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**SOVIET JEWRY GROUP URGES BUSH TO WAIVE JACKSON-VANIK SANCTIONS**
**By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- In a major policy change, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry has announced it will ask President Bush to consider a one-year waiver of trade sanctions against the Soviet Union imposed by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the U.S. Trade Act of 1974.

The National Conference "now believes that the president should consider waiving the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment for the period provided by the law," which is one year, the group said in a statement approved Monday afternoon by the group's 20-member executive committee.

The move represents a re-evaluation of the position adopted by the National Conference on June 13, 1989. At that time, it decided it would support a waiver if Bush said he had received "appropriate assurances" on four major areas of concern to the conference.

Those concerns are that the Soviets maintain a "sustained level" of high emigration; put strict limits on the amount of time potential emigrants could be denied exit visas on the grounds of access to state secrets; resolve the "poor relatives" problem, in which exit visas are denied anyone whose family members refuse to sign waivers of financial obligation; and make progress on resolving the cases of long-term refuseniks.

The National Conference now feels Bush can satisfy himself that those conditions are met through conversations with the Soviets, said Martin Wenick, the group's executive director.

The action was taken "against the backdrop of almost two years of sustained high levels of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union," the group said in its announcement.

**Over 25,000 Made Aliyah Last Month**

Earlier in the day, the group announced that 25,186 Soviet Jews had immigrated to Israel last month, a 24 percent increase over the October figures and an all-time high. A total of 146,436 Soviet Jews have made aliyah so far this year.

An additional 900 Soviet Jews immigrated to the United States in November, according to preliminary statistics released in New York on Monday by HIAS, the international Jewish migration agency.

In announcing its new policy, the National Conference cited an estimate that more than 180,000 Jews will have emigrated from the Soviet Union by the end of the year, following the emigration of over 71,000 in 1989.

The conference, which represents 47 national Jewish organizations and 300 local Jewish federations and community councils, decided early last week to re-evaluate its stance on Jackson-Vanik, which Congress adopted in 1975 as a way of pressuring the Soviet Union to allow more Jews to emigrate.

Wenick said Bush was made aware last Thursday of the review and it "may have been one of the contributing factors" that led him the following day to indicate publicly for the first time that he is considering an early waiver of the amendment's sanctions.

At a White House news conference last Friday, Bush said he was considering a waiver of trade sanctions now because the Soviet Union faces severe food shortages this winter and also as a way of helping U.S. farmers in the Midwest, who could boost grain exports.

Following the president's statement, a delegation of National Conference leaders met Monday morning with Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser, and "we factored in what he had to say," Wenick said.

The conference then polled its executive committee by telephone, reaching a "general consensus" in favor of the new position.

**Union Of Councils Opposes Waiver**

Until Friday, Bush had maintained that he would not waive trade sanctions until the Soviet Union enacted long-promised reforms of its emigration policy.

But under Jackson-Vanik, the president simply has to certify that the Soviets are committed to maintaining a sustained, high level of emigration, Wenick explained.

While the amendment says nothing about state secrets, "poor relatives" or long-term refuseniks, "one would assume he's also going to be mindful of the constituencies here and their concerns and that they will be testifying before any hearings that the Congress will be having on the waiver," Wenick said.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, a grass-roots Jewish group representing local Soviet Jewry groups, continues to oppose a waiver until the emigration reforms are codified.

David Waksberg, vice president of the umbrella group, said a Supreme Soviet vote on emigration reform legislation has been delayed for 18 months and that the latest draft is "more restrictive" than earlier ones.

"It seems unlikely that the new law will be even close to the international standards that the president has referred to," Waksberg said. Any Jackson-Vanik waiver before adoption of such a law "undermines" any such move toward codification, he said.

Waksberg also expressed concern about a possible "anti-Semitic backlash" that might occur if Soviet Jews continue to receive special emigration benefits not extended to all Soviet citizens through legislation.

**ANNUAL U.N. DEBATE ON 'PALESTINE' CONCLUDES WITH TYPICAL RHETORIC**
**By Aliza Marcus**

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The General Assembly's annual debate on "The Question of Palestine" was wrapped up Monday after three days of impassioned speeches from over two dozen representatives calling for a settlement to the longstanding conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Yoram Aridor, Israel's new U.N. ambassador, responded by reminding those gathered in a half-empty General Assembly chamber of the Palestine Liberation Organization's calls for "the killing of Jews."

He criticized both the United Nations and Arab states for attacking rather than accepting

Israel's hand in the search for a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"When it comes to the treatment Israel receives at the United Nations, imagination has no limits," Aridor said in a speech last Friday.

But much of this year's debate was less about Israel's full-scale destruction and more about how to end the 3-year-old intifada, or Palestinian uprising, which has claimed the lives of more than 400 Palestinians and 17 Israelis.

Over and over again, speakers called on Israel to enter into negotiations with the Palestinians through an international Middle East peace conference.

"The urgency in finding a solution has become even more imperative in face of the gravity of the situation" that has developed in recent weeks, said the Egyptian ambassador, Amre Moussa. He referred to a report issued last month by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that called for an end to the violence between Palestinians and Israelis.

"A just and lasting settlement of Palestine is a necessary prerequisite for insuring peace throughout the world," Moussa said in his speech last Friday.

### E.C. Concerned About Immigration

This year's debate once again opened on Nov. 29, the day 43 years ago that the U.N. General Assembly approved the partition plan for Palestine, splitting the British Mandate territory into two parts, one for Jews and one for Arabs.

Although most of the speakers taking part in the General Assembly debate hailed from non-aligned or Arab countries, the position of the European Community was set forth by the Italian ambassador, Vieri Traxler, whose country has assumed the E.C. presidency through the end of December.

"The 12 (E.C. nations) stress the inadmissibility of territories occupied through force," Traxler said Friday.

Referring to the flood of Soviet Jewish emigres to Israel and Palestinian fears that the Soviets will be settled in the West Bank, precluding some sort of Palestinian state there, Traxler said the E.C. members "recognize and support the right of Jews to emigrate, but not at the expense of the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

The General Assembly is now expected to take some action on the Palestinian issue, such as a resolution calling for greater movement on the part of the United Nations toward publicizing the Palestinians' position. But General Assembly resolutions are non-binding on member states.

### No Security Council Vote Yet

The Security Council, meanwhile, has not yet voted on the latest resolution addressing Israel and the Palestinians, which was under consideration last week but pushed aside so that the council could vote on a resolution approving the use of force to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

The latest resolution stems from a Nov. 16 proposal put forth by four non-aligned members of the Security Council, in which they called for the appointment of an ombudsman to oversee the position of the Palestinians in the administered territories.

That resolution, introduced by Colombia, Malaysia, Yemen and Cuba, will probably be amended in line with a Finnish proposal calling for the appointment of an ombudsman "in principle."

Israeli officials have expressed dismay over the latest attempt by the Security Council to involve itself in issues Israel believes fall solely within its own jurisdiction.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations released a letter last Friday calling on President Bush to veto any such resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

The group, a coalition of 46 national Jewish organizations, said the effect of such a resolution would be "to keep the Arab-Israeli conflict on the Security Council agenda and deflect the focus from Iraq's aggression."

While the United States has not indicated which way it would vote, it has over the past two months supported two resolutions criticizing Israel for excessive use of force against Palestinians, a move attributed to the desire of the United States not to shake its Arab coalition against Iraq.

### **PALESTINIAN ENTRY TO TEL AVIV CURBED IN WAKE OF BUS KNIFINGS By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Police have tightened restrictions on the entry of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Tel Aviv, following Sunday's deadly knife assault by three West Bank Arabs on bus passengers near Tel Aviv.

Roadblocks were set up Monday on the main highways to make sure that no Arab from the territories could enter the Tel Aviv area without a work permit.

In the attack, which took place between Bnei Brak and Ramat Gan, a 24-year-old yeshiva student from Jerusalem, Ya'acov Baruch Heisler, was fatally stabbed and three other passengers wounded.

Thousands of Orthodox Jews attended Heisler's funeral Sunday evening at the Har Hamenuhot cemetery in the Givat Shaul quarter of Jerusalem.

In the attack on Dan line bus No. 66 from Petach Tikva to Tel Aviv, one Arab assailant was shot to death by a police explosives expert who happened to be riding in a vehicle behind the bus. The other two assailants were injured and are in custody.

Police have also made it clear they are taking harsher measures to enforce the ban on Arabs carrying knives. Any Arab caught with a knife will be dealt with severely, police said.

The immediate result of the new restrictions was a massive traffic jam that had vehicles backed up more than 12 miles. Traffic monitors in helicopters and low-flying airplanes kept motorists informed of conditions by radio.

The police announced that more roadblocks would be set up, which portends even more traffic chaos.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Force has sealed the homes of the three bus assailants in two villages near Nablus.

The Arab shot to death after the stabbings was identified as Omar Dawikat. The two in custody are Husni Sawalha and Abd Sawalha. None of the men had police records or appear to be affiliated with any terrorist group. The authorities believe they acted on their own.

The three wounded Israelis were reported in stable condition Monday at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva. They were identified as Avishag Cohen, 19, and Shmuel Cohen, 16, both from Bnei Brak, and Becky Malka, 18, of Rishon le-Zion.

**JEWISH VOTE HAS SCANT IMPACT  
IN FIRST ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS**  
By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- German voters, participating in their first free elections since 1932 as a single country, gave Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative coalition its expected landslide victory Sunday and flatly rejected right-wing extremism.

The "Jewish vote," if any could be described as such, had little impact, even though the country's 30,000 to 40,000 Jews are concentrated in the largest cities.

Jews have tended to support the Social Democratic Party, whose candidate for chancellor, Oskar Lafontaine, was roundly defeated. But many prominent Jews are active in Kohl's Christian Democratic Union or its junior coalition partner, the Free Democrats.

In general, there were no Jewish issues in the pan-German elections. But in the region that was formerly East Germany, the reformed Communist Party, now known as the Party of Democratic Socialism, campaigned on the issue of free entry for Soviet Jewish emigres.

At the other extreme, the only one of the handful of reputedly neo-Nazi factions to make any showing was the Republican Party. But it fell far short of the required minimum for representation in the Bundestag, the national parliament.

The threshold was 5 percent of the popular vote in either former East Germany or West Germany, which were treated as separate constituencies for electoral purposes.

The Republicans exceeded 5 percent only in their native Bavaria, but averaged only 2.1 percent nationally.

They managed to draw 3.1 percent of the popular vote in Berlin, however, and will be represented in that city's first united legislature since the end of World War II.

They are also eligible under German law for \$3 million to \$4 million in public funds allotted to political parties on the basis of their electoral strength.

**Far Right Has Lost Strength**

Franz Schonhuber, the former Waffen SS officer who heads the Republicans, professed to be satisfied with the results, although his party's fortunes have been declining steadily at the polls.

Nearly two years ago, the Republicans created a political sensation by drawing 7.5 percent of the vote in West Berlin, emerging as the third strongest party there.

They later won 8 percent in the nationwide balloting in West Germany for delegates to the Parliament of Europe, the legislative body of the European Community.

But the party's appeal began to wane. Schonhuber, who weathered a challenge to his leadership, now claims to have purged the party of its neo-Nazi elements. Nevertheless, the party has continued to campaign for Germany's prewar borders, which would include a large area of Poland.

But since the unification of East and West Germany in October, the right wing has lost its most potent political issue. None of the other purportedly neo-Nazi parties achieved even 1 percent of the vote Sunday. Nevertheless, political observers are uneasy over the possibility that social and economic problems arising from unification might give new life to political extremism.

They note that many neo-Nazi groups have emerged recently in what had been East Germany, where the economy is in shambles.

In fact, there are more organized right-wing extremists in the East, with a population of 16 million, than in former West Germany, with 64 million inhabitants.

The Party of Democratic Socialism in former East Germany was the only party that courted the tiny Jewish vote with its appeal on behalf of Soviet Jewish refugees.

Soviet Jews have been arriving at a rate of about 20 a day, and while the Bonn government expresses sympathy, it has made clear that Germany is not an immigrants' country and it can absorb only limited numbers.

Still, the PDS aired television commercials insisting that any Jew who wants to settle in Germany be allowed to.

The party, which appeals largely to left-wing intellectuals in former West Germany, portrays itself as a sensitive, self-critical group. Its leader, East Berlin lawyer Gregor Gysi, takes pride in his Jewish origin.

**MODA'I MAKES CONCESSIONS ON WAGES  
BRINGING TWO-DAY STRIKE TO AN END**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- A general strike begun Sunday by Israel's labor federation ended Monday night after Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar came to an agreement on most of the sticking points that had been raised by Moda'i's package of austere economic measures.

Kessar had met for several hours Monday morning with Moda'i at the Treasury, with their aides present. The accord was reached by the assistants and then signed by fax by Kessar, who returned to Tel Aviv, and Moda'i, who remained in Jerusalem.

It was probably the first time an agreement between the government and labor federation had been signed by fax.

Details of the agreement covered a reported 29 points of the finance minister's economic package, which included a reduction in the minimum wage, a 5 percent surtax on income tax to help pay for the absorption of Soviet immigrants, and a 2 percent hike in the value-added tax.

As the accord was signed, Israel Radio and Israel Television returned to the air.

Spokespersons for the two sides said agreement had been reached on most details, including the taxation of pension funds and employee-paid continuing education and training. Details were to be made available on Tuesday.

On the thorny question of reducing the minimum wage, the compromise reached stipulates that Moda'i will ask the Knesset's Finance Committee to hold up discussion on the issue until mid-January, by which time, he said, he may reconsider.

According to the agreement, Histadrut reserves the right to repeat the general strike if Moda'i insists on pushing the measure through the Knesset.

The strike had kept tens of thousands of public-sector employees off the job, paralyzing the country. Government offices were closed, government-owned factories shut, the civilian airports closed and El Al grounded.

Aircraft bringing in Soviet immigrants were diverted to military airfields.

## ANTI-SEMITISM CONTINUES TO MAR PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS IN POLAND

By Gabrielle Glaser

WARSAW, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Disturbing signs of anti-Semitism cropped up throughout Poland in the weeks preceding the country's first democratic presidential elections ever. And the trend has not waned with the approach of Sunday's runoff between Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and emigre businessman Stanislaw Tyminski.

On Warsaw streets, vandals have taken to Tyminski's posters. Green dollar signs obscure his eyes, and crude black letters mark words oft-repeated in the campaign: "Juden raus!" (Jews out!).

Although Tyminski, a dark horse candidate who left Poland 21 years ago to make a fortune in Canada and Peru, is not Jewish, those worried about his growing popularity among Poles believe that is the one charge that could damage his luster in the coming race.

"Perhaps we could use such arguments against him," said Antoni Marianowicz, a writer and survivor of the Warsaw ghetto who fears Tyminski's success with Polish voters. "Poles love the idea that he is rich, that he made money abroad, but if there is a question that he is Jewish, then his campaign will be over."

It is somewhat ironic that Tyminski, a Catholic who has also dabbled in Peruvian mysticism, is now accused of being secretly Jewish. He is a former president of Canada's Libertarian Party, which has been known to give a platform to Holocaust revisionists.

Walesa and Tyminski defeated Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and three others in the Nov. 25 elections, after a campaign marred with mudslinging, not the least of which was anti-Semitism.

Walesa won about 40 percent of the vote, while Tyminski got a surprising 24 percent. Mazowiecki finished third, in front of three others, with 18 percent.

### Anti-Semitism Hurt Mazowiecki

Most attribute Tyminski's political success to his personal fortune, which is attractive to many in this impoverished country. Others suggest that his victory stems from the widespread charges that Mazowiecki is of Jewish origin.

Mazowiecki, a former adviser to Walesa and Poland's first non-communist leader since the war, is, in fact, a devout Catholic. Nevertheless, the prime minister was dogged in his campaign by accusations that he and a "Jewish cabal" were running the country.

"There's no question anti-Semitism hurt us," said Piotr Rachtan, Mazowiecki's media spokesman. "These suspicions and fears represent a black hole. It is frightening."

Popular expressions of anti-Semitism, as well as obsessive curiosity about the origins of public figures, are a bizarre phenomenon in Poland, where only 10,000 people out of a population of 38 million are Jewish.

Before World War II, Poland was home to the world's largest Jewish population, numbering 3 million, or about 10 percent of the country. Only a few thousand survived the war, and most emigrated after government-sponsored anti-Semitic purges in 1968. The average age among those who stayed is 70.

Unlike the Soviet Union, where anti-Jewish groups harass a small but visible minority, the

discussion of "who is a Jew" in Poland seems far removed from reality. For many Poles, images of Jews evoke shady characters who serve as scapegoats in hard times.

"Walesa is the only man who can lead our country," a Warsaw cab driver who refused to give his name said on the night of the first round of elections. "Mazowiecki is a Jew, and everyone knows that Jews are bad for Poland. All they ever want is money."

Indeed, the whole campaign took on ugly overtones. Last summer, Walesa said often that Jews in politics were hiding their origins, a comment that to many smacked of a "Jewish conspiracy" theory.

### Walesa Says He Regrets Remarks

Asked by reporters whether Mazowiecki's supporters were mostly Jewish, Walesa replied: "Jews are great patriots, have done a lot for culture, but when they hide their nationality, they provoke attitudes of anti-Semitism."

"Why aren't Jews proud of the fact they're Jewish? I'm proud of the fact that I'm Polish and similarly would have been proud of my origin if I had been Jewish," Walesa said, according to a transcript provided by the Polish Press Agency.

Walesa later told The New York Times that his remarks were intended to squelch anti-Semitism, not inject it into the campaign. "I want the people of Jewish origin to be proud of their origin, and they are never satisfied, they never believe me."

Last week, however, Walesa expressed regret for his comment, saying he had misspoken. At a heated gathering of the divided Solidarity Movement's former leaders -- who were meeting to marshal forces behind Walesa for Sunday's second round -- Walesa acknowledged that his remark was made "without foresight."

"I said this indeed. Out of 1,000 answers, one was bad," Walesa said. "But why can't you see my 999 correct ones?"

Many prominent Jews here do not believe Walesa is an anti-Semite. "I can tell you honestly, after many years of knowing him, that he is not," said Marianowicz, the writer.

But whatever the case, it seems his comments have taken root.

### CZECH OFFICIALS AT GALSKY FUNERAL

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Hundreds of mourners attended funeral services here Sunday for Desider Galsky, head of the Czech Jewish community, who was killed in an automobile accident on Nov. 24 at the age of 69.

The Jubilee Synagogue on Jerusalem Street, where the ceremony was held, was packed with dignitaries representing the government, the Prague municipality, the Jewish community and representatives of Jewish organizations abroad.

Karel Schwarzenberg, chancellor of the President's Office, came as the personal representative of President Vaclav Havel. Galsky had accompanied Havel to Israel in April.

Deputy Prime Minister Milan Lukes also attended on behalf of the government. Israel was represented by its newly appointed ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Joel Sher.

The office of president of the Czech Jewish community is expected to remain vacant for the time being, while the community conducts what will likely be a difficult search for a replacement.