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**SHAMIR EXPRESSES CONTINUED SUPPORT
IN TELEPHONE CALL TO WHITE HOUSE**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir telephoned President Bush on Monday to express his continued support for the U.S. initiative to force Iraq's Saddam Hussein to leave Kuwait, the White House said Tuesday.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater indicated that Shamir also wanted to ensure that Bush maintains his position that there will be no link between the Persian Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

"Both sides felt it useful to confirm to each other that we do not link these two issues and that we are on the same course," Fitzwater said.

Both Bush and Secretary of States James Baker have made it clear that Baker will not discuss the Palestinian issue as a trading point when the secretary meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva on Wednesday.

The Israeli afternoon newspaper Ma'ariv reported that Shamir expressed his readiness to renew the Middle East peace process once the Gulf situation was resolved.

Shamir also expressed to Bush his concern over Saddam Hussein's latest threat to attack Israel if the United States uses force against Iraq, according to Ma'ariv.

Bush stressed again Tuesday that the United States has not yet decided to use force if Iraq does not leave Kuwait by the Jan. 15 U.N. Security Council deadline.

"Let me be clear about the upcoming deadline," Bush said in a seven-minute television tape being sent around the world to "the community of nations united against Iraqi aggression."

"January 15 is not a 'date certain' for the onset of armed conflict," Bush asserted. "It is a deadline for Saddam Hussein to choose -- to choose peace over war."

**VISITORS POUR OUT OF ISRAEL
FEARING SUSPENDED AIR TRAVEL**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Visitors and foreign nationals continued Tuesday to stream out of Israel, as two more international airlines indicated they might suspend service to Tel Aviv because of the danger of war and the cost of soaring insurance rates.

Malev, the Hungarian airline, said Tuesday it would decide in a day or so whether to halt regular service to Israel. The move could affect the pace of Soviet Jewish immigration, which has already slowed because of the uncertain situation in the region.

The Jewish Agency has been chartering Malev planes to bring Soviet olim from Eastern European capitals in the absence of direct service from the Soviet Union.

Alitalia, the Italian carrier, announced that it was suspending service to the Middle East because of skyrocketing insurance rates. However, it said later Tuesday that it would continue to fly here until next week and then reassess the situation.

Five airlines have already pulled out, and four carriers have reduced flights.

Israel's national carrier, El Al, as well as U.S. carriers Trans World Airways and Tower Air, which have not suspended service, will honor the tickets of airlines that have discontinued service to Tel Aviv, in accordance with standard operating procedure in the industry.

Officials at Ben-Gurion Airport said remaining departing flights were sold out for the next several days, as foreign students, businessmen, journalists, diplomats and foreign workers hastened to leave Israel.

Of an estimated 5,000 foreign volunteers working on kibbutzim in various parts of Israel, no more than 500 were still in the country Tuesday.

The Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is just a week away, and no one can say whether or not the U.S.-led international coalition will launch a war against Saddam Hussein into which Israel could be dragged against its will.

Nevertheless, some air carriers have not cut down their service, and one has just initiated flights.

Interflug, the airline of former East Germany, went ahead with its plans to inaugurate regular weekly service from Berlin to Tel Aviv.

Lufthansa, the carrier of former West Germany, said it was adding an extra flight to Israel to handle the large-scale exodus of foreigners.

No Cutbacks By TWA

TWA said it planned no cutbacks or suspensions in service to Tel Aviv. "We have been saying all along that we are going to continue to operate into Tel Aviv," a TWA spokesman said Tuesday.

The departing residents include some 500 dependents of U.N. civilian personnel working with the various U.N. peacekeeping and truce observer agencies in Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

Timor Goksel, a spokesman for the nine-nation United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, said the advisory suggesting that non-essential personnel leave the area applied to the wives and children of civilian employees, who have been living mostly in Nahariya, but not to UNIFIL's 5,800 officers and troops.

The U.N. dependents will be airlifted from Ben-Gurion Airport to Cyprus, where they can connect with airlines that no longer serve Israel.

Britain, Finland, Germany, Holland and Sweden have now added their names to the list of nations advising their citizens to leave Israel before Jan. 15.

The Dutch Embassy in Tel Aviv also advised all Dutch residents of Israel to carefully consider whether they should leave Israel now, although it does not want to compel them.

It is not likely that many will follow this advice, as these dual nationals include people whose children and grandchildren are permanent Israeli citizens.

The number of Dutch citizens who hold dual Dutch-Israeli citizenship is estimated at between 8,000 and 14,000.

The Dutch Embassy in Tel Aviv will not, as

of Jan. 14, operate from its office in Tel Aviv but from the residence of the Dutch ambassador in Herzliya, which is considered safer.

Israel's civil defense authorities announced, meanwhile, that they will begin distributing gas masks to the rural 20 percent of the population which has not yet received them.

About 80 percent of the population, which lives in densely populated urban and suburban regions, received their gas masks and poison gas antidote kits in October and November.

Residents of northern and central rural areas will get their masks first. The southern region will be dealt with later.

A problem arose with Orthodox Jewish men, whose thick beards render regular gas masks inefficient. Special protective hoods were designed for them.

But the cost of supplying them, about \$15 million, is prohibitive, and the authorities said those who refuse to shave their beards will have to do without the protection.

(JTA correspondent Henrietta Boas in Amsterdam contributed to this report.)

BAKER, AFTER MEETING MITTERRAND, SAYS FRANCE, U.S. AGREE ON IRAQ

PARIS, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, following a 90-minute meeting with President Francois Mitterrand, said Tuesday that there was "total agreement" between Paris and Washington that Iraq must abide by U.N. resolutions ordering the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

But France still favors an international conference to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is flatly rejected by President Bush and Baker.

Baker is in Europe firming up the support of America's allies before his crucial meeting Wednesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva.

It will be the first high-level contact between the United States and Iraq since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Parliament, said that if the Baker-Aziz talks in Geneva failed, France would send a member of its government to Baghdad.

Vauzelle, who met himself with Saddam Hussein in Baghdad last week, observed somewhat cryptically that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a tactical move to obtain "something else."

He refused to elaborate.

Baker met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in London on Monday. Both were unequivocal in their insistence that Iraq get out of Kuwait.

Baker's three-hour stay in Paris was followed by a flight to Bonn to confer with Germany's foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

He also met with Chancellor Helmut Kohl before flying to Milan for a meeting with the Italian foreign minister, Gianni De Michelis.

"The international community is very solidly unified in the view that there must be full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions," Baker said after his talk with Genscher.

The Security Council has authorized all measures, including the use of force, if Iraq has not withdrawn its troops from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

But there was an element of confusion here.

ISRAEL DEPORTS FOUR HAMAS MEMBERS, FOLLOWING BRUTAL MURDERS IN JAFFA By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Israel deported four Palestinians on Monday, all identified as activists of Hamas, the extremist Islamic Resistance Movement based in the Gaza Strip which is playing an increasingly violent role in the intifada.

They were flown by helicopter to the southern Lebanon security zone under guard by Israel Defense Force soldiers and left at the Zumraya village checkpoint at the zone's northern edge.

Their ouster brought to 62 the number of Palestinians expelled by Israel since the uprising began in December 1987.

The IDF clamped preventive curfews on several areas of Gaza on Tuesday morning to avoid possible demonstrations against the expulsions.

The latest deportees were Imad el-Alami, 33; Mustafa Kanua, 44; Mustafa al-Lidawi, 27; and Fadel Za'about, 37.

They were arrested on Dec. 14, the day three Israeli factory workers in Jaffa were fatally stabbed by two Arabs from the Gaza Strip.

Although not themselves charged with the crime, they were accused of issuing the operational guidelines that resulted in the escalating rate of murders, assassination attempts and other violent acts employing knives and other weapons.

The actual killers in Jaffa, though said to be known to the police, have not yet been apprehended.

The deportations were ordered by Defense Minister Moshe Arens and affirmed by the Cabinet. They marked a resumption of Israel's policy of deporting Palestinian activists, which had been in abeyance for over a year and drew sharp criticism both in Washington and at the United Nations.

The Israeli authorities pointed out that the deportees could appeal to a military tribunal and to the High Court of Justice, neither of which has ever reversed a deportation order.

In this case, the appeal was promptly rejected by the military panel.

It was awaiting a hearing before the High Court when it was unexpectedly withdrawn by the petitioners Monday morning on grounds that the deportations were not legal procedures but political acts.

The High Court had refused to give the deportees' defense attorneys access to key evidence against them, claiming it was classified for security reasons.

TRAGEDY AVERTED IN FAILED ATTACK By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A hand grenade failed to explode Monday evening after it was thrown from a passing car into a crowded pizzeria on Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv's main shopping and socializing center.

Its failure averted probable fatalities and many injuries.

The speeding white Mercedes from which the device was hurled was already out of sight by the time police arrived and cordoned off the area.

Sappers buried the grenade under sandbags and detonated it harmlessly.

They said it was not the type used by the Israel Defense Force.

NATIONAL PHONE-IN TO WHITE HOUSE LETS BUSH KNOW OF AMERICAN FEELINGS

By Stewart Aia

The New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Americans from across the country jammed the White House Opinion Line on Monday to let President Bush know of their support for Israel. The lines were so busy that callers from across the country complained they couldn't get through.

A White House spokeswoman said the line was closed at 1 p.m. because of a severe snowstorm in the Capitol. She said no figure would be released on the number of calls received in the four hours before the line was closed.

Jeffrey Reznik, a Brooklyn plastics manufacturer who organized the call-in effort, said he was told by a Washington official that the Opinion Line was closed early because of the flood of calls.

"The snow might have forced it to close at 4 p.m. on a normal day, but all of the calls caused them to close it early," said Reznik. "It means someone at the White House knows what we're doing. I hope it's the president."

A White House spokesman said Tuesday that a summary of the calls coming in on the White House Opinion Line is given to the president once a week. It is never made public because it is considered "personal and private," he said.

The spokesman said the other White House line, which Reznik said he had been using for 12 years, was discontinued at the end of the day Friday as long planned.

Persons calling the line are told to call the White House Opinion Line, (202) 456-1111, a number "simpler for the American people to remember," the spokesman said.

Endorsement From Capitol Hill

Reznik noted that the call-in campaign received the endorsement of U.S. senators and members of Congress, as well as local politicians and Jewish leaders. Rabbis throughout the country called upon their congregants to call the White House and Jews responded, he said.

"I understand this response was unprecedented," said Reznik. "We've been told that the last time there was such an outpouring was during the Vietnam War."

Commenting on the closing of the telephone line, Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said, "As a matter of public policy the White House should keep the lines open, particularly when there is an issue of such extensive public force as this one."

Reznik said that he had printed several thousand flyers asking people to call a second White House phone number. The number was working as of 4 p.m. on Friday, he said, but was out of service on Monday morning at 9 a.m.

"I guess that confirms they knew what we were planning," said Reznik.

Scores of persons who connected to a busy signal when calling the Opinion Line on Monday called the Jewish Week and other Jewish newspapers across the country to complain.

"We want to let President Bush know that people really do support Israel," said Hinda Potenz of Manhattan. "Israel needs the support of the White House just as well as the White House needs the support of Israel."

Said Esther Greenspan, a Manhattan dressmaker, "I wanted to let the White House know that the U.S. should be behind Israel."

A woman in the Bronx said her daughter in Stamford, Conn., and her son in Manhattan had also received nothing but busy signals. "My son said he dialed the number at least 20 times," she complained.

Reznik said more than 400 friends called him at his office to say they had called the White House, but only a dozen said they actually got through. He asked those who didn't to try again Tuesday.

"What's amazing to me is the intensity of the loyalty of the people out there," said Reznik. "They feel that their president has betrayed them by not hearing their calls."

In other developments, the Rabbinical Alliance of America has called upon Jews to observe Jan. 15 as a day of "penitence, prayer and charity"; and the Agudath Israel of America's Council of Sages is asking that Jews also fast for a half-day on that date, the deadline set by the United Nations for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

Rabbi Abraham Hecht, president of the Rabbinical Alliance, urged an "outpouring of prayer" to protect American forces in the Persian Gulf and Israel, which he noted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has threatened to destroy.

"Never since the Holocaust have we faced such a calamitous future, and the inherent dangers of the current state of affairs prompt us to request the fullest cooperation of the Jewish people to stave off a horrendous catastrophe, God forbid," said Hecht.

(JTA correspondent David Friedman in Washington contributed to this report.)

FBI QUESTIONING ARAB-AMERICANS IN FACE OF HUSSEIN'S THREATS

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The FBI has started to interview Arab-American business leaders, in light of Saddam Hussein's threats of worldwide terrorist acts if Iraq is attacked.

Interviews with more than 100 Arab-Americans are centered in Southern California and the Detroit area, both with sizeable Arab-American populations, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

William Baker, the assistant FBI director, said that the interviews are voluntary and that those being questioned are not regarded as suspects in any way.

A major purpose of the program is to familiarize the Arab-American community with the FBI's counter-terrorism mission and to obtain any information which might prove helpful to the U.S. government.

At the same time, the FBI let it be known that it will investigate any attacks against Arab-Americans, "should there be an ignorant backlash" against them after fighting starts in the Persian Gulf, Baker said.

Nevertheless, Albert Mokhiber, president of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, protested against the interview program, saying that "a fishing expedition among Arab-Americans sends us back to World War II Japanese-American concentration camps."

Baker noted that the FBI was stepping up anti-terrorist precautions all along the line with the approach of the Jan. 15 deadline. The State Department also emphasized Monday its serious concern about possible terrorist attacks against American targets worldwide.

LIBERAL JEWISH GROUPS, ONCE ANTI-WAR, NOW STRONGLY BACK CONFLICT WITH IRAQ
By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- To go to war or not to go to war, that is the question facing many Jewish organizations, politicians and intellectuals in these tense days before the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

As the United States, along with its Arab coalition against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, gears up for an attack if Kuwait remains occupied, some prominent Jews are finding that their historically liberal tendencies are giving way, at least on this issue, to a strong pro-war activism.

Many who worked against the Vietnam War, or were among the first to question U.S. military invasions in Grenada and Panama, are now standing up for an aggressive military policy toward Iraq following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Among religious groups, the sentiment is overwhelmingly hawkish: the Synagogue Council of America, which represents 4 million Jews across the religious spectrum, passed a resolution two weeks ago calling for military action in the Gulf.

While stressing that peaceful means to end the conflict need to be explored, the Dec. 19 statement regards military action as "justifiable" in order to restore Kuwaiti independence and "effectively deter or end Iraq's capacity to threaten other nations."

The SCA statement followed statements by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of the Churches in Christ that questioned the use of force and called for ongoing dialogue to resolve the situation.

Strong Concern For Israel

But because of strong concern for Israel's survival, Jewish groups face a different challenge than non-Jewish organizations in trying to establish a coherent policy on the Gulf, observers said.

"It was a very difficult decision," said Albert Vorspan, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Reform movement which was among the first to issue a statement in support of military action. "You have people who were dovish on Vietnam and passionate about peace."

But Israel's survival, and fears that it could not survive were Iraq's war machinery to remain intact, "played a very powerful role in the decision," he said.

According to Mitchell Cohen, co-editor of Dissent magazine and a political science professor at Baruch College and the City University of New York, previous U.S. administrations' "blind intervention" into countries has made many people suspicious of any call for military action.

"The questions of Israel aside . . . (the decision for military action must be) based on the long-term danger posed by the Saddam Hussein regime," said Cohen.

"The danger of an extremist regime with an agenda of regional dominance, at a minimum; genocide against an ethnic minority; and one that started a war (with Iran)" makes it imperative that Hussein is weakened and his military arsenal is destroyed, he said.

Many Jewish leaders and intellectuals say the assumption that opposition to the Vietnam War necessitates opposition to a war in the Gulf is overly simplistic, and does not fairly examine all the ways in which the two scenarios differ. Those

differences, they say, make military intervention in the Gulf necessary.

But this also has the effect of making it virtually impossible to guess who will support what in this crisis.

In a move that came as a surprise to many, Michael Lerner, the editor of the leftist intellectual Jewish magazine Tikkun, came out in favor of military action in a recent Tikkun article.

Lerner, in the January/February issue of the magazine, wrote that he believes the "use of force might be justified if and only if the U.S. had first tried to do everything in its power to dismantle Iraq's offensive military capacity through other means."

'Likely To Undermine Our Goals'

Other leftist groups, such as New Jewish Agenda and the Shalom Center in Philadelphia, have come out strongly against any military action.

In a statement that ran in some national and Jewish newspapers across the country, the Shalom Center said, "It is most likely that invasion or bombing of Iraq by U.S. forces would be likely to undermine our goals, not advance them."

The Shalom Center stressed the need for a Middle East free from the danger of Iraqi nuclear and chemical weapons, but said the best way to reach this goal was through economic sanctions and embargoes.

Still, the overall agreement among Jewish groups and leaders seems to be that military action is necessary should negotiations fail.

Two liberal Jewish members of Congress, and others involved in politics, have joined ranks with the likes of Jeane Kirkpatrick, an outspoken conservative and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; as well as with Richard Perle, a Jewish Republican and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense during President Reagan's tenure.

Last month, the new group, called the Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf, issued its first statement, emphasizing the need to prevail over Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's "brute force and naked aggression" in invading Kuwait and urging the United States to ensure not only Hussein's retreat but the destruction of his weaponry arsenal.

Military Threat Would Lead To Casualties

"A military threat would regrettably result in casualties; but ruling out the use of force would eventually be even more costly," read the statement, whose 23 signers included four prominent Jewish political leaders.

The four well-known Jewish liberals included Reps. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) and Stephen Solarz (D-NY); Sol Chaikin of the International Ladies and Garment Workers Union; and Ann Lewis, former political director of the Democratic National Committee.

Ann Lewis, whose liberal political credentials include campaign adviser for Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign, says the decision to come out so strongly in favor of war was easy: "I didn't have to stay up all night pondering what American policy should be."

While interest in Israel's survival may have had an impact on her decision to support military action, what most influenced her was the belief that American interests and the interests of national security were best protected by actively fighting Iraqi aggression.