

**SHAMIR LEAVES WHITE HOUSE SESSION WITH U.S. ASSURANCES ON GULF CRISIS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir left the White House on Tuesday with what he sought most: assurances from President Bush that a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis will not be at the expense of Israel.

"I trust the president in what he said," Shamir told reporters after the nearly two-hour meeting. "He said it several times. He said it to me now again. There will not be any deal at the expense of Israel."

Bush expressed appreciation for Israel's low profile in the international effort to force Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait. In turn, Shamir gave his "full support for the leadership of the president of the United States in the crisis in the Gulf."

Both leaders also agreed that the Middle East peace process will remain on hold until the Gulf crisis is resolved, the Israeli prime minister said.

Bush and Shamir, who had not met in over a year, took pains to push aside reports that they dislike each another.

"I want to give a warm welcome to the prime minister here, and I'm delighted that he is here for talks," the president told reporters as he welcomed Shamir in the Oval Office.

At a separate picture-taking session for Israeli photographers and television camera crews, Bush said, "Happy Chanukah to all the folks in Israel."

After the White House session, Shamir told reporters, "This meeting, I think, advanced further the special relationship, friendship between the United States and Israel."

That the possibility of a Gulf solution at Israel's expenses preyed on Shamir's mind was evidenced by the strong warning he made against such an outcome during a speech Monday night in New York.

**Says Israel Is No Czechoslovakia**

"We shall not acquiesce to any deal with enemies who wish to destroy us," Shamir said at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, where he received the Jabotinsky Foundation's \$100,000 Defender of Jerusalem Award.

In his speech, Shamir said he would not be surprised if some countries, "not only Arab governments," put forth the argument "that Israel should make a contribution, ostensibly for the sake of world peace."

But he quickly made it clear that Israel would not agree to any linkage between Israel's administration of the territories and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

"Let me, therefore, state at the very outset: Israel in 1990 is not Czechoslovakia of 1938," Shamir declared.

He was referring to the Munich agreement of 1938, in which Britain and France agreed that Czechoslovakia should cede the Sudetenland to Germany. Czechoslovakia was fully occupied by the Nazis a few months later.

Alluding to the ongoing debate within the

U.N. Security Council over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Shamir told his Monday night audience that the United Nations could not be a vehicle for peace as long as member states cater to the "threats of a group of dictatorial governments" led by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But during his meeting Tuesday with Bush, the prime minister did not explicitly ask the United States to veto a proposed U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Briefing reporters after the Bush-Shamir talks, Kelly said the current resolution, which the Security Council is expected to take up again Wednesday evening, was only discussed in general.

Shamir reportedly repeated his opposition to an international conference. Kelly said that while an international conference may be useful eventually, now is not the time to consider it, because it would be seen as linking the Arab-Israeli conflict to the Gulf crisis.

**No Promise Of A U.S. Veto**

But Kelly said that the United States could not tell Shamir what it will do in the Security Council until it sees the final language of the resolution, which he said changes almost hourly.

According to Kelly, Bush assured Shamir that "we will maintain a qualitative edge in armaments for Israel, but at the same time we want to help out the legitimate self-defense needs of our Arab friends."

The president repeated the U.S. position that "we could not but react to an attack on Israel by Iraq," Kelly said. But he gave no details.

Kelly said both sides recognize that once the Gulf crisis is over, the issue of the "control of weapons of mass destruction will have to be addressed." It was not clear whether he meant only Iraq or that Israel and other Middle East countries would have to be included.

While Shamir stated flatly that the peace process is on hold until the Gulf crisis is over, Kelly was more equivocal.

"There is no agreement that the peace process is postponed by anybody," Kelly said. "There is a realistic appreciation in a lot of capitals around the world that the first and most important order of business is to resolve the Gulf crisis."

However, Shamir "agreed that as we resolve this Gulf crisis, we are going to have to put renewed attention, renewed emphasis on trying to get the peace process moving," Kelly said.

He said that while Bush was not specific on the next step, "the plan on the table is the Israeli Cabinet's plan of last May, which includes elections" by the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The issue of Soviet and Ethiopian Jewish immigration to Israel was also a major topic discussed by Bush and Shamir.

Shamir explained "the emotional boost that immigration has in Israel and the practical difficulties that Israel faces" in providing for the large number of immigrants coming into the country, Kelly said.

"I think that President Bush has a clearer understanding and appreciation of both of those factors," he added.

Shamir said Israel would be looking for increased financial help from the United States to absorb the immigrants, but did not specify any amount, according to Kelly.

#### No Commitment On Additional Aid

Bush, while saying he was supportive, made no commitments. He said he first wants to see how the already approved \$400 million in U.S.-guaranteed housing loans works out.

Bush raised the issue of settlements in the West Bank, but he did not explicitly mention East Jerusalem, according to Kelly. Earlier this year, the president alarmed Israeli leaders by appearing to suggest he opposed further settlement of portions of Jerusalem once occupied by Jordan. Israel considers the united city its eternal capital.

Shamir said he stands by the Oct. 2 letter from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy to Secretary of State James Baker, in which Israel pledged Soviet Jews would not be sent by the government to live in the administered territories.

Kelly said there was no discussion of the Oct. 8 incident on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, in which Israeli police killed 17 Arab rioters. But he said Bush expressed his concern about Israel's treatment of Palestinians under its administration.

Shamir also met for lunch Tuesday with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, but no details of the meeting were immediately available. The prime minister was scheduled to have lunch with Vice President Dan Quayle on Wednesday and a morning meeting with Secretary of State Baker on Thursday.

#### **IDF AUTHORIZED TO USE SNIPERS AGAINST ARAB ROCK-THROWERS**

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is now authorized to use snipers against Arab rock-throwers, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron announced Tuesday.

He confirmed a report in Al Hamishmar that the IDF has established units of trained sharpshooters to ambush Palestinians who throw rocks at vehicles from the roadsides or from traffic junctions in the West Bank.

They are authorized to shoot with the intention of inflicting injury in the event of life-threatening rock-throwing, the newspaper said.

Shomron told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the IDF General Staff thought "long and hard" before issuing the new directive because it was important that such matters remain within the national consensus.

Several hours after Shomron's appearance before the committee, Arab youths stoned a Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train near Battir village in the West Bank and were fired on by armed guards. At least one Arab was hospitalized.

According to Al Hamishmar, Defense Minister Moshe Arens approved the tougher policy three months ago after clearing it with the IDF judge advocate general.

Senior military sources said the change was announced at the behest of the defense minister to convince angry Jewish settlers in the administered territories that the IDF was indeed taking preventive and deterrent measures to protect them.

In the past, IDF soldiers were authorized to fire live ammunition at civilians only when they were convinced their lives were in immediate danger.

Arens, touring the Golan Heights on Tuesday, claimed that intifada activists are using firearms, which they had refrained from doing during the three years since the Palestinian uprising began.

"They knew we imposed limitations on ourselves when facing weapons other than guns," Arens said. But now that the Palestinians are resorting to live ammunition, the IDF will no longer restrict itself.

#### **KAHANE'S ALLEGED KILLER HAD COMBAT ITEMS IN HOME**

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The alleged assassin of Rabbi Meir Kahane, Egyptian-born El Sayyid Nosair, had numerous combat-related items stored in his New Jersey home, including a receipt for a case of 7.62mm cartridges, according to court papers filed by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

The 7.62mm cartridge is used both in NATO rifles and in the AK-47 Kalachnikov rifle that has been used in Eastern Europe and many Third World countries. It is also known for its use in sniper rifles, primarily outside the NATO bloc, said an official of the National Rifle Association.

Nosair, who has been charged with first-degree murder in the Nov. 5 death of Kahane, has pleaded not guilty and is being held on \$300,000 bail. He allegedly killed Kahane after he delivered a speech at a midtown Manhattan hotel.

The D.A.'s office is hoping to convince the judge sitting in Nosair's case to revoke the bail.

According to the court papers filed Monday in State Supreme Court by District Attorney Robert Morgenthau's Office, police searching Nosair's home found plasterboard with bullet holes in it, some pistols, earplugs, literature relating to guns, hand grenades and bomb making.

Nosair had a great deal of literature in his home, including a guide to buying guns and ammunition and a pamphlet called "Arms in Afghanistan."

He also had news clippings relating to the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and the attempt on Interior Minister Zaki Badr, undertaken by an Islamic fundamentalist group.

A vial of poison was also found in the search of Nosair's locker at his Manhattan job as a boiler mechanic in New York's downtown criminal and civil courthouse, according to The New York Times.

D.A. officials would not release the name of the shop from which the receipt for the 7.62mm cartridges came. A National Rifle Association official said the cartridges are readily available throughout the country.

Both the New York Times and New York Newsday reported Tuesday that not only receipts but a case of such cartridges was found during the search of Nosair's house following Kahane's death Nov. 5. But a spokeswoman for the D.A.'s Office said the reports were incorrect.

"I helped executing the warrant (to search the house) and the only things there were a lot of papers, and the only ammunition taken out of there was a half-box of shells and a few .22 caliber shells," said a police officer from Cliffside Park, N.J., where Nosair lived.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**
**WITH EXCEPTION OF WJC, JEWISH LEADERS PLEASUED WITH MEETINGS AT THE VATICAN**  
 By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders who met last week with Pope John Paul II have, for the most part, expressed satisfaction with their two days of talks at the Vatican.

But one Jewish leader just back from Rome called the meeting, the first of its kind with the pope in three years, "a mixed bag."

"In many ways procedurally and substantively, our concerns were not addressed," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, who participated in the talks.

The WJC is one of five constituent groups of IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, which is the group designated to represent world Jewry in dialogue with the Vatican.

The other constituent groups of IJCIC are the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith International/Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Israel Interfaith Committee and Synagogue Council of America.

As far as most of the IJCIC delegates were concerned, the goals of the trip to the Vatican were achieved.

"All we were looking for was a confirmation, by the pope, of the Prague declaration, which he gave to us unequivocally," said IJCIC Chairman Seymour Reich. "In fact, he went beyond the language of Prague, which called for dissemination (of the new church teachings), and he called for implementation."

The Rome visit, commemorating the 25th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council's document that redefined the Catholic Church's relationship with Judaism, was intended to be largely ceremonial, Reich said, unlike the working meeting between Catholic and Jewish leaders in Prague three months earlier.

**Pope Sat On A 'Throne-Like Chair'**

Out of the Prague meeting came a church statement decrying anti-Semitism as a sin, as well as guidelines for implementing new church teachings on Judaism. By contrast, "Rome was theater, to some extent," said Reich, who represents B'nai B'rith on IJCIC.

One of the procedural elements of the Rome trip that upset WJC's Steinberg was one that left most of the 30 IJCIC representatives discomfited.

The pope was seated on an elevated platform in what Steinberg called "a throne-like chair" when he met with Jewish leaders on the morning of Dec. 6, leaving IJCIC's chairman to address the pontiff from the floor below.

The Jewish representatives were expecting the meeting to take place on equal terms, physically as well as politically, and were taken by surprise when they saw the layout of the room.

"I was uncomfortable," conceded Reich.

Vatican officials explained to IJCIC that the room was the only one available to accommodate the group, which was larger than had originally been agreed upon.

In order to make up for the imbalance in the private meeting, the pope spent time afterward informally chatting with each IJCIC delegate.

Most participants felt there was no intended hostile message in the seating arrangement, and they said, in fact, that the atmosphere was warm.

"The fact that there were no religious

symbols in that room was very important, because there usually are," observed Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of interreligious affairs for the Synagogue Council.

"Besides," said Bemporad, "the real issue is not where the pope sits, but what he says."

**Scant Progress On Recognition Of Israel**

Still, Steinberg was unhappy with what he called the IJCIC "audience with the pope."

WJC participants were also dissatisfied because they wanted to achieve more progress on the Vatican's willingness to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, Steinberg said.

The Vatican "clearly communicated that there is nothing on the immediate horizon as far as diplomatic relations with Israel," he said. "We may well have reached the theoretical limit of the political dialogue between us."

As a result, the WJC "is likely to give a lower priority to Vatican-Jewish relations in the future," Steinberg said.

The Vatican has long emphasized that it considers diplomatic relations with Israel a political matter rather than a religious one, and one that is addressed through different channels than meetings devoted to the religious relationship between the two faiths.

In Rome, Archbishop Edward Cassidy, president of the Vatican's Commission on Religious Relations With the Jews, arranged a meeting between the Jewish leaders and the new Vatican deputy secretary of state, Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, whose appointment had been announced less than a week earlier.

That meeting established a formal political relationship between IJCIC and the Vatican to deal with such issues as recognition of Israel.

In any case, "Israel is not interested, in this stage, in pushing for full diplomatic relations with the Vatican," said Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, a former chairman of IJCIC who participated in the Rome meetings and was present when "Nostra Aetate" was issued 25 years ago.

"Israel does not want to invite Vatican pressure for a Palestinian homeland, and so it is in Israel's interests to remain relatively silent," he said.

**Opposition To Beatification Voiced**

Jewish opposition to the proposed beatification of Queen Isabella of Spain was also communicated during the Rome meetings, according to Reich. It was Isabella and King Ferdinand who ordered the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492.

"One Vatican official asked for documentation about our concerns relating to Queen Isabella. And I replied that they have that information in their own archives," Reich related. "It's not our burden to document that for them. The history of that period is well known."

The next step in the Catholic-Jewish dialogue will be the establishment of joint committees to implement the church's revised teachings about Jews and Judaism, teachings that have not yet reached the world's 800 million Catholics on the grass-roots level, Jewish leaders said.

Initial meetings between IJCIC and Archbishop Cassidy are expected to be scheduled within a few months, they said.

"It's time to roll up our sleeves," said Reich. "Prague was the big event of the year, and now the pope has given the declaration his full support. It is up to us to establish the mechanisms to implement that."

## ARMAND HAMMER DEAD AT 92 ON EVE OF HIS BAR MITZVAH

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Only 24 hours before he was to celebrate his long-delayed Bar Mitzvah, oil magnate Armand Hammer died Monday night at his Los Angeles home, following a short illness. He was 92.

What was to be a tribute to the billionaire industrialist Tuesday night in Los Angeles turned into a memorial to a man who served as liaison between American and Soviet leaders and, in deepest secrecy, between Israeli leaders and the leadership of the Soviet Union.

The child of non-religious parents, Hammer had no Bar-Mitzvah at age 13. That death intervened to deprive him of the traditional induction into Judaism he had come to desire was the final irony in a long life filled with paradox.

Armand Hammer, a maverick in the high-flying world of international tycoons, was mistrusted by some Jews because of his close personal ties to Kremlin leaders from Vladimir Lenin to Mikhail Gorbachev -- Joseph Stalin excluded.

Yet he may have done more than any single individual to help secure freedom for Soviet Jews in the pre-glasnost era.

Through his influence with the Soviet Union, founded on the well-remembered medical and food aid he sent the embattled country following the Russian Revolution, he was able to press for the emigration of Soviet Jews, particularly those with extraordinary problems.

Hammer personally brought out two longtime refuseniks, Professor David Goldfarb and Ida Nudel, the prisoner of Zion.

Yet Hammer was often criticized by hard-line activists in the Soviet Jewry movement for not exerting more overt pressure. But to many Israeli leaders and a former leader of a Soviet Jewry organization, he was unfairly judged.

"At that time, one never knew what actually worked in terms of pushing buttons," said Jerry Goodman, former executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, who met with Hammer often in Washington and Los Angeles.

"He was private. His theory was that he could be more effective if he didn't appear in public as intervening on behalf of Soviet Jews," Goodman said.

### Secret Visits To Israel

Israeli government leaders spoke Tuesday of Hammer's secret visits to Israel on several occasions when he stayed at the homes of Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan. Hammer carried secret messages to Moscow from Israeli leaders for years.

Hammer, a millionaire from his youth, became a billionaire when he bought the bankrupt Occidental Petroleum Corp. in 1957 for a token \$34,000. The corporation's present estimated worth is \$8 billion.

He made a much bigger investment in Israel -- some \$60 million in a Negev oil prospecting project, from which, at the time of his death, he had not realized a penny of profit.

Hammer's business dealings with Libya and other Arab countries made it prudent not to advertise his connections with Israel. His 1984 visit to Jerusalem was publicly reported as his first.

Hammer was born May 21, 1898, in New York to Dr. Julius Hammer, a Russian Jewish immigrant, and Rose Robinson Hammer.

A graduate of Columbia University Medical

School, Hammer did not practice medicine except briefly as a volunteer to combat a typhus epidemic in post-revolution Russia.

There as a youth he arranged his first giant business deal, in which the Soviet Union bartered fur and caviar for American wheat.

At 23, he was summoned to a personal interview with Lenin. It is said that in exchange for Hammer's help, Lenin gave him several paintings from Leningrad's Hermitage Museum, which started his multimillion dollar art collection.

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

## AS AIDS RATE CLIMBS IN ISRAEL, MERITS OF TESTING ARE DEBATED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The number of cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in Israel has increased dramatically in recent years, though the Jewish state still has one of the lowest incidences of the disease in the Western world, a Knesset panel was told last week.

Dr. Moshe Mashiah, director general of the Health Ministry, told members of the Knesset Labor and Social Services Committee there have been 137 diagnosed cases of AIDS in Israel to date. Eighty patients have died, 76 of them men.

Professor Ze'ev Hendzel, chairman of the National Committee for the Prevention of AIDS, said that in Israel there were presently about 2,000 carriers of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. He said about 80 percent of them would come down with the deadly disease within 12 years.

Hendzel called for significant increases of government funding for both education about the disease and treatment for those infected.

Committee Chairwoman Ora Namir of the Labor Party and several of her colleagues recommended testing new immigrants for the HIV virus. But they were firmly against singling out immigrants from Ethiopia, where AIDS is rampant.

According to a report in the Jerusalem newspaper Kol Ha'ir, random testing of a single planeload of Ethiopian immigrants found 12 percent infected with HIV.

But committee members said that if Ethiopian olim were tested, American immigrants should be too, since the AIDS rate in the United States is also much higher than in Israel.

## BUSH SENDS CHANUKAH GREETINGS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- President Bush sent greetings Tuesday to Jews in the United States and around the world on the beginning of Chanukah.

"The story of abiding trust in the mercy and justice of the Almighty continues to be a source of inspiration to Jews around the world," Bush said in his message.

"The miracle of the lights illustrates that the power of the Lord can overcome what seems to be impossible obstacles and that working together to achieve common objectives can make the world a brighter place for all."

Meanwhile, as it has done for over a decade, the American Friends of Lubavitch lit the first candle on its 40-foot high menorah at the Ellipse near the White House.

There were latkes, donuts, singing and prizes for children in the ceremony at what some are now calling the "national Chanukah menorah."