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NO. 1

**JEWS ALLOWED TO LEAVE ALBANIA  
IN WHAT MAY BECOME NEW EXODUS**

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- Thirty-seven Jews from Albania, Eastern Europe's last remaining Communist stronghold, arrived in Italy last week and are awaiting resettlement in the United States.

The emigres, all members of one family, are among the first in what is expected to be a mass migration of the country's tiny Jewish community, estimated to number anywhere between 500 and 1,000 people, according to officials involved.

Officials said a few families are already in Israel, but it is unclear when they arrived as part of "Operation Flying Carpet," as the emigration of Albanian Jews is being called.

The departure of Jews from Albania, whose people remained in virtual isolation for decades under the Stalinist rule of Enver Hoxha, comes as the country is taking tentative steps toward establishing an open system.

The new Communist leadership has agreed to allow opposition parties in this country of 3.3 million, and the total ban on religion reportedly has been eased. The majority of Albanians are Moslems.

"For 45 years, there was no Jewish community life nor synagogue, and they could not celebrate their holidays in public," said an official connected with the emigration.

"But the males said they were all circumcised, demonstrating as a fact they haven't forgotten their Judaism," the official said.

**Menorah Buried For Years**

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The extended family of 37 was flown from the Albanian capital of Tirana to Rome, where their migration processing is being handled by HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, said Karl Zukerman, its executive vice president. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is handling the costs incurred during their stay in Italy, he said.

Exit visas for the Jews were obtained after months of quiet negotiations between Israel and Albania with the help of the Italian government, said an official connected with the emigration. In general, a family member traveled to nearby Athens or Rome and then returned to Albania with Israeli visas for the whole family.

Several Albanian Jews visited Israel as tourists last summer, and it is apparently in the wake of their reports back that larger numbers of Jews have decided to make aliyah.

Albanian Jews with relatives in the United States will be allowed to join their families here, while the others are expected to settle in Israel, officials said.

Most Albanian Jews originally come from Greece, and many fled to Albania during World War II to escape the Nazis.

(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**FEDERATIONS TRIMMING LOCAL SERVICES  
AS THEY RAISE MILLIONS FOR SOVIET JEWS**

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NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- Across the United States, from San Francisco to New York, from Buffalo to Phoenix, the accents of Jewish federation officials may be different, but the words they use are the same: Retrench. Restructure. Merge. Maximize resources. Avoid duplication.

In other words, cut back on services and staff.

For Jewish communities, money is suddenly tight, thanks to a widening recession, growing demand for local services and the pressing needs of tens of thousands of Jews emigrating each month from the Soviet Union.

As the proceeds are tallied up from the United Jewish Appeal's enormously successful Operation Exodus campaign, which set out to raise a whopping \$420 million in 1990 to resettle Soviet Jews in Israel, some federation officials are finding there is little money left to raise for their regular campaigns.

People who contributed generously to what was billed as an emergency campaign for Soviet Jewry are not increasing -- and in some cases decreasing -- their contributions to their federation general campaigns.

This is particularly worrisome to federation officials, because they know that Operation Exodus will soon be replaced by an even more ambitious campaign to aid the Soviet Jews streaming into Israel, whose migration is accelerating, not slowing down.

At the same time, many federations are having to come up with funds from their local budgets to resettle the 40,000 Soviet Jews who are arriving each year in the United States.

**General Campaigns Raising Less**

"A lot of us are worried that we will meet the needs of the Soviet Jewish goals and turn around and find that we've rendered insecure the domestic Jewish needs," said Mark Talisman, director of the Washington Action Office of the Council of Jewish Federations.

"What some communities are doing because of their (financial) problems, I'm afraid, is taking from the domestic ledger to meet the Soviet Jewry needs," he said.

"But what's the answer? Not to respond to Soviet Jews? That's a ridiculous concept. It has to happen, and so does everything else."

In interviews with over a dozen federation directors and financial planners from the 34 largest federations, the massive effort to raise money for Soviet resettlement was described over and over again as a monumental historic opportunity.

But when it came to talk of budgets and local campaigns, the tone changed.

Federations in Boston, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Phoenix and San Francisco, to name a few, raised less money for their general campaigns in 1990 than they did in 1989. In many cases, this followed equally weak campaigns for 1989.

Federations fund a variety of local agencies and institutions designed to aid and strengthen

the Jewish community, including Hebrew schools and old age homes, counseling services and hospitals, cultural projects and community centers.

Such projects have been imperiled by many federations' flat, or in some cases reduced, general campaigns over the past two years.

"Most of our leaders would be pleased just to break even, given the money needed for Soviet Jews," said Rick Meyer, executive director of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, which eliminated two staff positions in the last year because of shrinking campaigns.

#### **Budget Cuts Of 10 Percent**

While Milwaukee raised an impressive \$7 million for Soviet resettlement, the \$9 million it raised in its 1990 regular campaign was 2.1 percent less than it raised the year before. That put a squeeze on local recipients of campaign dollars.

"Local agencies worked very hard to find alternative sources of revenue," said Meyer. "But if this happens another year or so, you will see agencies cutting back directly on services."

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the federation set out to raise \$4 million for Operation Exodus and another \$600,000 for local resettlement of Soviet Jews, officials said. While most of this has been raised, local agencies had their 1990 budgets slashed by 18 percent below the 1989 figures.

In Hartford, Conn., the federation closed an office that provided counseling to teen-agers and families in the eastern suburbs. Those providing the services agreed to continue working on a volunteer basis, but the office had to remain shut for lack of money, explained Cindy Chazan, assistant executive director for the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation.

As of February, all Jewish agencies in Hartford will have to take a 10 percent cut in their budgets. And as to what will happen the following year, "that's between you, me and God," said Chazan.

As Hartford federation officials take stock after three years of basically reduced campaigns once inflation is taken into account, their goal is to make cuts in such a way that the community remains intact.

"We don't want to create shells of institutions," said Chazan. "We don't want to dissolve the community. So when things come back, we'll have something to come back to."

In New York, the Board of Jewish Education, funded by the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, has had to close part of a library serving both Jewish and non-Jewish teachers, along with eliminating some staff positions in the agency.

"We are straining to keep our head above water," said Alvin Schiff, executive vice president. The Board of Jewish Education has also had to reduce the number of days its five teacher centers throughout the city are open.

#### **National Agencies Suffering**

Such restrictions come at a time when demands for better and wider Jewish educational programs are being heard from all sections of the Jewish community, Schiff pointed out.

Many federations, as a way to ease pressure on their own agencies, have cut back drastically on what they allocate to national Jewish agencies.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale decreased its allocations to national agencies by 20 percent, while the Jewish Federation of South Broward, also in Florida, chopped

its portion by 64.5 percent, according to figures provided by CJF.

The effect on national agencies is hard to measure, as many of these agencies have other sources of revenue, such as their own fund-raising campaigns or federal grants.

But there have been at least some cutbacks. The American Jewish Committee reduced its 300-strong staff by 40 positions last year, and American Jewish Congress lost four positions, officials of those agencies said.

Still, there is no talk of forgoing the responsibility to aid Soviet Jews so as to save money for local or national needs.

If asked to raise more money for Soviet Jews, "we don't have a choice, we have to do what we have to do," said Kenneth Bierman, executive director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

"It's going to be a bitch, real hard, but we've got to rise to the occasion," said an official from another major federation. "We have to impress upon people that we have no choice."

#### **JERUSALEM BOMBER BLOWS UP HERSELF**

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The accident averted what might have been heavy casualties among shoppers in the open market, which has been a target of terrorist attacks in the past.

Merchants and customers were alerted by a dull blast and smoke emanating from the lavatory. They found the woman still alive. But fearing she was holding a second bomb, they fled. The woman died soon after the police arrived.

#### **SUSPECT IN SHOOTING OF ARABS ARRESTED**

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JERUSALEM, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- The police arrested a 19-year-old Jewish man Monday on suspicion of wounding three members of an Arab family last Thursday night when he opened fire on their car in the West Bank.

The identity of the suspect, who lives in northern Israel, was not disclosed. Police said he acted alone and has confessed to the assault, saying his motive was personal revenge.

He is believed to be related Shalom (Charlie) Shloush, one of the three Jewish residents of Jerusalem's Baka neighborhood stabbed to death by a West Bank Arab in October.

Police sources insisted the suspect is not linked to any organization, although an anonymous telephone call after the shooting claimed it was done by a group called the Zionist Vengeful.

The assault occurred near the Etzion bloc of settlements, south of Jerusalem.

Dr. Faisal Amru, 40, of Hebron was gravely injured in the attack. His sister, Ibtissam, 34, and her 9-month-old infant, Aya Jamal Amru, were badly wounded. All were hospitalized in Jerusalem.

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**EFFORT TO MAKE ISABELLA A SAINT  
COULD STRAIN CATHOLIC-JEWISH TIES**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- A campaign by the Spanish Catholic Church to bestow sainthood on Queen Isabella I of Spain could cause a dangerous breach in Catholic-Jewish relations, according to Jewish and Catholic leaders.

"It is potentially divisive issue, and has enormous international implications," warned Rabbi A. James Rudin, American Jewish Committee's national director for interreligious affairs.

Rudin is chairman of a panel investigating the issue that was set up by IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, which represents world Jewry in contacts with the Vatican.

Isabella has been nominated for veneration, the first step toward sainthood, by conservative elements within the Spanish Catholic Church.

She is remembered as a despot by both Jews and Moslems, who suffered torture, forced conversion and expulsion under her reign from 1474-1504.

Her veneration "would be a disaster for dialogue," admitted Dr. Eugene Fisher, director for Catholic-Jewish relations at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the organization which represents 350 bishops in the United States.

"No matter what one can say about her personally, the symbolic meaning of her reign as queen was the expulsion of the Jews, and that symbolism is too massive in Jewish history" for it to do anything but "an incredible amount of damage," Fisher said.

**Outcry From World Jewry**

Isabella's nomination has prompted an outcry from Jewish leaders and organizations around the world, among them the World Jewish Congress, the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, the British Council of Christians and Jews and B'nai Brith Canada.

"It is outrageous and obscene, because that lady, under any set of rules, does not deserve sainthood," declared Andre Sassoon, vice president of the International Jewish Committee for Sepharad '92 and the international secretary for the World Sephardi Federation.

The Spanish Church officials who are promoting her cause hope to have her approved by the Vatican by 1992, when the church will celebrate 500 years of Christianity in the Americas.

Christianity was brought to the "New World" by Christopher Columbus, whose voyage was financed by Isabella and her husband, Ferdinand, in 1492.

But 1992 is an important anniversary to Jews, especially Sephardic Jews, for another reason: It marks the quincentennial of the edict, signed by Isabella and Ferdinand, ordering Jews to convert to Christianity or be forcibly expelled.

Spain's current monarch, Juan Carlos, will formally revoke the expulsion edict on March 31, 1992, exactly 500 years after it was issued. Sephardic Jews around the world will use the occasion to celebrate the rich cultural heritage bestowed by the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry, which ended with the decree.

The petition on behalf of Isabella may have been submitted to the Vatican at least seven years ago, according to Fisher.

It is not known exactly how long her case has been before the Vatican Congregation for the

Causes of Saints, which considers nominations, because of the secrecy cloaking the process.

"There are hundreds of causes of saints sitting in the Vatican," Fisher said. "Some of them stay there for centuries and never get moved forward. Isabella's could have been sitting there for a long time."

**A Push By Conservative Elements**

Rev. Anastasio Gutierrez, representing the Spanish Archdiocese of Valladolid, near the site of Isabella's death in 1504, is serving as postulator, arguing her case before the Vatican Congregation. It is up that body to decide whether there is enough evidence of extraordinary virtue in her life to pass her case on to the cardinals of the congregation, and then to the pope.

Isabella's nomination is being pushed by conservative elements within the Spanish Catholic Church who oppose some of the liberal steps recently taken by the Spanish government, according to Rudin of AJCommittee.

The socialist Spanish government established full diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986 and last February extended the same legal status enjoyed by Roman Catholics to Jews and Protestants.

Those steps and the "mea culpa" Spain is offering, with Juan Carlos' revocation of the expulsion edict, send a positive message that is negated by the effort to beatify Isabella, Rudin said.

If Isabella were to be honored in this way by the church, say Jewish leaders, it would send a mixed message to world Jewry at a time when the Vatican's relationship with Jews is enjoying renewed strength after three years of distance.

That chill began in 1987, after a Carmelite convent was established on the grounds of the Auschwitz death camp, and Pope John Paul II met with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, a former Nazi who served in a German army unit linked to wartime atrocities.

At a Dec. 6 meeting with Jewish leaders, the pope voiced his unequivocal support of a declaration issued three months earlier in Prague that called anti-Semitism a "sin against God."

December's meeting was a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the 1965 Vatican decree that redefined Catholic-Jewish relations and opened the way for dialogue.

**Objections In The Past**

Isabella's is not the first case for beatification or canonization to be opposed by Jews.

Edith Stein, a Jewish-born Carmelite nun who was taken from her convent in the Netherlands in August 1942, and murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz several days later, was beatified on May 1, 1987, despite objections from world Jewry.

Jewish groups opposed her beatification as a Catholic martyr because she was killed "not because she was a nun or a Catholic, but because she was born a Jew," according to Rudin.

The 1982 canonization of Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest killed by the Nazis, was also protested by Jewish groups, who said he espoused anti-Semitic views in the 1920s and 1930s.

"The Jewish community shouldn't be caught napping this time, as we were during the period of beatification for Edith Stein," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. "We were derelict while that 20-year process was under way."

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES: PICKING WHICH ARMS SALES TO FIGHT MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY GULF CRISIS**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- For supporters of Israel, deciding whether or not to fight proposed U.S. arms sales to Arab countries has become increasingly complicated in recent years and never more difficult than during the Persian Gulf crisis.

Countering White House claims that such sales are in the interests of U.S. foreign policy has never been an easy task. But fighting arms sales became even more difficult when the Reagan administration began touting them for domestic benefits, maintaining that they create jobs and help to reduce the mammoth U.S. trade deficit.

"It is a very serious thing to take on an administration and ask American industry to forego certain jobs," Stephen Silbiger said in 1988, when he was Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress.

That year saw Britain undertake a massive arms sale of \$30 billion to Saudi Arabia, after the Saudis were rebuffed in their attempt to gain sophisticated weaponry from the United States.

At the time, some questioned whether the pro-Israel lobby on Capitol Hill had pursued a wise strategy in fighting a sale of weapons the Saudis ultimately got elsewhere, with fewer controls and restrictions on usage.

In principle, American Jewish groups, like Israel, oppose all arms sales to Arab countries except Egypt. But they decide on a case-by-case basis whether to actively fight a proposed U.S. sale, based on the circumstances at the time.

And in fact, Jewish groups do not seek to block most U.S. arms sales to Arab countries, according to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. An AIPAC official said the pro-Israel has actively fought only 10 percent of the total amount of arms sold by the United States to Arab countries over the last decade.

## **\$15 Billion Package Expected**

The Gulf crisis has posed the ultimate challenge for the pro-Israel community, for the stakes are especially high.

Blocking a major U.S. arms sale to an Arab country could upset the international coalition against Iraq. But allowing such a sale to pass could dramatically alter the military balance in the Middle East, at a time when the Jewish state is more vulnerable to attack than ever.

It is this dilemma that the Jewish community and its congressional allies may face in early 1991, when the Bush administration is expected to send Congress a proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia totaling \$15 billion.

The proposed sale includes highly objectionable new AWACS surveillance planes that could significantly erode Israel's air superiority over any array of Arab countries.

Despite the fact that much of the \$15 billion in weaponry cannot be delivered until years down the road, the administration is expected to use the argument that the sale is essential while Saudi Arabia is cooperating with U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

President Bush warned the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in November that he would do "whatever he believed necessary to protect the troops in the desert," including to "go to the American people

to sell the package," said Seymour Reich, outgoing chairman of the umbrella group.

In early September, a month after Iraq invaded Kuwait, major U.S. Jewish groups, including AIPAC and the Conference of Presidents, agreed not to oppose a \$6.7 billion weapons sale to Saudi Arabia or plans to forgive Egypt's \$7.3 billion military debt to the United States.

## **Deal Criticized By Some Senators**

In return, Israel would get an arms package of its own, including 15 F-15 fighters, 10 helicopters, two missile batteries, \$100 million in munitions, and the possibility of receiving \$700 million in excess U.S. weaponry at Bush's discretion.

The compromise -- hammered out by such key senators as Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), Robert Kasten (R-Wis.) and Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) -- was less harmful to Israel than an original \$20 billion package for the Saudis floated by Bush.

But other key Senate supporters of Israel felt that the Jewish community should not have weighed in on the deal, which they said did not provide enough "offsets" for Israel. These senators felt that by refusing to fight the sale, the Jewish community made it impossible for them to bring the Saudi arms proposal to a vote.

"Once the administration was able to link the additional military aid for Israel to the Saudi package and the Egyptian debt relief, it was impossible to defeat the Saudi arms sale," Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"You cannot on the one hand accept a proposal that will provide Israel with additional military capability and then on the very same token oppose the other parts of the package."

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) told JTA he expressed "flat-out opposition" to both the \$20 billion and the \$6.7 billion packages when consulted about the deal.

"I was prepared to join in leading the fight against the arms sale in any amount," he said. "I don't believe any concessions should be made on the Saudi arms sale whether it be won or lost."

Specter said the possibility of a fight "faded when Israel got \$700 million in arms. That's what undercut it."

## **AIPAC Plans To Fight Next Round**

There were also signs of readiness to fight the sale in the House, where in just two days, 100 lawmakers signed a resolution of disapproval, sponsored by Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.).

Reich said the Conference of Presidents backed the compromise after realizing it could not muster the necessary 67 votes in the Senate to override the veto Bush would surely give a resolution to block the arms package.

He called it "regrettable" if members of Congress thought they could have defeated the \$6.7 billion package. "They might have shared that with us at the time if they knew what was going on," he said.

But the Jewish community is not expected to be as ready to go along with the \$15 billion, which is expected to be announced shortly after the new Congress convenes in January.

AIPAC Executive Director Thomas Dine has staked out an early position to oppose the sale with full force.

But Reich indicated that should there not be a sufficient number of lawmakers to override a presidential veto, the Conference of Presidents would likely support a compromise once again.



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**REMINDER:** The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

**EFFORT TO MAKE ISABELLA A SAINT  
COULD STRAIN CATHOLIC-JEWISH TIES**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- A campaign by the Spanish Catholic Church to bestow sainthood on Queen Isabella I of Spain could cause a dangerous breach in Catholic-Jewish relations, according to Jewish and Catholic leaders.

"It is potentially divisive issue, and has enormous international implications," warned Rabbi A. James Rudin, American Jewish Committee's national director for interreligious affairs.

Rudin is chairman of a panel investigating the issue that was set up by IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, which represents world Jewry in contacts with the Vatican.

Isabella has been nominated for veneration, the first step toward sainthood, by conservative elements within the Spanish Catholic Church.

She is remembered as a despot by both Jews and Moslems, who suffered torture, forced conversion and expulsion under her reign from 1474-1504.

Her veneration "would be a disaster for dialogue," admitted Dr. Eugene Fisher, director for Catholic-Jewish relations at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the organization which represents 350 bishops in the United States.

"No matter what one can say about her personally, the symbolic meaning of her reign as queen was the expulsion of the Jews, and that symbolism is too massive in Jewish history" for it to do anything but "an incredible amount of damage," Fisher said.

**Outcry From World Jewry**

Isabella's nomination has prompted an outcry from Jewish leaders and organizations around the world, among them the World Jewish Congress, the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, the British Council of Christians and Jews and B'nai Brith Canada.

"It is outrageous and obscene, because that lady, under any set of rules, does not deserve sainthood," declared Andre Sassoon, vice president of the International Jewish Committee for Sepharad '92 and the international secretary for the World Sephardi Federation.

The Spanish Church officials who are promoting her cause hope to have her approved by the Vatican by 1992, when the church will celebrate 500 years of Christianity in the Americas.

Christianity was brought to the "New World" by Christopher Columbus, whose voyage was financed by Isabella and her husband, Ferdinand, in 1492.

But 1992 is an important anniversary to Jews, especially Sephardic Jews, for another reason: It marks the quincentennial of the edict, signed by Isabella and Ferdinand, ordering Jews to convert to Christianity or be forcibly expelled.

Spain's current monarch, Juan Carlos, will formally revoke the expulsion edict on March 31, 1992, exactly 500 years after it was issued. Sephardic Jews around the world will use the occasion to celebrate the rich cultural heritage bestowed by the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry, which ended with the decree.

The petition on behalf of Isabella may have been submitted to the Vatican at least seven years ago, according to Fisher.

It is not known exactly how long her case has been before the Vatican Congregation for the

Causes of Saints, which considers nominations, because of the secrecy cloaking the process.

"There are hundreds of causes of saints sitting in the Vatican," Fisher said. "Some of them stay there for centuries and never get moved forward. Isabella's could have been sitting there for a long time."

**A Push By Conservative Elements**

Rev. Anastasio Gutierrez, representing the Spanish Archdiocese of Valladolid, near the site of Isabella's death in 1504, is serving as postulator, arguing her case before the Vatican Congregation. It is up that body to decide whether there is enough evidence of extraordinary virtue in her life to pass her case on to the cardinals of the congregation, and then to the pope.

Isabella's nomination is being pushed by conservative elements within the Spanish Catholic Church who oppose some of the liberal steps recently taken by the Spanish government, according to Rudin of AJCommittee.

The socialist Spanish government established full diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986 and last February extended the same legal status enjoyed by Roman Catholics to Jews and Protestants.

Those steps and the "mea culpa" Spain is offering, with Juan Carlos' revocation of the expulsion edict, send a positive message that is negated by the effort to beatify Isabella, Rudin said.

If Isabella were to be honored in this way by the church, say Jewish leaders, it would send a mixed message to world Jewry at a time when the Vatican's relationship with Jews is enjoying renewed strength after three years of distance.

That chill began in 1987, after a Carmelite convent was established on the grounds of the Auschwitz death camp, and Pope John Paul II met with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, a former Nazi who served in a German army unit linked to wartime atrocities.

At a Dec. 6 meeting with Jewish leaders, the pope voiced his unequivocal support of a declaration issued three months earlier in Prague that called anti-Semitism a "sin against God."

December's meeting was a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the 1965 Vatican decree that redefined Catholic-Jewish relations and opened the way for dialogue.

**Objections In The Past**

Isabella's is not the first case for beatification or canonization to be opposed by Jews.

Edith Stein, a Jewish-born Carmelite nun who was taken from her convent in the Netherlands in August 1942, and murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz several days later, was beatified on May 1, 1987, despite objections from world Jewry.

Jewish groups opposed her beatification as a Catholic martyr because she was killed "not because she was a nun or a Catholic, but because she was born a Jew," according to Rudin.

The 1982 canonization of Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest killed by the Nazis, was also protested by Jewish groups, who said he espoused anti-Semitic views in the 1920s and 1930s.

"The Jewish community shouldn't be caught napping this time, as we were during the period of beatification for Edith Stein," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. "We were derelict while that 20-year process was under way."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
PICKING WHICH ARMS SALES TO FIGHT  
MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY GULF CRISIS  
By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (JTA) -- For supporters of Israel, deciding whether or not to fight proposed U.S. arms sales to Arab countries has become increasingly complicated in recent years and never more difficult than during the Persian Gulf crisis.

Countering White House claims that such sales are in the interests of U.S. foreign policy has never been an easy task. But fighting arms sales became even more difficult when the Reagan administration began touting them for domestic benefits, maintaining that they create jobs and help to reduce the mammoth U.S. trade deficit.

"It is a very serious thing to take on an administration and ask American industry to forego certain jobs," Stephen Silbiger said in 1988, when he was Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress.

That year saw Britain undertake a massive arms sale of \$30 billion to Saudi Arabia, after the Saudis were rebuffed in their attempt to gain sophisticated weaponry from the United States.

At the time, some questioned whether the pro-Israel lobby on Capitol Hill had pursued a wise strategy in fighting a sale of weapons the Saudis ultimately got elsewhere, with fewer controls and restrictions on usage.

In principle, American Jewish groups, like Israel, oppose all arms sales to Arab countries except Egypt. But they decide on a case-by-case basis whether to actively fight a proposed U.S. sale, based on the circumstances at the time.

And in fact, Jewish groups do not seek to block most U.S. arms sales to Arab countries, according to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. An AIPAC official said the pro-Israel has actively fought only 10 percent of the total amount of arms sold by the United States to Arab countries over the last decade.

**\$15 Billion Package Expected**

The Gulf crisis has posed the ultimate challenge for the pro-Israel community, for the stakes are especially high.

Blocking a major U.S. arms sale to an Arab country could upset the international coalition against Iraq. But allowing such a sale to pass could dramatically alter the military balance in the Middle East, at a time when the Jewish state is more vulnerable to attack than ever.

It is this dilemma that the Jewish community and its congressional allies may face in early 1991, when the Bush administration is expected to send Congress a proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia totaling \$15 billion.

The proposed sale includes highly objectionable new AWACS surveillance planes that could significantly erode Israel's air superiority over any array of Arab countries.

Despite the fact that much of the \$15 billion in weaponry cannot be delivered until years down the road, the administration is expected to use the argument that the sale is essential while Saudi Arabia is cooperating with U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

President Bush warned the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in November that he would do "whatever he believed necessary to protect the troops in the desert," including to "go to the American people

to sell the package," said Seymour Reich, outgoing chairman of the umbrella group.

In early September, a month after Iraq invaded Kuwait, major U.S. Jewish groups, including AIPAC and the Conference of Presidents, agreed not to oppose a \$6.7 billion weapons sale to Saudi Arabia or plans to forgive Egypt's \$7.3 billion military debt to the United States.

**Deal Criticized By Some Senators**

In return, Israel would get an arms package of its own, including 15 F-15 fighters, 10 helicopters, two missile batteries, \$100 million in munitions, and the possibility of receiving \$700 million in excess U.S. weaponry at Bush's discretion.

The compromise -- hammered out by such key senators as Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), Robert Kasten (R-Wis.) and Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) -- was less harmful to Israel than an original \$20 billion package for the Saudis floated by Bush.

But other key Senate supporters of Israel felt that the Jewish community should not have weighed in on the deal, which they said did not provide enough "offsets" for Israel. These senators felt that by refusing to fight the sale, the Jewish community made it impossible for them to bring the Saudi arms proposal to a vote.

"Once the administration was able to link the additional military aid for Israel to the Saudi package and the Egyptian debt relief, it was impossible to defeat the Saudi arms sale," Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"You cannot on the one hand accept a proposal that will provide Israel with additional military capability and then on the very same token oppose the other parts of the package."

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) told JTA he expressed "flat-out opposition" to both the \$20 billion and the \$6.7 billion packages when consulted about the deal.

"I was prepared to join in leading the fight against the arms sale in any amount," he said. "I don't believe any concessions should be made on the Saudi arms sale whether it be won or lost."

Specter said the possibility of a fight "faded when Israel got \$700 million in arms. That's what undercut it."

**AIPAC Plans To Fight Next Round**

There were also signs of readiness to fight the sale in the House, where in just two days, 100 lawmakers signed a resolution of disapproval, sponsored by Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.).

Reich said the Conference of Presidents backed the compromise after realizing it could not muster the necessary 67 votes in the Senate to override the veto Bush would surely give a resolution to block the arms package.

He called it "regrettable" if members of Congress thought they could have defeated the \$6.7 billion package. "They might have shared that with us at the time if they knew what was going on," he said.

But the Jewish community is not expected to be as ready to go along with the \$15 billion, which is expected to be announced shortly after the new Congress convenes in January.

AIPAC Executive Director Thomas Dine has staked out an early position to oppose the sale with full force.

But Reich indicated that should there not be a sufficient number of lawmakers to override a presidential veto, the Conference of Presidents would likely support a compromise once again.