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**ISRAELIS PREPARING CALMLY FOR WAR
AS JAN. 15 U.N. DEADLINE APPROACHES**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Israelis appear to be reacting relatively calmly to the approaching Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the growing possibility of war soon thereafter.

Saddam Hussein has said Tel Aviv would be the first target of his missiles if he is attacked by the U.S.-led coalition in the Persian Gulf.

But if Israelis are deeply worried about that threat, they are not showing it.

When the host of an Israel Radio call-in program asked what listeners plan to do on Jan. 15, the response was largely apathetic, with most callers replying, "Nothing."

Retailers said there was no sign of panic buying of food or other necessities. The populace began stocking up when the Persian Gulf crisis started in August.

By now, Israeli households are believed to have adequate supplies of canned goods, transistor radios and flashlights, plenty of spare batteries, candles and matches.

Gas masks were distributed to 80 percent of the population in October and November.

The remaining 20 percent, living in thinly populated rural areas, clamored for equal protection. One resident appealed to the High Court of Justice.

Rather than risk a court order, the authorities decided to distribute the masks, though an Israel Defense Force spokesman described the risk of a poison gas attack on Israel as "very low" and even lower in rural areas.

While Israelis do not ignore the imminent threat, the public seems more concerned with long-term consequences. They know that if the Jan. 15 deadline passes without Iraqi compliance, war still will not be inevitable.

More Airlines Suspend Flights

Many here are wondering what will happen in two or three years if the present crisis is resolved by a compromise that leaves Hussein in control of Iraq, his large standing army intact and his military-industrial complex untouched.

Iraq would continue developing chemical and bacterial warfare agents, long-range missiles and, the Israelis are certain, nuclear weapons in the not-too-distant future.

Most people here agree it would be hard to put together another international alliance to face a new crisis with Iraq -- a direct threat to Israel, for example -- after the present U.S.-led international coalition has long departed the region.

Meanwhile, more urgent problems have developed. International airlines are suspending or severely curtailing service to the region, citing skyrocketing insurance rates as the deadline approaches.

South African Airlines, the Scandinavian airline SAS, LOT Polish Airlines and Cyprus Airways announced this week they were suspending service to Tel Aviv.

Pan American World Airways made the announcement last week, and KLM Royal Dutch

Airlines and British Airways announced sharply reduced service.

Another American carrier, TWA, said it would continue its flights to Israel but will charge an extra \$50 per ticket to cover rising insurance rate.

Israel's own national airline, El Al, will continue flying under any circumstances. It will honor the tickets of foreign carriers that have canceled flights to Israel.

But Israel is not the only Middle East country affected by the cutbacks. Several airlines have suspended flights to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the insurance premiums on which are said to equal almost a quarter of the cost of a new airplane.

A Scramble For Tickets

According to South African Airlines, insurance premiums have jumped from \$6,000 to \$250,000 per flight. They go as high as \$750,000 if the aircraft remains on the ground in Israel more than five hours.

The chairman of the Panel of Airline Operators in Israel said the average premium per flight for a DC-9, one of the smaller aircraft flying to Israel, would rise from \$6,000 to \$80,000 on Jan. 9. It would be higher if the aircraft remained overnight in Israel.

Some airlines have arranged to drop off passengers in Tel Aviv, fly to Nicosia, Cyprus, or to Athens for an overnight stay and return to Ben-Gurion Airport briefly the next morning to pick up passengers.

The flight cutbacks apparently have caused some panic among foreigners in Israel worried they will not be able to leave the country in the event of war. Media reports Sunday said hundreds of foreigners besieged ticket counters at Ben-Gurion Airport, offering cash for immediate flights out.

But on Monday, the airlines reported only slightly higher than usual demand, which was not unexpected considering the travel advisories issued by various embassies advising their nationals to leave the region before Jan. 15.

An El Al spokesman said there was no noticeable increase in the number of Israelis leaving the country. Tourism was down, but people leaving on business or professional trips was "completely normal," El Al said.

Jewish Agency and Absorption Ministry officials expect a reduced flow of immigrants from the Soviet Union between now and Jan. 15.

Officials in Moscow say many Jews who have been waiting impatiently for airline seats to Israel are now willing to postpone their departures until the immediate danger of war in the region has passed.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**ISRAEL UNSURE HOW JORDAN WILL ACT
IF WAR BREAKS OUT IN PERSIAN GULF**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Uncertainty over Jordan's behavior in case of an outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf has become a cause for concern in Israel.

Contributing to the anxiety is the deployment of the Jordanian army after prolonged

exercises and the inclusion of seven radical Moslem fundamentalists in the Cabinet in Amman.

The deployment is defensive. But military experts note that defensive postures can very easily be altered to offensive.

The inclusion of fiercely anti-Israel radicals in the Jordanian government for the first time is seen as an attempt to placate the strong Moslem coalition that now enjoys a majority in the Jordanian parliament.

While that move is attributable to King Hussein's instincts for survival, it brings Jordan closer to Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who is now riding high on the Moslem fundamentalist horse.

Israeli policy-makers still do not believe Jordan is likely to join an Iraqi adventure against Israel.

But they hedge, recalling that similar estimates on the eve of the 1967 Six-Day War turned out to be wrong. Jordan, ignoring repeated warnings, joined Egypt and Syria in confronting Israel. As a result, it lost control of East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Although King Hussein may have no offensive intentions, his kingdom is located between Israel and Iraq. Any exchange or engagement between Iraq and Israel would presumably take place on, above or through Jordanian territory or air space.

Jordan declared recently that it would strive to prevent an incursion by a third party, a declaration applauded in Jerusalem.

Israeli leaders have signaled encouragement to Jordan. They say they ask nothing more than that it honor its commitment to prevent a hostile intrusion of any kind.

Jordanian Army Is No Threat

The Israelis have also stated publicly and through diplomatic channels that they have no designs on the Hashemite regime.

King Hussein nevertheless fears possible Israeli intentions to solve the Palestinian problem at his expense.

He is unnerved by statements from hard-line ministers like Ariel Sharon that the Palestinians already have their own state in Jordan, though those on the Israeli right have been careful not to make such suggestions recently.

But many in Jordan, and a few in Israel, believe Sharon tried to engineer a coup against King Hussein during the Lebanon war and might try again if the region is once more embroiled in a war.

Israel, too, has reason to be wary.

Jordan's army is small. It consists of two mechanized divisions and two armored divisions. According to foreign sources, it has a 30,000-troop reserve army made up of recruits in addition to soldiers enlisted in the regular army.

Such a force alone is not a serious threat to Israel. But if King Hussein is aware of Iraqi plans to attack Israel, he might be preparing to integrate his army into those plans, Israeli military experts say.

They point out that Jordan has allowed Iraqi pilots to conduct reconnaissance flights along its border with Israel. The Jordanians continue to supply Iraq with intelligence information from their radar stations.

Israeli leaders can only hope that in case of a military clash with Iraq, Jordan will keep to the role of uninvolved bystander.

At the same time, they must prepare for a worst-case scenario.

ISRAEL READIES FOR MORE INTIFADA AS WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF LOOMS **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities are preparing for a serious escalation of the intifada if a Persian Gulf war breaks out, whether or not Iraq succeeds in involving Israel.

Police Minister Ronni Milo conferred Sunday with senior ministry officials regarding what measures would be necessary to maintain law and order in the administered territories in the event of an Iraqi attack.

The daily Yediot Achronot reported Monday that Palestinian leaders here and abroad are urging support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Their exhortations are repeated in the latest leaflets circulated by the so-called Unified National Leadership of the 3-year-old uprising.

Almost every Palestinian organization in the territories plans to "actively participate" in a Gulf war should it break out, Yediot Achronot reported.

They plan mass demonstrations and a wave of terrorism to tie down the Israel Defense Force as much as possible in the territories, the newspaper said.

On Sunday, Yediot quoted Palestinian activist Said Kna'an as saying, "Our enemy is the continuing status quo, and therefore war is in our favor."

Kna'an said war in Iraq would elicit increasing acts of violence in the territories.

A victory for Saddam Hussein would bring a solution of the Palestinian problem closer, Kna'an maintained.

But even if Iraq is defeated, there will be a revolution of the Arab people against their leaders, creating an atmosphere more favorable to the Palestinian cause, he said.

Yediot's military analyst, Ron Ben-Yishai, sees an increasing possibility that Israel will become involved in a confrontation with Iraq against its will.

This would be a new experience for Israel, he pointed out, inasmuch as in past regional wars and confrontations, the Palestinian population under Israeli rule has always remained passive.

Already An Upsurge Of Attacks

"In practice, Israel is already actively involved in the Gulf crisis," said Ben-Yishai, citing the sharp rise in attacks by Palestinians, the random stabbings, the Temple Mount riots and the recently increased incidence of infiltrations from Jordan.

"All these were affected directly and indirectly by the increased tension in the Gulf and by Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein," the writer said.

"It is probable that if a military confrontation erupts in the Gulf, the Palestinians will not sit and watch," said Ben-Yishai.

"Intifada activists in the territories also plan to assist Saddam Hussein by carrying out a wave of attacks and disturbances," he said.

An attempt to engage the Israeli army in the territories "threatens Israel's interior, in addition to the threat posed by Iraqi missiles and the Iraqi air force."

While Ben-Yishai does not see Israel's existence threatened, he predicts serious casualties.

Ben-Yishai recommended that the authorities advise Jewish settlers in the territories of what they can expect in the event of a Gulf war.

U.S. JEWS DEMAND SOVIET CRACKDOWN ON PLAN TO PUBLISH ANTI-SEMITIC TRACT

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders are demanding that the Soviet authorities crack down on the plans of Maj. Gen. Viktor Filatov, editor of the Soviet Defense Ministry's Military-Historical Journal, who plans to publish the anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in a forthcoming issue of the monthly.

"We are deeply distressed to learn that a major general in the Soviet army, who has been entrusted with disseminating information to hundreds of thousands of members of the military, plans to publish a tract regarded by respected historians as anti-Semitic and a forgery," Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said in a statement Monday.

Cardin said the National Conference "is writing to the Soviet ambassador in Washington urging that the Soviet authorities take urgent measures to insure that one of their leading military journals will cease to be an outlet for the perpetuation of czarist and Hitler-era anti-Semitism."

The magazine, whose circulation has reportedly increased from 27,000 to over 277,000 since Filatov took the helm two years ago, is said to be read mainly in the Red Army's officer corps and increasingly among young civilians.

Filatov has already published excerpts from Hitler's autobiography "Mein Kampf" and a passage from a 1910 book alleging that Jews are unfit for military service.

David Harris, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, said, "We demand an official reprimand to the editor by President Gorbachev and the firm assurances from the Defense Ministry that such publication will cease immediately."

He added: "There is no issue here of freedom of speech. These anti-Semitic diatribes can serve only to fan anti-Jewish feelings at a time of political and social chaos in the Soviet Union."

Comparison With The Bible

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, called on Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov "to remove Maj. Gen. Filatov as editor of the Military-Historical Journal immediately."

Foxman asserted, "While hatemongers and conservative Russian nationalists have taken advantage of glasnost to promote vicious anti-Semitism and racism, it is unconscionable for an official organ of the government to do so."

ADL urged Gorbachev to state publicly that anti-Semitism, racism and national chauvinism are unacceptable in the military and Soviet society.

"Especially offensive to us is the editor's cavalier equation of the 'Protocols' with the Bible and his characterization of that obscene forgery" as "a normal piece of literature," said Cardin.

A New York Times story from Moscow on Monday quoted Filatov as saying, "I regard the 'Protocols' as a normal piece of literature, like the Bible or the Koran. There are some interesting ideas there."

He also was quoted as saying he got only a gentle reprimand for the "Mein Kampf" excerpt.

In 1989, Filatov published an excerpt from a 1910 book praising the czarist army, which included a recommendation that Jews not be taken for military service because they were physically weak and lacking in character.

FEWER SOVIET JEWS ARRIVED IN U.S. LAST YEAR, BUT NUMBERS WILL RISE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Although some 6,000 fewer Soviet Jews entered the United States as refugees in 1990 than the year before, this temporary slowdown is believed to be over.

A steady flow of 4,000 Soviet Jews a month is expected for 1991, said Karl Zukerman, executive vice president of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society.

Zukerman said the number of Soviet Jewish refugees arriving in the United States in 1990 totaled 32,000, compared with 36,738 in 1989.

But this total is somewhat misleading, Zukerman said, since the figure is for the calendar year, while the 50,000 slots Washington has set aside for refugees from the Soviet Union are based on the fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. Of this number, 40,000 slots are specifically for Soviet Jews.

The number of Soviet Jewish refugees arriving in the United States at the end of the 1990 fiscal year on Sept. 30 was 39,019.

The lower 1990 calendar year figure was due partly to a change of procedure instituted by the U.S. government in October 1989 in which all requests for refugee status would be processed in Moscow, eliminating the former sites in Rome and Vienna.

For years, Soviet Jews with visas for Israel stopped off in Vienna and Rome and applied there for admission to the United States as refugees.

After the Bush administration decided against admitting all Soviet Jews automatically as refugees, it also decided to process entry requests only in Moscow.

But as the new policy went into effect Oct. 1, 1989, there was still a large backlog of Jews in Rome and Vienna. These people were given priority in admission as refugees for the 1990 fiscal year.

Preference To Christians

The pipeline in Rome and Vienna was effectively emptied last June, Zukerman said. But even after the two European offices were shut down, very few Jews went to the United States directly from Moscow until the current fiscal year began last Oct. 1.

The numbers then began to pick up as the new processing machinery went into place, although "glitches" are still being worked out, Zukerman said.

Moreover, at the start of the fiscal year, priority in processing applications was given to Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians, who unlike Jews had waited in Moscow rather than going to Europe first.

"These were people caught in October 1989 with the switch to Moscow," Zukerman said. He said they had given up their homes and jobs, and it was considered they should be given priority on a humanitarian basis.

Zukerman indicated there would be no request from the Jewish community to increase the number of Soviet refugees into the United States.

Before the United States stopped granting automatic refugee status to Soviet Jewish emigrants, the overwhelming majority came to the United States despite leaving on Israeli visas. Since then, the flow has been largely to Israel, with more than 180,000 making aliyah in 1990.

**ROCK STAR MADONNA CRITICIZED
FOR ANTI-SEMITIC LYRICS IN SONG**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Pop star Madonna's rendition of "Justify My Love," whose sexually explicit video version angered fundamental Christian groups, is now in hot water with Jewish organizations over the incorporation in the lyrics of the song part of a New Testament verse that vilifies Jews.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center charged here last week that some of the lyrics in a compact disc, or CD, single of "Justify My Love" are anti-Semitic and "demonize members of the Jewish community."

The CD contains five different mixes, or versions of the song, of which the last, labeled "The Beast Within Mix," ends with the words, "I know your tribulation and poverty, and the slander of those who say that they are Jews, but they are not, they are a synagogue of Satan."

The lines are taken from an apocalyptic vision of Judgment Day as presented in the Book of Revelation (2.9) to the Apostle John.

The excerpt was characterized by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center, as "one of the most notorious anti-Semitic quotes in the New Testament."

Madonna initially reacted heatedly to the criticism, saying, "People can say I am an exhibitionist, but no one can ever accuse me of being a racist. I am not even going to try to defend myself against such ridiculous accusations."

However Warner Brothers Records, Madonna's label, released a statement from the singer through spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg.

"I certainly didn't have any anti-Semitic intent when I included a passage from the Bible on my record. My message, if any, is pro-tolerance and anti-hate. The song is, after all, about love," the star said.

Link To Anti-Semitic Vandalism?

Cooper said he welcomed Madonna's statement, although the lyrics continue to disturb him. "She was direct to the issue, she responded quickly, and we're relieved that she did so," he said.

However, the rabbi noted, "You don't need to be a sociologist to know that racism is alive and well in America."

"We believe that First Amendment rights have to be balanced with responsibility. This is not the kind of thing that should warrant congressional hearings or reverends or rabbis starting boycotts. The music industry understands that this kind of offensive terminology is wrong and should be deleted."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, protested in a letter to Lenny Waronker, president of Warner Brothers Records.

"It may be more than a coincidence," Foxman wrote, "that within days of the release of 'Justify My Love,' three synagogues and a high school in Ventura County, Calif., were vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti referring to Revelations 2.9."

Foxman said that while "there is no evidence to conclude that the perpetrators were influenced by Madonna's song, it has to be considered a possibility."

Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, pointed out in a letter to the

star that "even though the language you sang was taken from biblical sources, it was taken out of context."

"The larger real-world context is that Jews for centuries have been victims of prejudice and murder 'justified' by misapplied biblical passages."

"Today, the only people who use the 'Jew as Satan' image are those whose message is not about love but about bone-chilling hate."

In a letter sent to Freddy DeMann, Madonna's manager, Cooper deplored the fact that the lyric "now marketed by the No. 1 icon of American pop culture to her fans" contains material that has been revived lately by neo-Nazi and so-called Christian Identity groups.

Cooper asked DeMann to have the "offensive" lyrics deleted from the song.

Warner Bros. said that 250,000 of the CDs had already been shipped to dealers.

**PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATORS DELAY
START OF ISRAELI CHAMBER CONCERT**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Pro-Palestinian demonstrators delayed the start of a concert by the Israeli Chamber Orchestra last Friday at the Municipal Theater in Piacenza, about 40 miles southeast of Milan.

Five young women dressed in black mounted the stage just before the performance was to start and unfurled a banner reading, "Enough with the occupation of the Palestinian territories."

Leaflets with the same slogan simultaneously rained down from the balconies, the daily *Il Messaggero* reported.

A small group of demonstrators chanted slogans outside the theater.

The women were dressed in black apparently to identify with the peace-oriented Women in Black organization of Israeli and other women who regularly protest the Israeli presence in the territories.

Four of Friday's demonstrators were held in custody. The fifth was found to be under age and was released.

The concert commenced after the conductor announced he brought a message of peace from Israel and dedicated the performance to peace.

Several pro-Palestinian groups had tried unsuccessfully to pressure the local authorities of the northern Italian city to cancel the concert when it was first announced, and urged the public to boycott it.

GERMAN POLICE NAB YOUNG NEO-NAZI
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Police have arrested a 17-year-old neo-Nazi in the central German city of Göttingen for fatally stabbing a soldier this week, and are searching for an accomplice.

The victim, who was 21 and identified only as Alexander, died in a hospital two hours after he was attacked.

The suspect belongs to the extreme right-wing Free German Workers Party. A second neo-Nazi involved in the assault is still at large.

Hundreds of demonstrators protested against neo-Nazi activities in Göttingen only two days before the soldier was attacked. They claimed the local authorities are too easy on extremists of the right, who are known to have considerable popular support in the area.