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The United Israel Appeal said total Soviet immigration for the year was 184,195, while the National Conference on Soviet Jewry put the total at 181,759.

In either case, that is the highest yearly total on record. More Soviet Jews arrived in Israel over the last 12 months than in the previous 21 years combined, since NCSJ's Soviet Jewry Research Bureau began keeping records of Soviet Jewish emigration in October 1968, observed Shoshana Cardin, the organization's chairman.

"We are gratified that a record 35,070 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel during December," said Cardin. She said it is a figure that "demonstrates that the Soviet Union continues to live up to its international commitment to provide for free emigration for its citizens, including its still sizeable Jewish population."

Cardin said while her organization is "delighted" with the unprecedented emigration rate from the Soviet Union, it expects Soviet authorities to "live up to their human rights obligations" by enacting long-promised emigration reform legislation.

She also urged the Soviet government to implement the agreement it signed in 1989 for direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv.

The massive Soviet aliyah contributed significantly to the population growth in Israel last year, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem.

It estimated the present population of Israel at 4,882,000, a 5.7 percent increase in the last 12 months and the greatest annual population growth since 1951.

Soviet aliyah was responsible for nearly 30 percent of that increase, the Israeli statistical bureau reported.

4,135 Jews From Ethiopia

Newcomers in fact exceeded natural growth. Immigrants, mainly from the Soviet Union, numbered 199,526 in 1990, compared with 104,000 children born in Israel during the year.

The immigrants also included 4,153 Jews from Ethiopia, including 535 who arrived in December, according to Daniel Allen, assistant executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal. UIA is the U.S. representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which funds the transportation costs and a portion of the initial absorption expenses for new immigrants.

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He predicted there will be 600,000 Jews and 400,000 Arabs in Galilee by 1993. Two years ago, 335,000 Jews and 383,000 non-Jews lived there.

Meanwhile, Israel's deputy foreign minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, sounded a note of alarm this week when he called for an immediate emergency plan to "evacuate" millions of Soviet Jews.

Writing in the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Netanyahu, a Likud Knesset member, cited the volatile, unpredictable economic and political situation inside the Soviet Union.

He warned that with the rise of right-wing, anti-Semitic sentiments as the authority of the central government seems to weaken, there is no knowing how long it will be possible for Jews to leave the Soviet Union.

In the event of a collapse in the Soviet Union "2 or even 3 million" Jews will want to leave for Israel at once, he said.

The emergency plan must focus on the logistics of exit through additional points of departure and transfer, Netanyahu said. It must contemplate the lodging of newcomers in tent cities near public service buildings that would serve them.

The deputy foreign minister urged emergency legislation to free state-owned lands for the settlement process. He also called for legislation to overcome bureaucratic delays or, failing that, to invoke wartime emergency regulations.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents David Landau in Jerusalem and Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv.)

**GROWING IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS
TO GERMANY BECOMING A TOUCHY ISSUE**

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The delicate issue of Soviet Jews seeking haven in Germany is creating ripples not only in government circles here, but in the world Jewish community as well.

The Central Council of Jews in Germany has fought hard to keep the federal government from imposing quotas on the number of Soviet Jews allowed to immigrate here. Its position has been that such restrictions would be unseemly for a country that once tried to rid itself of its Jewish population entirely.

But there appears to be growing sentiment in Jewish communities elsewhere that Soviet Jews should not be directed to Germany, of all countries, especially at a time when tens of thousands are making a historic exodus to Israel en masse.

In Israel, the German Jewish community is being attacked for promoting "neshira."

The word is Hebrew for dropout and has been applied to Soviet Jewish emigres who choose to settle in countries other than Israel.

A German Jewish community activist, who asked not to be identified, reacted angrily to that charge, which he attributed to two prominent officials of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which is responsible for immigration.

The charge is based on a misunderstanding, the activist contended. While the community is actively campaigning to convince the Bonn government to admit any Jew who arrives in Germany, it has no policy of persuading Soviet Jews to come here rather than Israel, he said.

He explained that the community wants only to help Soviet Jews who come here by choice to take care of their basic needs.

In many cases, Jews would have lost their religious identities had it not been for the community's efforts to help them, he said.

Several German newspapers, meanwhile, have

reported that Jewish groups in the United States are critical of their Soviet brethren who choose to immigrate to Germany.

Survivors Oppose The Immigration

In New York, Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, wrote a letter last week opposing the mass immigration of Jews to Germany.

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"Simply put, we cannot, in good conscience, encourage Jewish emigration to a country which, within our lifetime, was responsible for unparalleled crimes against our people."

The letter was addressed to Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, which Meed urged to endorse his organization's stance.

On Wednesday, the Executive of WJC's U.S. branch met in New York to discuss the letter and decided to endorse the policy, according to Evelyn Sommer, its chairman.

Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, said the Israeli and Latin American branches of the congress had adopted similar stances and that the worldwide organization would formulate its policy at the upcoming meetings of its Executive in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the debate over how many Soviet Jews Germany should admit continues at the highest government levels here.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl will discuss the touchy subject at a meeting with the prime ministers of unified Germany's 16 federal states here on Jan. 9, government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Sunday.

According to Vogel, the acceptance or rejection of the newcomers is "in principle" a matter for the individual states to decide.

At least some of the states seem more generously disposed toward the refugees than the federal government.

In Dusseldorf, a minister in the government of the largest state, North Rhine-Westphalia, said Sunday that Germany should absorb 10,000 Jews a year, with the various states sharing the burden proportionately.

Up To 200 Arrivals A Day

A ceiling of only 1,000 a year was proposed by the federal government in Bonn last month, but it was quietly dropped after the Jewish community expressed its indignation.

On the other hand, Rita Hermanns, a spokeswoman for the Berlin municipality, said Sunday that the city found it increasingly difficult to cope with the influx of Jewish refugees.

She called for a high-level decision to distribute them among all of the federal states.

Vogel said the federal government does not know the exact number of Soviet Jews who have arrived since last summer, when authorities in what was then East Germany announced that any Jew who wished to come was welcome.

The Jewish community estimates between 3,000 and 4,000 Jews took advantage of the invitation.

The office in what was formerly East Berlin that helps Jews get settled reported that 150 to 200 Jews arrive daily seeking assistance.

No Jews have been expelled, but their legal status in Germany has not been settled.

FEDERATIONS WEIGH LOAN PROGRAM FOR SOVIET IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL

By Charles Hoffman

NEW YORK (JTA) -- North American Jewish federations are considering a program in which they would guarantee loans made to Soviet immigrants to Israel that would be intended to cover part of their initial absorption expenses there.

A memo circulated recently by the heads of the Council of Jewish Federations describes this proposal, which is now being discussed by federation leaders. CJF did not feel it was appropriate to comment on the proposal until those deliberations have been completed.

The loans would replace part of the assistance now provided in cash to new immigrants by the Jewish Agency for Israel, whose programs are funded by money raised in the United States by federations in conjunction with the United Jewish Appeal and by money raised in other countries by Keren Hayesod.

The loans would be made to the new immigrants by commercial banks in Israel and would not be guaranteed by the federations. The loans would not be made available to "the elderly, the handicapped or those without the potential to repay," according to the proposal. "These groups would receive the funds as grants as at present."

Until mid-1990, the Jewish Agency funded half of the "absorption basket" of cash and services received by immigrant families during their first year in Israel, with the government of Israel paying the other half.

The Jewish Agency's portion was later cut to 25 percent and will probably be cut even further, because of a severe cash shortage in the agency caused by the accelerated aliyah from the Soviet Union. The agency pays the entire cost of transporting the immigrants to Israel.

\$1.2 Billion More Needed

The total value of the "absorption basket" stood at 22,000 shekels early last year, but was later cut by the Finance Ministry to 18,000 shekels, then to 15,000 shekels. At today's exchange rate, that means a drop from \$10,846 to \$7,395.

The proposal to provide part of this assistance through loans instead of grants arose as part of the preparations by federations and the UJA to provide \$1.2 billion over the next three to five years for the aliyah and absorption of 1 million Soviet Jews in Israel.

This is in addition to the \$600 million being raised by world Jewry at the present time through Operation Exodus, and to the amounts raised for the Jewish Agency in the regular UJA and federation campaigns.

The \$1.2 billion figure reflects what the Jewish Agency needs to cover transportation and shipping expenses, and some initial absorption costs for 1 million Soviet immigrants.

Part of this sum will be provided through a special fund-raising campaign, known informally as "Exodus II," while the rest will be raised as grants or loans.

Jewish Agency leaders in Israel estimate that the target for "Exodus II," to be launched later this year, will be \$1 billion, the bulk of which will be raised by UJA and the local federations.

Federation sources, however, believe that the amount to be raised through conventional philanthropy will be considerably less and will probably be close to the \$600 million goal of the current Exodus campaign.

**NEW VIOLENCE IN THE TERRITORIES
SPARKS NEW INITIATIVE AT THE U.N.**

By Aliza Marcus

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The Security Council is expected to convene later this week to discuss the upsurge of violence in the Israeli-administered territories, after failing Monday to reach agreement on a statement criticizing Israel.

The new round of meetings follows the killing of six Palestinians by Israeli security forces last weekend in a spate of unrest that continued well into the week.

Much of the violence was sparked by activities linked to Fatah Day, the 26th anniversary of the founding of Al Fatah, the main fighting unit of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

The anniversary was marked Tuesday with riots and demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite the widespread curfews that authorities had imposed on many towns and refugee camps in an attempt to control the violence.

Four Palestinians were killed in clashes with the security forces Tuesday and a fifth was shot to death Wednesday.

In the West Bank village of Rujeib, near Nablus, an 18-year-old was shot to death Tuesday after a lengthy string of clashes with the army. In Kabatiya, south of Jenin, a 31-year-old man was shot in the chest during a rock-throwing altercation with Israeli troops.

The other two deaths Tuesday occurred in the city of Khan Yunis, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. An Israel Defense Force spokesperson said two masked men brandishing knives and what turned out to be toy pistols were shot when they failed to heed warnings to stop.

Wednesday's shooting death also took place in Khan Yunis, during a clash between rioters and soldiers. The victim was a 37-year-old woman.

U.S. 'Disturbed' By Unrest

In Washington, the State Department said Wednesday that it was "disturbed by the recent violence in Israel and the occupied territories."

"We believe that both sides must work to stop the killings and the violence," said Richard Boucher, the department's deputy spokesman.

At the United Nations, the Security Council convened Monday afternoon to discuss a statement, proposed by the PLO, that would have criticized Israel's handling of the violence.

The statement was backed by the Yemeni ambassador, Abdalla al-Ashtal, whose term as president of the Security Council expired Monday. The one-month rotating position was taken over on New Year's Day by Zaire's ambassador, Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya.

The proposed statement is reportedly milder than recent Security Council actions. It merely deplors the recent violence and calls for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. If approved, it would be non-binding.

Meanwhile, the Security Council rotated five of its 15 positions at the beginning of the new year, replacing delegates from Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia with representatives of Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, India and Zimbabwe. Council terms run for two years but expire on a staggered basis.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents David Landau in Jerusalem and Howard Rosenberg in Washington.)

**NEW REPORT CHARGES MISMANAGEMENT
OF ISRAEL'S SCARCE WATER RESOURCES**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has charged the authorities with long-term mismanagement of the country's dwindling water resources.

The report, released Wednesday by the retired member of the High Court of Justice, now the government's fiscal watchdog, was presented to Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who has himself warned that a water crisis is imminent.

He promised he would carefully study Ben-Porat's findings and recommendations, which include removing the water economy from the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Ministry.

The report charges that past failures to face up to the grim facts of water shortages, which have been apparent for many years, endanger the future strength and well-being of the country.

The report covers the administrations of at least eight ministers of agriculture and three water commissioners.

Eitan, who has been in office only six months, a small fraction of the period covered in the report, announced recently that it may be necessary to ration water for agricultural, industrial and domestic uses because of the late onset of the winter rains.

This is the fourth consecutive year of drought conditions in Israel, and water levels in the national reservoir were at record lows last month.

Eitan said Tuesday during a tour of the Negev that the southern region will be the main focus of agricultural development because of the water shortages in the north.

He said there was sufficient saline water in the Negev that has not been used for agriculture. But there are many crops that can be conditioned for irrigation by water with a high salt content, he said.

**BILL AIMED AT ENSURING DRAFT-EXEMPT
YESHIVA STUDENTS DO NOT TAKE JOBS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Yeshiva students who apply for exemption from military service to pursue religious studies may soon have to affirm legally that their only employment is the full-time study of Torah.

Legislation to that effect has been introduced by several Knesset members and endorsed by the Likud government, subject to consultations with the religious parties that are its coalition partners.

The initiative comes in the wake of a report by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat accusing the Orthodox Shas party of using its Treasury allocations to employ draft-exempt yeshiva students, who are forbidden by law to work.

The purpose of the proposed law is to ensure that religious youths who would prefer work to study do not continue to avoid the draft.

If the legislation is passed, students would have to sign an affidavit before a lawyer, judge or dayan (religious court judge) each time they claimed military exemption. The document would certify they are engaged in no employment other than their studies.

Under the present law, a religious youth can have his military service deferred from year to year simply by claiming status as a Torah student.

JEWIS IN CROATIA ARE WORRIED ABOUT MOUNTING NATIONALISM

By Ruth E. Gruber

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (JTA) -- Jewish leaders in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia are worried that mounting Croatian nationalism may prompt a resurgence of anti-Semitism, similar to the anti-Semitism that has recently emerged elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"The mood is concerned, not fearful as a Slovakia or Hungary," said Nenad Porges, president of the approximately 1,500 member Zagreb Jewish community. About 12,000 Jews lived in Zagreb before the Holocaust.

"It would take a crystal ball to predict what will happen," he said. "The rise of democracy means that people now can openly vent their feelings and frustrations, but it's important not to confuse the political situation with the Jewish situation.

"So far there has been no overt anti-Semitism, and on the government level there has been nothing -- but there surely is anti-Semitism below the surface."

Multi-party elections in Croatia put into power a non-Communist local government whose main platform is Croatian nationalism.

During World War II, Croatia was a fascist Nazi puppet state whose leadership, the Ustashi, carried out a brutal anti-Semitic policy, as well as a brutal policy against Serbs.

Recent developments in Zagreb have given rise to fears that the extreme nationalism may result in persecution of people perceived as non-Croatian.

Downtown Square Renamed

One such development was the decision of Zagreb authorities this fall to rename Victims of Fascism Square in downtown Zagreb as Great Croats Square.

The decision, along with a plan to turn a major building at the square into a mausoleum for Croatian heroes, prompted outrage not only from Jews but from many Croats, including veterans who fought Croatian fascists during the bloody Yugoslav civil war, which took place at the same time World War II was raging.

"The Jewish community protested the change of name," said Ljubo Weiss, secretary of Zagreb's Jewish cultural society, named after the community's last rabbi, Miroslav Shalom Freiberg.

Weiss described a mass protest in November, when about 5,000 people carrying candles and flowers gathered in the renamed square for a silent demonstration that lasted about two hours.

"Three political organizations also took part," he said. "There were no speeches, no noises. It was the first time since the war that Jews here made an open demonstration on the street."

Weiss agreed with Porges that outright, open anti-Semitism did not exist in Zagreb.

"The situation today is good," he said, but "the stereotype of Jews exists."

Weiss said that he had noted anti-Semitic trends in the electoral campaign waged by nationalist leader Gen. Franco Tudjman.

Zagreb, like Belgrade, is one of Yugoslavia's largest and most active Jewish communities.

The vitality and optimism of Jewish life in the city could be seen during the Chanukah party this year. It was standing room only in the community's large function room for a program

consisting of music and performances. Most of the participants were children.

"We didn't expect so many people," said a harried volunteer trying to find space for coats. "It's the first time in 10 years so many people have come to Chanukah."

New, Younger Leadership

A new, young community leadership is partly responsible for the boom. "The entire leadership is under 50," said Srdjan Matic, the community's executive vice president.

Matic said one of the dreams of the community, a dream which may soon be realized, is to build a new synagogue in Zagreb to replace, after nearly 50 years, the one destroyed in 1941.

For decades, the place where the synagogue stood had been a vacant lot. It is now used as a parking area. A plaque on one of the surrounding buildings memorializes the synagogue.

Local Jews worship in a prayer room in the current community headquarters and, from time to time, at a prayer room in the Jewish home for the aged.

Matic said local authorities have given the go-ahead for construction of a new synagogue and community center, and much has been written about the possibility in the local press.

"We will open an international design competition for the center in March," Matic said.

If the project comes through, it will be the first new synagogue built in Yugoslavia since the war -- in which about 65,000 of Yugoslavia's pre-war population of 80,000 Jews perished.

ANOTHER BRITISH CEMETERY DESECRATED, BUT JEWISH COMMUNITY DOWNPLAYS IT London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- A Jewish cemetery in Manchester was defaced with swastikas recently, but the leadership of the 40,000-member Jewish community in that midlands industrial city decided not to publicize the desecration.

The Nazi symbol was scrawled on 34 headstones at Crumpsall cemetery, an old Jewish burial ground still in use. Local Jewish leaders said it was the work of "yobs" -- British slang for young hooligans -- not organized neo-Nazis.

A spokeswoman for the Manchester Jewish Representative Council said that to have made it public would cause great pain to the community, especially among the elderly.

A funeral held just a day before the attack was one reason why it was decided not to publicize the incident. Another was fear that publicity would encourage copycat desecrations.

"It was one man with a spray can, some lout," the spokeswoman said, adding that "the stones have been cleaned up and sandblasted, and it should be forgotten."

Vandals covered more than 100 headstones with anti-Semitic obscenities. Damage was estimated at over \$130,000.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews reported a 50 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in 1990. The attack on the Crumpsall cemetery culminated a wave of anti-Semitic vandalism against cemeteries in Britain, which began in April with the desecration of the Edmonton cemetery in North London.

The Manchester Jewish community, which has organized patrols of the cemetery perimeter, says the police are doing their best to prevent break-ins.

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Much of the violence was sparked by activities linked to Fatah Day, the 26th anniversary of the founding of Al Fatah, the main fighting unit of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

The anniversary was marked Tuesday with riots and demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite the widespread curfews that authorities had imposed on many towns and refugee camps in an attempt to control the violence.

Four Palestinians were killed in clashes with the security forces Tuesday and a fifth was shot to death Wednesday.

In the West Bank village of Rujeib, near Nablus, an 18-year-old was shot to death Tuesday after a lengthy string of clashes with the army. In Kabatiya, south of Jenin, a 31-year-old man was shot in the chest during a rock-throwing altercation with Israeli troops.

The other two deaths Tuesday occurred in the city of Khan Yunis, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. An Israel Defense Force spokesperson said two masked men brandishing knives and what turned out to be toy pistols were shot when they failed to heed warnings to stop.

Wednesday's shooting death also took place in Khan Yunis, during a clash between rioters and soldiers. The victim was a 37-year-old woman.

U.S. 'Disturbed' By Unrest

In Washington, the State Department said Wednesday that it was "disturbed by the recent violence in Israel and the occupied territories."

"We believe that both sides must work to stop the killings and the violence," said Richard Boucher, the department's deputy spokesman.

At the United Nations, the Security Council convened Monday afternoon to discuss a statement, proposed by the PLO, that would have criticized Israel's handling of the violence.

The statement was backed by the Yemeni ambassador, Abdalla al-Ashtal, whose term as president of the Security Council expired Monday. The one-month rotating position was taken over on New Year's Day by Zaire's ambassador, Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya.

The proposed statement is reportedly milder than recent Security Council actions. It merely deplors the recent violence and calls for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. If approved, it would be non-binding.

Meanwhile, the Security Council rotated five of its 15 positions at the beginning of the new year, replacing delegates from Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia with representatives of Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, India and Zimbabwe. Council terms run for two years but expire on a staggered basis.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents David Landau in Jerusalem and Howard Rosenberg in Washington.)

**NEW REPORT CHARGES MISMANAGEMENT
OF ISRAEL'S SCARCE WATER RESOURCES**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has charged the authorities with long-term mismanagement of the country's dwindling water resources.

The report, released Wednesday by the retired member of the High Court of Justice, now the government's fiscal watchdog, was presented to Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who has himself warned that a water crisis is imminent.

He promised he would carefully study Ben-Porat's findings and recommendations, which include removing the water economy from the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Ministry.

The report charges that past failures to face up to the grim facts of water shortages, which have been apparent for many years, endanger the future strength and well-being of the country.

The report covers the administrations of at least eight ministers of agriculture and three water commissioners.

Eitan, who has been in office only six months, a small fraction of the period covered in the report, announced recently that it may be necessary to ration water for agricultural, industrial and domestic uses because of the late onset of the winter rains.

This is the fourth consecutive year of drought conditions in Israel, and water levels in the national reservoir were at record lows last month.

Eitan said Tuesday during a tour of the Negev that the southern region will be the main focus of agricultural development because of the water shortages in the north.

He said there was sufficient saline water in the Negev that has not been used for agriculture. But there are many crops that can be conditioned for irrigation by water with a high salt content, he said.

**BILL AIMED AT ENSURING DRAFT-EXEMPT
YESHIVA STUDENTS DO NOT TAKE JOBS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Yeshiva students who apply for exemption from military service to pursue religious studies may soon have to affirm legally that their only employment is the full-time study of Torah.

Legislation to that effect has been introduced by several Knesset members and endorsed by the Likud government, subject to consultations with the religious parties that are its coalition partners.

The initiative comes in the wake of a report by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat accusing the Orthodox Shas party of using its Treasury allocations to employ draft-exempt yeshiva students, who are forbidden by law to work.

The purpose of the proposed law is to ensure that religious youths who would prefer work to study do not continue to avoid the draft.

If the legislation is passed, students would have to sign an affidavit before a lawyer, judge or dayan (religious court judge) each time they claimed military exemption. The document would certify they are engaged in no employment other than their studies.

Under the present law, a religious youth can have his military service deferred from year to year simply by claiming status as a Torah student.

JEWIS IN CROATIA ARE WORRIED ABOUT MOUNTING NATIONALISM

By Ruth E. Gruber

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (JTA) -- Jewish leaders in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia are worried that mounting Croatian nationalism may prompt a resurgence of anti-Semitism, similar to the anti-Semitism that has recently emerged elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"The mood is concerned, not fearful as a Slovakia or Hungary," said Nenad Porges, president of the approximately 1,500 member Zagreb Jewish community. About 12,000 Jews lived in Zagreb before the Holocaust.

"It would take a crystal ball to predict what will happen," he said. "The rise of democracy means that people now can openly vent their feelings and frustrations, but it's important not to confuse the political situation with the Jewish situation.

"So far there has been no overt anti-Semitism, and on the government level there has been nothing -- but there surely is anti-Semitism below the surface."

Multi-party elections in Croatia put into power a non-Communist local government whose main platform is Croatian nationalism.

During World War II, Croatia was a fascist Nazi puppet state whose leadership, the Ustashi, carried out a brutal anti-Semitic policy, as well as a brutal policy against Serbs.

Recent developments in Zagreb have given rise to fears that the extreme nationalism may result in persecution of people perceived as non-Croatian.

Downtown Square Renamed

One such development was the decision of Zagreb authorities this fall to rename Victims of Fascism Square in downtown Zagreb as Great Croats Square.

The decision, along with a plan to turn a major building at the square into a mausoleum for Croatian heroes, prompted outrage not only from Jews but from many Croats, including veterans who fought Croatian fascists during the bloody Yugoslav civil war, which took place at the same time World War II was raging.

"The Jewish community protested the change of name," said Ljubo Weiss, secretary of Zagreb's Jewish cultural society, named after the community's last rabbi, Miroslav Shalom Freiberg.

Weiss described a mass protest in November, when about 5,000 people carrying candles and flowers gathered in the renamed square for a silent demonstration that lasted about two hours.

"Three political organizations also took part," he said. "There were no speeches, no noises. It was the first time since the war that Jews here made an open demonstration on the street."

Weiss agreed with Porges that outright, open anti-Semitism did not exist in Zagreb.

"The situation today is good," he said, but "the stereotype of Jews exists."

Weiss said that he had noted anti-Semitic trends in the electoral campaign waged by nationalist leader Gen. Franco Tudjman.

Zagreb, like Belgrade, is one of Yugoslavia's largest and most active Jewish communities.

The vitality and optimism of Jewish life in the city could be seen during the Chanukah party this year. It was standing room only in the community's large function room for a program

consisting of music and performances. Most of the participants were children.

"We didn't expect so many people," said a harried volunteer trying to find space for coats. "It's the first time in 10 years so many people have come to Chanukah."

New, Younger Leadership

A new, young community leadership is partly responsible for the boom. "The entire leadership is under 50," said Srdjan Matic, the community's executive vice president.

Matic said one of the dreams of the community, a dream which may soon be realized, is to build a new synagogue in Zagreb to replace, after nearly 50 years, the one destroyed in 1941.

For decades, the place where the synagogue stood had been a vacant lot. It is now used as a parking area. A plaque on one of the surrounding buildings memorializes the synagogue.

Local Jews worship in a prayer room in the current community headquarters and, from time to time, at a prayer room in the Jewish home for the aged.

Matic said local authorities have given the go-ahead for construction of a new synagogue and community center, and much has been written about the possibility in the local press.

"We will open an international design competition for the center in March," Matic said.

If the project comes through, it will be the first new synagogue built in Yugoslavia since the war -- in which about 65,000 of Yugoslavia's pre-war population of 80,000 Jews perished.

ANOTHER BRITISH CEMETERY DESECRATED, BUT JEWISH COMMUNITY DOWNPLAYS IT LONDON Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- A Jewish cemetery in Manchester was defaced with swastikas recently, but the leadership of the 40,000-member Jewish community in that midlands industrial city decided not to publicize the desecration.

The Nazi symbol was scrawled on 34 headstones at Crumpsall cemetery, an old Jewish burial ground still in use. Local Jewish leaders said it was the work of "yobs" -- British slang for young hooligans -- not organized neo-Nazis.

A spokeswoman for the Manchester Jewish Representative Council said that to have made it public would cause great pain to the community, especially among the elderly.

A funeral held just a day before the attack was one reason why it was decided not to publicize the incident. Another was fear that publicity would encourage copycat desecrations.

"It was one man with a spray can, some lout," the spokeswoman said, adding that "the stones have been cleaned up and sandblasted, and it should be forgotten."

Vandals covered more than 100 headstones with anti-Semitic obscenities. Damage was estimated at over \$130,000.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews reported a 50 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in 1990. The attack on the Crumpsall cemetery culminated a wave of anti-Semitic vandalism against cemeteries in Britain, which began in April with the desecration of the Edmonton cemetery in North London.

The Manchester Jewish community, which has organized patrols of the cemetery perimeter, says the police are doing their best to prevent break-ins.