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**U.S. SUPPORT FOR U.N. RESOLUTION  
A MISTAKE, SHAMIR TELLS SENATORS**

By Cathrine Gerson

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a group of eight U.S. senators Tuesday he believes it would be a mistake if the U.S. supported a U.N. Security Council resolution criticizing Israel.

The United States had been campaigning against a resolution pending before the Security Council for weeks. But on Monday, U.S. diplomats at the United Nations circulated a proposed draft of a resolution that would deplore Israel's decision last weekend to deport four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians, who are appealing the expulsion orders, are leaders of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which has claimed credit for the brutal murder of three Israeli Jews in Jaffa last Friday.

The draft would also voice concern about the "dangerous deterioration of the situation" for Palestinians in the "Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem."

That wording would appear to question Israel's right to sovereignty over Jerusalem, which Israel regards as its eternal, indivisible capital.

Israeli officials are also worried about a section of the draft requesting that the U.N. secretary-general "make renewed efforts to monitor and observe the situation regarding Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation" through U.N. personnel stationed both in and out of the area.

The Security Council met Monday night to consider the draft, but apparently reached no consensus. It was due to reconvene Wednesday morning.

Shamir spoke with a delegation of visiting senators led by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine).

**Backs Israel's Right To Decide**

The group also met with Foreign Minister David Levy, who repeated his belief that if a war in the Persian Gulf is inevitable, it should be carried out quickly and decisively.

Levy said that in his eyes, the United States has all the tools needed to win the war against Saddam Hussein, on both the actual battlefield and the battlefield of public opinion.

Speaking to reporters after his meeting with Levy, Mitchell expressed his support for Israel and said that "it is extremely important to American interests that we maintain a friendly and supportive relationship with Israel."

When asked for the U.S. view on Israel expelling the four Hamas leaders from the Gaza Strip, Mitchell replied that "the American policy in opposition to deportations has been one of long standing, one which we have maintained through several administrations, and it continues today."

But, he added, "each nation should decide for itself its method for dealing with what it regards as violations of the law, and it would be presumptuous to tell the government of Israel what types of laws it should have."

(JTA correspondent Aliza Marcus at the United Nations contributed to this report.)

**SHOSHANA CARDIN IS UNANIMOUS PICK  
TO CHAIR CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS**

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Shoshana Cardin, who has made a name for herself as a strong and outspoken leader in a variety of American Jewish organizational roles, was elected unanimously Tuesday as chairwoman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Cardin steps into what will effectively be a two-year term at a difficult time in U.S.-Israeli relations, one of the main areas of focus for the conference, an umbrella organization of 46 national Jewish organizations.

Over the past few months, the conference has been busy working to secure Israel's position with the U.S. administration, a task now complicated by President Bush's struggle to maintain good relations with the Arab partners in his international campaign to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The conference, which is concerned specifically with strengthening the U.S.-Israeli alliance, as well as protecting the interests of Israel and Jews worldwide, serves the American Jewish leadership as a primary forum for dialogue with both U.S. and Israeli government leaders.

During the chairmanship of Seymour Reich, whose second one-year term will officially end at midnight Dec. 31, the conference faced a surge of U.S. criticism of Israel.

The two countries have repeatedly come into open conflict on the Middle East peace process and Israel's handling of the now 3-year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-administered territories.

**First Woman To Head Conference**

American anger at Israeli conduct during and after the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem led to two rare U.S.-backed condemnations of Israel in the U.N. Security Council. And this week, State Department officials deplored Israel's decision to resume deportations of Palestinians from the administered territories.

"The next two years are going to be difficult," said Reich, who has also just completed his term as president of B'nai B'rith International and will now devote more time to his law practice.

"Whatever the outcome of the Gulf crisis, there will be increased pressure on Israel to move forward the peace process, greater reliance on the United Nations and the danger of an influx of weapons to so-called moderate Arab countries," he said.

But the 64-year-old Cardin, who is known for her intellect, leadership capabilities and commitment to the Jewish community, is well-prepared to handle the range of issues that will confront her as chairwoman, Reich and other Jewish leaders said.

And as the first woman to head the 31-year-old organization, she represents the strides women have made and can make within Jewish leadership, they said.

"I'm delighted that we have finally matured to have a woman, a lady, lead us," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation

League of B'nai B'rith. "She is a proven leader in the Jewish community who has been tested in times of crisis and difficulty."

Alan Tichnor, who served on the nominating committee and is president of the United Synagogue of America, said Cardin gave a presentation to the committee that was "par excellence."

"Those who had been on the nominating committee before said it was the best they ever heard. She's powerful, knowledgeable and well-respected," he said.

Another candidate for the position was Max Kampelman, a former ADL officer who headed arms control negotiations with the Soviets in the Reagan administration.

Kampelman, who would have brought to the position excellent government connections, was turned down in part because he did not fulfill the precondition of being president of a major Jewish organization.

### Priorities Are Clear

Although the term of office is officially one year, chairpersons of the conference historically have been renominated for a second term.

Cardin, saying she is ready to undertake the challenge of leading the Conference of Presidents, called the organization a "vital instrument in the American Jewish community, serving as a consensus builder and communicator" to the important players in U.S.-Israeli relations.

"The priorities almost identify themselves," she said. "There is a relation between the exciting, massive aliyah and the ability of Israel to maintain a secure position at the same time welcoming incredible numbers of olim."

She predicted that much of the new year will be spent dealing with the fallout from the Persian Gulf crisis, assuring no linkage is made between Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and Israel's administration of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Cardin has spent the past two years serving as chairwoman of the National Conference of Soviet Jewry, during a time when the priorities of the Soviet Jewry movement shifted from campaigns to free Soviet Jews to efforts to help resettle them in Israel.

Prior to that she was president of the Council of Jewish Federations, the representative body of 200 community federations in the United States and Canada.

Cardin also gained prominence in the autumn of 1988 for spearheading opposition to efforts in the Israeli Knesset to amend the Law of Return.

The so-called "Who Is a Jew" amendment, which would have denied Israeli citizenship to immigrants whose conversion to Judaism did not meet Orthodox standards, was ultimately withdrawn in the face of overwhelming pressure from American Jews.

### Orthodox Are Satisfied

It was because of Cardin's role in convincing Israeli leaders not to press the amendment at that time that reports started circulating of Orthodox antagonism toward her nomination for chairwoman of the Conference of Presidents.

But during the nomination process, which started three months ago and ended in early December, a meeting Cardin held with Orthodox leaders left them feeling reassured that her expected nomination would pose no problems, said an Orthodox rabbi who took part.

"It was a very good meeting, and we feel confident that it will turn out fine," said Rabbi

Fabian Schonfeld, president of Poalei Agudath Israel, an Orthodox group with official observer status in the Conference of Presidents.

"I don't expect any trouble with the Orthodox over her," he said.

In a telephone interview before Tuesday's vote on her nomination, Cardin said she believed the religious issue was now a non-issue. Because the conference contains both Reform and Orthodox Jewish groups, as well as a myriad of secular ones, Cardin and others said religious issues are rarely if ever addressed.

Born to Latvian parents in Palestine, Cardin arrived at age 2 in Baltimore, where she later became active in local Jewish affairs.

One of her first major leadership roles in the Jewish community was as president of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland from 1965 to 1967.

She was the first woman to chair the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Baltimore, and she has served on the boards of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, United Israel Appeal and United Jewish Appeal, to name but a few.

### **BEILIN PLAN GETS CAIRO'S EAR BUT COLD SHOULDER FROM LABOR** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Labor Knesset member Yossi Beilin flew to Cairo on Tuesday, further enraging harder-line elements within his party.

Beilin was invited to the Egyptian capital by Osama el-Baz, a top adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, after proposing last week that Israel voluntarily withdraw from the Gaza Strip and let it evolve into a Palestinian state, which one day could include the West Bank as well.

Micha Harish, the Labor Party's secretary-general, accused Beilin of "destroying the party." Another group of Laborites, led by Knesset member Michael Bar-Zohar, warned Beilin he may have no future in the party.

Harish said he suspected that Beilin, a protege of party Chairman Shimon Peres, is planning to bolt Labor and set up a new political movement.

His position parallels that of Shlomo Lahat, the Likud mayor of Tel Aviv, who stunned the governing party by announcing his support for a Palestinian state on the prime time news Saturday night.

But unlike Lahat, who has a strong constituency and is immensely popular, Beilin's position derives from his closeness to Peres.

He was political director of the Foreign Ministry when Peres was foreign minister in the 1980s and deputy minister of finance when Peres was finance minister until March, when the Likud-Labor unity government collapsed.

Peres has not commented on Beilin's proposals. But he observed there is no rule against thinking or coming up with ideas that are contrary to party orthodoxy.

"There are those in Likud, too, who publicly advocate a Palestinian state," Peres said, referring to Lahat.

Beilin said his plan was the result of months of intense discussion within a dovish faction of the Labor Party called the Mashov group.

Another member of the group, Knesset member Avrum Burg, was also invited to Cairo by el-Baz, but declined to accept.

# BRAZIL HAS ENDED MILITARY TIES WITH IRAQ, EX-OPERATIVE CLAIMS

By Jayme Brener and Julio Nobre

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has put an end to more than a decade of Brazilian military cooperation with Saddam Hussein's regime, according to a retired head of Brazil's intelligence agency.

Col. Carlos Cunha, a retired former senior operative of the Servico Nacional de Informacoes, said President Fernando Collor de Mello has ordered national companies to end their military collaboration with Iraq, which reportedly began when Brazil was ruled by a military junta and continued throughout the civilian administration of former President Jose Sarney.

Military cooperation with Iraq was a boost to the Brazilian economy and a reason why Brazil voted consistently for anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations, explained Cunha, who used to be in charge of foreign affairs.

Brazil sold over \$4 billion worth of arms and other products to Iraq during the 1980s, which helped reduce its own \$22 billion debt to Baghdad, Cunha said.

The Brazilian military rulers also reportedly signed a secret agreement to sell Iraq 100 tons of uranium. According to the daily Jornal do Brasil, the two countries embarked on a joint nuclear project aimed at creating an atomic weapon.

But the project fell through in 1981 when it was exposed and denounced in the local and international press.

Cunha said the main target of Collor's order was a private corporation, HOP, owned by retired Brig. Hugo Piva. Before the invasion of Kuwait, HOP helped Iraq develop the air-to-air Piranha missile and improve the performance of the Scud missiles Iraq purchased from the Soviet Union.

Cunha said contacts between Brazil and Iraq started after the first Arab oil embargo in 1973. The Brazilian military government was trying to assure a reliable supply of oil, and the Iraqis were looking for new vendors of weapons, industrial goods and technology.

"It's easy to understand the success of that cooperation," Cunha said. "Iraq agreed to exchange oil for industrial goods, and this helped to reduce the enormous Brazilian foreign debt.

## Blind Eye To Nuclear Project

"By that time, Brazil started to become more independent in the military area. It developed its own military industry, renounced the nuclear treaty with the United States and signed a parallel nuclear agreement with former West Germany," Cunha explained.

He said Israel had lobbied Brazil to reduce its military links with Iraq, to no avail.

Trade between the countries increased in the 1980s under the impact of the second oil crisis. A national construction company called Mendes Junior developed many projects in the Middle East.

Officially, Brazil sold Saddam Hussein's regime Urutu and Cascavel armored cars.

But according to Jornal do Brasil, Brazilian military experts turned a blind eye to Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, which the Israelis destroyed in a bombing raid in June 1981.

A private Brazilian company, Natron, was called in by Hussein to build a uranium dioxide plant in Iraq, but Natron backed out because of high cost projections.

Before the deal was canceled, the Iraqis

asked the Brazilian firm not to send any Jewish technicians to their country.

According to Cunha, when the government stopped the Piranha missile project, Piva was invited by the Iraqis to continue the project in Iraq with his own crew of military technicians.

But Collor de Mello finally put a stop to it, Cunha said.

After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the international blockade, all Brazilian companies left Baghdad with big losses, Cunha said.

## LEADERS OF BRITISH JEWRY ASSAIL RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

By Simon Rocker

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Britain's decision to renew diplomatic relations with Syria came under fire at this week's plenary meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

"We are extremely unhappy at this development in view of President (Hafez) Assad's record as a godfather of international terrorism, including attempts to cause bloodshed on British soil," said Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies.

Particular concern was expressed that Syria's recent renunciation of support for terrorism apparently excludes attacks on targets in Israel.

The representative body of British Jewry apparently was not mollified by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's promise to raise the plight of Syria's 5,000-member Jewish community with the Damascus government.

Hurd made the pledge at a recent meeting with a delegation from the Board of Deputies.

Britain severed diplomatic relations with Syria on Oct. 24, 1986, after the Syrian ambassador to London, Loutof Allah Haydar, was implicated in a terrorist attempt to blow up an El Al airliner at Heathrow airport on April 17, 1986.

The government's decision to restore ties with Syria was defended by Ivan Lawrence of the Conservative Party, a member of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, who observed that diplomatic relations are "not a matter of honor or reward but a necessary part of international relations."

Lawrence said the best way to help Syrian Jews was through negotiations with the Syrian authorities.

## ED KOCH HIT BY ROCK AT WALL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Former New York Mayor Ed Koch was struck in the head by a rock Tuesday while on a walking tour of the Old City with Jerusalem's Teddy Kollek.

Koch, 66, suffered a minor bruise on his scalp. But he decided to continue the tour.

The incident occurred on David Street, not usually a trouble spot.

Koch, who served three terms as mayor of New York and is an outspoken supporter of Israel, took his stroll with Kollek, an old friend, to demonstrate that the Old City is basically safe.

The stoning clouded that message. But Koch said later that the tour had been an uplifting experience for him, and he urged pilgrims and tourists, Christians and Jews, to come to the city.

The rock-thrower was not apprehended, but Kollek retrieved the rock and gave it to Koch as a souvenir.

## SOVIET OFFICIAL SAYS DIRECT FLIGHTS WOULD RESTRICT FREEDOM OF CHOICE

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Because the Soviet Union believes in "freedom of choice" for Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate, it will not drop its ban on direct emigre flights to Israel for the foreseeable future, a senior Soviet Embassy official said Tuesday.

Soviet political counselor Vyacheslav Matuzov said that for economic reasons, many Jews who are able to leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas would like to have the opportunity to emigrate instead to other European countries or the United States.

To deny emigrating Soviet Jews access to a transit point such as Bucharest would be "against their will," Matuzov told an American Jewish Committee symposium here.

The symposium, which was also addressed by Israeli political counselor Shimon Stein, was billed as the first between Soviet and Israeli officials since their recent resumption of full consular relations.

Stein did not respond directly to the "freedom of choice" rationale, but another senior Israeli Embassy official said later that "the great majority (of Jews) who leave the Soviet Union would like to go to Israel."

Matuzov also cited concerns by Arab governments and others that the Soviet Union is providing Israel "with population." He added that while the Soviet Union has until recently been perceived as friendly only to Arab countries, he did not want the impression created that his country is now friendly only to Israel.

The Israeli official, who declined to be named, argued conversely that "the fact that a very high percentage (of Soviet emigres) are scientists and engineers will eventually promote the chances for the peace process and cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries" through cooperative programs.

### Soviet Anti-Semitism Cited

Stein, in his presentation, challenged Matuzov on his argument that Soviet Jews emigrate mainly for economic reasons. He argued that there is also growing anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union stemming from a desire by the Soviets to find a scapegoat for the country's economic woes.

This year marked a "dramatic shift" in Soviet emigration policy, Stein said, citing the emigration of more than 100,000 Soviet Jews.

Another improvement in Israeli-Soviet relations this year has been a reduction in "hostile propaganda toward Israel in the Soviet media," Stein said.

He cited a statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze opposing Iraqi attempts to link a withdrawal from Kuwait to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But Stein said there are "still remnants of old thinking," citing the absence of full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Stein pointed out that the Soviet Union recently resumed relations with Saudi Arabia.

Matuzov replied by quoting a statement Shevardnadze made last week that the Soviet Union has no preconditions for restoring relations with Israel, such as Israeli willingness to take part in an international peace conference.

He even said that the Palestine Liberation Organization has told Moscow that it would

support a renewal in full Soviet-Israeli ties as a way to make progress on the peace process.

Stein did not comment on that point, but the other Israeli official said that "from everything I've seen, the PLO is putting pressure on the Soviet Union not to start full diplomatic relations and (instead) to sever relations."

Matuzov predicted that the Soviet Union and Israel would within a month settle some of the problems that have cropped up since the resumption of consular relations.

Among the issues yet to be resolved are the size of each country's consular delegations and what buildings they would occupy, the Israeli official said.

Matuzov also acknowledged Soviet-Israeli economic relations are growing at a faster pace than their political relations. He cited the growing number of housing, agriculture and other accords being worked out between the two nations.

## JEWISH AGENCY HIT BY CASH SHORTAGE CAUSED BY HIGH COST OF SOVIET ALIYAH

By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Israel has stopped paying many of its bills as a result of the huge operating deficit run up by the enormous cost of the Soviet aliyah.

"A lot of people are screaming now for their money," said an agency official who requested anonymity, "but we have to take care of the immigrants before we pay our suppliers."

The agency pays the cost of transporting the immigrants and their luggage to Israel, as well as 25 percent of the absorption grant they receive during their first year in Israel.

Officials say that many regular Jewish Agency programs that are not connected to the Soviet aliyah, such as Project Renewal, are grinding to a halt because of the cash shortage.

The agency, which depends on a steady flow of contributions from Diaspora Jews to maintain its programs, now lacks \$120 million to cover the cost of programs approved for this year's budget. In addition, it has run up a \$40 million overdraft to pay bills that cannot be put off.

"The main problem," according to Neale Katz, head of the Israel office of the United Israel Appeal, "is that there have been many more Soviet immigrants than anticipated."

"The problem is not due to a poor cash flow from the campaigns," Katz explained. "The United Jewish Appeal has sent the cash to the agency that it promised from Operation Exodus, and contributions from the regular campaign are about what they should be this time of year."

UJA, which funnels its funds through the United Israel Appeal, is the Jewish Agency's chief source of income. Its second largest source is Keren Hayesod, which raises funds from Jews in Diaspora communities outside the United States.

The agency's initial budget was based on a projected Soviet aliyah of 70,000 for the 1990-91 fiscal year, but now some 220,000 immigrants are expected. It was known months ago that the aliyah would exceed initial projections, but little action was taken to cut regular agency programs to free up more cash for the immigrants.

Agency officials say that major cuts will have to be made in its regular programs for next year, including rural settlement and youth aliyah. They say it also will be necessary for the agency to take out more loans. The agency's long-term debt now stands at \$450 million.