a Hamburg-based company which traded with Iraq.

He has been in custody since August, when international pressure forced Bonn to get serious about the prosecution of individuals who were providing Iraq with the substances, machinery and know-how to produce poison gas.

According to the authors, the BND hired Leifer in 1986, at which time the authorities already had files about his illegal activities. He worked for the Munich-based spy agency for about two years.

Two other WET executives helped Leifer gather and deliver data required by the BND, the book says.

They continued to work for the BND after the prosecution in Darmstadt opened an official investigation into their illegal business.

In 1987, President Richard von Weizsacker of the Federal Republic and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher intervened with Iraq to pardon another WET executive, Nazar al-Kadhi, who was involved in espionage with Leifer.

Al-Kadhi, who had been under an Iraqi death sentence for espionage, was expelled to Germany.

During this period, frequent allegations that West German firms were helping Iraq produce chemical weapons were denounced by Bonn officials as part of an "anti-German campaign."

MOST ISRAELIS DON'T EXPECT IRAQI ATTACK By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A majority of Israelis do not expect Iraq to attack Israel with chemical weapons, and they oppose an Israeli attack on Iraq, according to a poll published last Friday in the weekly Mabat.

The survey, conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi research institute, found that 55 percent of Israelis do not believe Saddam Hussein will follow through on threats to attack Israel with chemical weapons. Twenty percent think he will.

More than 70 percent of respondents oppose an Israeli attack on Iraq if the United States does not act accordingly.

Fifty-five percent oppose Israel's promise to the United States not to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS, FIREBOMBINGS HIT WIDE AREA OF SAN FRANCISCO

By Garth Wolkoff

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Separate incidents of firebombings and other acts of anti-Semitic vandalism aimed at synagogues and other Bay Area Jewish institutions over the past two weeks have triggered a massive police investigation.

But while police officials suspect there is a connection between the incidents, they lack proof and so far have no solid clues to the identity of the perpetrators.

The latest targets were two East Bay synagogues, hit by firebombs early Monday morning.

They brought the number of anti-Semitic incidents in Northern California to 54 this year, up from 48 in 1989, and almost double the figure of 1988, according to a spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The attacks on Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland and Temple Beth Shalom in San Leandro bore a distinct resemblance to the spate of firebombings, arson and vandalism that hit other Jewish institutions over a wide area in the five days between Nov. 15 and 20.

Similar materials were used and three of the incidents occurred at about the same time of the day, the police noted.

"We can assume they're all connected and there's a good possibility there are the same suspects," said San Francisco Police Inspector Lou Ligouri, the department's liaison with the Jewish community. He stressed, however, that there is still no proof of a link.

\$13,000 In Rewards

No one was hurt in any of the attacks and the monetary damage was relatively small. But the communities have been severely shocked.

City and Jewish agencies in the Bay Area are offering rewards totalling \$13,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible.

San Leandro Mayor Donald Karp said Thursday that his city council will offer a \$5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of the Oakland and San Leandro synagogue bombings.

Karp also offered a \$500 reward out of his own pocket and said a San Leandro businessman, not identified, has put up the same amount.

On Tuesday, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors offered a \$5,000 reward. These rewards are in addition to the \$2,000 offered by ADL last week.

Meanwhile, community meetings have been held with the police to discuss security measures, and more are scheduled.

In the most recent attacks, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window in a room next to Beth Abraham's sanctuary between 2 and 3 a.m. Monday, according to Oakland police.

Another firebomb was tossed into a rear auditorium window at Beth Shalom at approximately 3 a.m.

Sgt. Ron Hanson of the Oakland arson and bomb detail estimates damage at Beth Abraham to be at least \$2,000. But synagogue administrator Bob Rothschild says the final price tag will be much higher, because a stained-glass window was broken in the antechamber where the bomb was thrown.

Rabbi Ira Book of Beth Shalom estimates damage at his Dolores Avenue synagogue to be around \$1,000. The incendiary bomb was thrown in a back window, he says, and fire damaged the window and the tile floor in the auditorium.

"Some synagogue members are traumatized," he said.

San Leandro police said residents of a condominium complex behind the synagogue reported seeing a white male, age 35 to 40, wearing a tan waist-length jacket, near the parking lot an hour before the bombing reportedly happened.

San Leandro Police Lt. Thomas Hull said witnesses also reported a late-model maroon Ford Mustang driving away from the synagogue at high speed.

Incidents Could Be Related

The same kind of incendiary device was used at both East Bay synagogues, leading Oakland and San Leandro police to deduce the incidents "could be related, based on the fact they're both near the freeway, they occurred in a fairly short amount of time, and it was the same type of operation," reported Lt. Mike Sims of the Oakland Police Department.

The earlier incidents included the firebombing of the offices of the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, and a fire set at Congregation Beth Israel-Judea in the Lakeshore area, both on Nov. 20.

Later the same day, Congregation Ner Tamid in the Sunset district and the Brotherhood Way Jewish Community Center received menacing telephone calls.

Meanwhile, in the days between the San Francisco and East Bay attacks, a "handful" of Bay Area Jewish institutions and at least one person with a Jewish last name have received threatening phone calls, according to Ligouri.

One of those calls was to the Jewish Community Federation office in San Rafael, where director Todd Stettner discovered a message left over Thanksgiving weekend on the answering machine that said, "You're next, anti-Christ."

That caller may have been "a crackpot who has called before," Stettner said.

In response to all of the attacks and threats, Jewish agencies throughout the Bay Area have held, and are scheduling, informational meetings.

Security and Safety Meetings

A meeting has been scheduled by ADL and the San Francisco-based JCRC for next week.

In San Francisco, the Nov. 20 arson at Congregation Beth Israel-Judea and a threatening phone call to the adjacent Brotherhood Way Jewish Community Center prompted that JCC to sponsor a series of security and safety meetings for the different Jewish institutions in its immediate area.

Four separate meetings will be held, and will feature police officers. One of the sessions will be a special forum for children who attend Brandeis-Hillel Day School and the Beth Israel-Judea religious school.

The ADL has assumed the role of information clearinghouse. Richard Hirschhaut, executive director of the ADL's Central Pacific region, said he doesn't think the bombings were "perpetrated by anti-Israel elements."

Scott Ury, ADL assistant director, said many of the incidents could have been the work of established hate organizations.