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**U.S. DEPLORES DEPORTATION ORDERS
AND MAY BACK RESOLUTION AT THE U.N.**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- The Bush administration has sharply criticized Israel's decision to deport four Palestinian activists from the Gaza Strip and has indicated it might support a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the move.

At the United Nations, the Security Council was scheduled to convene Monday night to consider a resolution on the Palestinian situation that has been revised several times since it was introduced last month.

Earlier in the day, the United States circulated a working paper on the resolution that proposes including a passage that "deplores the decision by the government of Israel to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories."

But in Washington, the State Department reiterated Monday that the United States would not support any resolution that includes a call for an international conference to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The department's deputy spokesman, Richard Boucher, said the United States deplores Israel's decision to deport the four Palestinians, who are leaders of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement based in the Gaza Strip.

The deportations were ordered after Hamas admitted responsibility for the brutal murder of three Israeli Jews last Friday at an aluminum-processing plant in Jaffa.

Those ordered deported were not directly involved in the incident. But in Israel, an army spokesman said they belong to the "field command of Hamas," which in the last few months has "promoted murders, assassination attempts and other violent activities, which have included the use of knives and other means."

The three Jews killed in Jaffa were repeatedly stabbed and their bodies mutilated.

U.S. Made Its Stance Clear

The identities of the suspected murderers are known to the Israeli police, but they were still at large Monday.

"Obviously we condemn the recent attacks on Israelis," said Boucher of the State Department. But he said that rather than deporting Arabs suspected of being involved in terrorist activities, Israel should take them to court.

The United States has consistently told Israel that "deportations are violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention as it pertains to the treatment of inhabitants of occupied territories," the deputy spokesman said.

"The United States believes that charges of wrongdoing should be brought in a court of law based on evidence to be argued in a public trial."

Boucher said Secretary of State James Baker conveyed this view to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when the two met here on Dec. 13.

Similar messages were conveyed over the weekend in Washington by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly to Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval and in Israel by U.S. Embassy officials to officials in the Foreign and Defense ministries.

In Israel, observers said the U.S. warnings may have prevented the government from deporting a larger number of Hamas activists. Hundreds of Palestinians, including a number of fundamentalist leaders, were arrested over the weekend for their alleged involvement in the intifada.

But the fact that Israel proceeded with the four expulsion orders despite the U.S. warnings may have resulted in a shift in the U.S. stance on the Security Council resolution.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Aliza Marcus at the United Nations and David Landau in Jerusalem.)

**URGING A CALM RESPONSE TO TRAGEDY,
SHAMIR REJECTS USING DEATH PENALTY**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is trying to exert a calming influence in the aftermath of the savage murder last Friday of three Israeli factory workers in Jaffa, apparently by Islamic fundamentalists from the Gaza Strip.

Responding to clamor for the death penalty from broad segments of the public and within his right-wing coalition Cabinet, Shamir has indicated he is inclined not to introduce capital punishment.

The prime minister told reporters here Monday that he had no moral qualms but simply is not convinced it would be an effective deterrent.

The murders were especially brutal. The victims were stabbed repeatedly with fish knives and mutilated.

Shamir denied, however, that the Israeli public was shaken by insecurity as a result of the recent wave of stabbing attacks on Jews by Arabs acting singly or in pairs.

Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier Monday, Shamir responded to critics on both left and right.

He said the average Israeli citizen is "not simple" and understands that the fight against terrorism is part of the Jewish state's ongoing battle for survival, the end of which is not in sight.

The citizens know the army and other security services are doing their best to protect them, he said.

His tilt toward restraint in Israel's response to events was reflected in Sunday's Cabinet communique, which counseled "composure and the strengthening of the people's spirits" as the "first and foremost requirement" in the battle against terrorism.

Meanwhile, four Palestinians ordered deported over the weekend have appealed the decision to a special Israel Defense Force panel and have final recourse to the High Court of Justice.

The military appeals panel, meeting in the Gaza jail, was to hear their brief Monday but postponed the hearing until Tuesday, at the request of defense counselors.

The attorneys for the four asked for more time to study the basis of the charges against their clients.

The four are members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement based in the Gaza Strip, which claimed credit for the Jaffa murders.

ANOTHER CLASH ON TEMPLE MOUNT AVERTED WHEN GROUP STAYS AWAY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- A heavy police presence maintained peace on the Temple Mount and the surrounding area on Monday.

Anticipated trouble failed to materialize, as Jewish zealots known as the Temple Mount Faithful refrained from challenging a police ban on their entering the site of Islamic shrines.

The messianic group, which wants to rebuild the Temple destroyed in 70 C.E., had obtained a police permit last week to hold a Chanukah rally on the Mount.

But it was withdrawn Sunday on orders from Police Minister Ronni Milo, after Knesset members and others warned that it was inviting a repetition of the Oct. 8 Temple Mount riots.

On that occasion, during the Sukkot holiday, Arabs on the Temple Mount threw rocks at the Western Wall below, where Jews had been praying, after word spread that the Faithful planned to demonstrate.

Israeli border police subsequently killed at least 17 Arabs in an incident that has had serious repercussions for Israel all over the world.

This time, the police were taking no chances. Although no incidents occurred, they detained four activists of the anti-Arab Kach movement found in the vicinity.

The movement was founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was slain in New York last month.

Two of its leaders, Tiran Pollak and Noam Federman, were held until nightfall and released on their own recognizance. Hundreds of police reinforcements assigned to the Temple Mount area checked Moslem worshippers on their way to Al Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, which are built above the Western Wall on the site called the Temple Mount.

Hundreds of young men were turned away at the mosque gates.

Meanwhile, the Temple Mount Faithful prayed at the Western Wall. Their leader, Gershon Salomon, told reporters that the Temple Mount had become a "hostile PLO ministate" that should be removed.

TWO SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN CLASH NEAR BORDER IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were wounded Sunday when their patrol clashed with terrorists in the security zone Israel patrols in southern Lebanon.

The Israelis killed one terrorist. Two who escaped are believed to be the intruders killed in the vicinity a short time later by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

The encounter occurred near the border, north of Moshav Zar'it. The terrorists, heading for the border, were intercepted by soldiers from the Golan Brigade on a routine patrol in the western sector of the security zone.

They fired a hand-held LAW anti-tank missile at the IDF unit, wounding one soldier badly. The other was only slightly hurt.

Other soldiers opened fire, killing one terrorist. Two other terrorists fled northward, one of them trailing blood. A search near the scene yielded two Kalachnikov assault rifles, grenades and a quantity of ammunition.

In Lebanon, Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed that its members took part in a battle with the Israelis to mark the third anniversary of the intifada.

Meanwhile, IDF units destroyed a terrorist base in the eastern sector of the security zone without sustaining casualties, according to local sources.

So far this year, seven IDF soldiers and one SLA soldier have been killed in 20 clashes with terrorists in the security zone. In the same period, 44 terrorists were killed.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO U.S. TELLS BUSH HIS COUNTRY HAS A DREAM OF PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- Israel's new ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval, told President Bush on Monday that, like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Israel also has a dream: one of peace with its Arab neighbors.

"We, too, have a dream that Arab and Jew, and all other peoples of the Middle East, will one day live in peace and harmony," Shoval said in presenting his credentials to Bush at the White House.

"We dream of a peace which will enable all of us to pool our human and physical resources to the mutual benefit of all inhabitants of the region."

Shoval urged Bush to "continue to support the government of Israel in its quest for peace with all its neighbors." He blamed the lack of progress on "Palestinian intransigence and the negative role" of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

At the same time, Shoval urged continued assistance from the United States to allow Israel to maintain its qualitative military edge, in view of the increasing weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Iraq and other Arab states.

But the ambassador stressed that Israel "will assume the full burden of its defense without requesting the aid of a single (U.S.) soldier to fight on its behalf."

Shoval also said that while Israel and the United States have to do some "fence-mending" because of occasional differences, "fundamentally, we are always on the same side of the fence."

Bush replied that he wants to work closely with the Israeli government to deepen and strengthen the relationship between the two countries. "Our relationship is firm and open, and our commitment to cooperation is unshakable," he said.

While attention is focused on Saddam Hussein's aggression in the Persian Gulf, "we are acutely aware of the serious danger posed to Israel," the president said.

Bush told Shoval the United States remains committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge. "I assure you that we consistently take Israel's security requirements into account when considering any transfer of American military equipment into the region," he said.

Bush also said that while Iraq will not be allowed to link its aggression to the Arab-Israeli conflict, progress needs to be made in this area.

"We cannot allow Iraq's adventurism to distract us from our longstanding efforts to achieve peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors and between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples," Bush said.

LAWS BANNING LEWD ADVERTISEMENTS, BUSINESS ON SABBATH PASS KNESSET

By Cathrine Gerson

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- Two bills backed by Israel's religious parties were adopted by the Knesset on Monday, following angry debates over whether they constituted religious coercion.

One was presented as an anti-pornography measure. The other, which passed its third and final reading by a vote of 50-44, with one abstention, allows local authorities to decide whether or not restaurants and places of entertainment can stay open Friday nights and Saturdays.

That bill is sponsored by the National Religious Party, whose Knesset faction chairman, Yair Levy, insisted it is not coercive.

"The law only gives the local authorities the right to see what the public wants and decide accordingly," he said.

Uriel Lynn of the Labor Party, who chairs the Knesset Law Committee, which sent the bill to the floor, agreed it is innocuous. He said the legislation deals with the "more or less accepted norms of the Israeli society."

But Mordechai Yirshubsky of the Citizens Rights Movement warned his colleagues that it is a divisive measure that will "turn out the lights in all of Israel's cities on Shabbat."

He said the secular majority bears responsibility for passing a law that reverts to "the Middle Ages" and will cause "hatred between brothers."

The anti-pornography bill is part of a package of restrictive legislation demanded by the Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party as its price for joining the Likud-led government on Nov. 18.

Other measures yet to be acted upon include a total ban on public transportation on the Sabbath and additional restrictions on abortion.

Secular Knesset members have vowed to fight these laws, which they say are religious blackmail.

The measure voted on Monday is a modified version of the original Agudah draft, which passed its first reading last month. Its purpose was to ban advertising the Orthodox consider lewd -- a woman in tight jeans, for example.

But even the version that emerged from committee defines pornography in the broadest terms. The bill as it now stands forbids the public display of any ads that would offend the sensibilities of the religious community.

JEWISH SHOPS REPORTED LOOTED DURING RIOTING IN FEZ, MOROCCO

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- Rioting last Friday in Fez, Morocco, caused no casualties to the handful of Jews living in that city, although Jewish-owned shops were among those looted, according to David Amar, president of Morocco's Jewish community.

Amar, who lives in Casablanca, came to Paris on Monday to brief Jewish leaders on the situation in his country, whose 10,000 to 15,000 Jews enjoy a good relationship with its ruler, King Hassan II.

The rioting, which according to French press reports left 40 to 60 people dead, has been attributed to Islamic fundamentalists. It was a protest against economic conditions.

No Jews were killed or hurt, Amar said, and

as far as he could tell, there was no panic among them. Jews are seeking to emigrate in no greater numbers than before the disturbances, he said.

Amar spoke to French Jewish leaders, the heads of the Moroccan Jewish community in France and representatives from Israel.

He and about 60 other Moroccan Jewish representatives from France, Canada, Israel and Morocco met in private here 10 days ago. They affirmed their support of the king and condemned any attempt to destabilize his regime.

WILL OF LAST SURVIVORS OF CHELMNO, LONG HELD BY SOVIETS, MADE PUBLIC

By Cathrine Gerson

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- A will written by the last 47 Jews to survive the Chelmno death camp, describing their story and calling for revenge for the deaths of the 350,000 Jews there, was made public for the first time last week.

"To the attention of the happy man who finds this notebook," the document begins. "Please read the contents carefully and pass it on to everyone, and also to the members of our families still alive, those who were far away from this horrible tragedy."

The rare original document, which until now had not been seen in the West, became available by agreement between the Soviet State Archives and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Authority in Jerusalem.

Its existence has been known since the end of World War II, when Ilya Ehrenburg documented Nazi war crimes in "The Black Book." But the Soviet authorities banned publication of the book and only one copy was smuggled out of the USSR.

It is not a will in the legal sense, but a description of the fate of the Chelmno inmates, a farewell to their families and an appeal to future generations never to forget.

The document, dated Jan. 9, 1945, was drafted by the 47 Jews the Nazis had kept alive to dismantle the Chelmno crematoria and destroy other evidence of the death factory before Soviet troops reached the camp, situated in the Lodz district of Poland.

The document describes the backgrounds of the 47, their professions and what they endured at various Nazi camps until they reached the final one at Chelmno.

Berek Wittenfeld, one of the 47, wrote, "When I see how the thousands of innocent Jews are being murdered, my heart is torn up inside me. I am only 16, but they have chained my feet like a criminal."

Another testimonial describes the hopelessness of the inmates. "Armed soldiers are standing around me. What can I do?" one prisoner wrote.

"Tell my brothers, Yitzhak Laser and Mordechai Motek, and my sister, Hava, in Moscow about my fate, about my last wish before my death.

"Whoever finds this, please avenge the tens of thousands of Jews that were slaughtered here."

Although 47 names were listed at the end, only 10 Jews actually signed the will, probably for lack of time. It was smuggled out of the camp to a Polish farmer, who passed it on to Red Army headquarters nearby.

The Chelmno will was translated from the original Polish into Russian and the translation sent to the Soviet State Archives in Moscow, where it remained until now.

An estimated 360,000 Jews were murdered at Chelmno from 1942 to 1945. Only two survived.

JEWISH DEMOCRATS FORM ORGANIZATION TO ENSURE VOTING TRADITION CONTINUES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- While a majority of American Jewish voters continue to support Democratic Party candidates in presidential, congressional, state and local elections, leading Jewish Democrats believe for the first time that an organization is needed to ensure that the tradition lives on.

To meet that need, they have created the National Jewish Democratic Council, which was officially launched at a news conference here last week.

Jewish Democratic leaders were disappointed after the 1988 presidential election, because they believed they had not made a difference, even though at least two-thirds of the Jewish vote went to the Democratic candidate, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, said Morton Mandel, chairman of the new group.

"We didn't have our act together in terms of the Jewish community," Mandel said. A Jewish committee in support of Dukakis was not formed until September 1988, and "we are not sure we helped," he said.

Mandel, a Cleveland industrialist and former president of the Council of Jewish Federations, and other leading Jewish Democrats decided in the spring of 1989 to investigate whether a permanent organization was necessary and feasible.

They formed a Jewish Democratic group, which, after talking to hundreds of people in 15 cities, decided the council was needed to promote greater Jewish involvement in the Democratic Party at all levels.

Republican Jews already have such an organization, the National Jewish Coalition, which originally was formed to support Ronald Reagan in his successful 1980 bid for the presidency. It has developed into a group that supports Republicans for Congress, state and local offices, as well as the presidency.

Will Oppose Anti-Israel Democrats

The new Jewish Democratic Council, like its Republican counterpart, will seek to encourage Jewish candidates on all levels of government and will press for the appointment of Jews to prominent campaign positions and to the staffs of officeholders.

Both groups stress they are independent of their party's official organizations. The new council, which will be funded by its members, does not claim that it is the single voice of Jewish Democrats, Mandel said.

The group will try to ensure that the Jewish community understands the values of the Democratic Party, and within the party, it will promote the values and concerns of the Jewish community, Mandel said. High on this list is continued support for Israel.

While council members may disagree with particular decisions of the Israeli government, they are in united in pledging to "fight with vigor and determination any effort within the party to diminish our nation's ties to Israel and our party's historic championing of Israel's security," said Stuart Eizenstat, a Washington lawyer who was former President Jimmy Carter's assistant for domestic affairs and policy.

The council leaders pledged to seek to prevent the situation that occurred in 1988, when seven state Democratic Party conventions adopted

resolutions supporting Palestinian self-determination, meaning a Palestinian state, and the issue was debated at the 1988 Democratic national convention.

Hyman Bookbinder, former Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee and an adviser to the Dukakis campaign, said the council will not support candidates who are considered anti-Israel, even if they are Democrats.

The new organization hopes to bring thousands of new people into the party, working not only on the national level but in state and local races, said Steve Gutow, a Dallas lawyer who has moved to Washington to become the group's executive director.

A Bridge Between Blacks And Jews

The council especially wants to attract young Jews into the Democratic Party, Eizenstat said. Many young Jews, like other young Americans, either do not vote or have been supporting Republican candidates.

"They, in particular, may not always share the same social values as their parents and grandparents, and may not yet recognize that as minorities, our surest protection and security in this great country, as in others, comes from neither assimilation nor material acquisitiveness, but rather from the fullest protection of all minorities," said Eizenstat.

He said that young Jews can be attracted to the Democratic Party by a reassertion of the "historic Jewish commitment to social justice, fairness and economic growth," goals, he said, that are espoused by the Democratic Party.

Eizenstat said the council will also work toward seeing that the Democratic Party continues to oppose all forms of discrimination, whether based on race, national origin or religion.

"One of the low points of the proud history of the Democratic Party was the unwillingness of the 1984 convention to condemn anti-Semitism," he said.

"We believe we can help bridge the gulf between the Democratic Party's two most dependable and loyal constituencies, Jews and blacks, based on a relationship of mutual respect and mutual sensitivity," he said.

Bookbinder stressed that the Jewish vote cannot be taken for granted, even though 74 percent of Jewish voters supported Democratic candidates in last month's congressional elections.

Also participating in the Dec. 11 news conference were Linda Sher of Chicago, a member of the national commission of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Monte Friedkin of Boca Raton, Fla., vice president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; and Lynn Cutler, vice chair of the Democratic National Committee.

CONSUMER PRICES HOLD STEADY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA) -- Consumer prices seem to be holding steady in Israel.

The cost-of-living index rose by 1.3 percent in November, the same increase as in November 1989 and less than the 1.6 percent rise generally expected for the month, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The annual inflation rate now stands at 18.4 percent.

The November figures brought the consumer price index to 175.6 points on a baseline of 100 established in 1987. In October it stood at 173.4 points.