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**STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY FAILS
TO PERSUADE ISRAEL NOT TO RETALIATE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The second-highest-ranking official of the U.S. State Department met twice over the weekend with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, but apparently failed to persuade him not to retaliate in the event of an Iraqi attack.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger met with Shamir on Sunday night, after spending three hours with him the night before.

Eagleburger also met with Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who defended Israel's right to respond militarily if it is attacked by Baghdad.

Eagleburger's mission was initially kept under wraps. But Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's national security adviser, confirmed in a television interview Sunday that the purpose was to persuade Israel to stay out of a possible war with Iraq.

But sentiment is running high among Cabinet ministers that Israel must retaliate if attacked.

"If Israel is attacked, we will reply," Arens said Sunday, adding, "Israel will give the best possible account of itself if attacked."

The defense minister spoke to reporters while visiting an air force base in northern Israel. He repeated his statement in English as if to make sure the Americans understand the position he was expressing.

Asked if the United States wanted Israel to refrain from hitting back if attacked, Arens referred the questioner to the Americans.

Shamir met with Eagleburger at the Prime Minister's residence Saturday night with only two aides present. Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, accompanied Shamir. Eagleburger was accompanied by the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown.

Pre-emptive Strike Rejected

Shamir refused to discuss their talk with reporters until they "end with an agreed conclusion," he said.

He said the nation could feel secure behind the Israel Defense Force, which is in a high state of preparedness.

The prime minister repeated that the government's overriding consideration is "that the State of Israel not be harmed."

Shamir told the Cabinet on Sunday that the defense of the nation was and would remain the responsibility of the government, but he imparted few details to the ministers.

An official communique said the Cabinet authorized a number of ministers to issue emergency regulations if required.

Likud ministers Ehud Olmert and Moshe Katsav told reporters after the meeting that Israel would respond if attacked. How, when and where will be for the government to decide, they said.

Katsav, who is transport minister, said the government decided against a pre-emptive strike against Iraq, because the United States indicated it would forestall an Iraqi attack on Israel.

But if the Iraqis do attack, it would mean the United States failed and Israel would respond, he said.

**SUPERMARKET LINES ARE A BIT LONGER,
BUT ISRAELI SPIRITS ARE MAINLY HIGH**

By Cathrine Gerson and Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israel's largest city is bearing up well under the threat of missile attack from Iraq.

There are long lines at the supermarkets and other stores as householders continue to stock up on canned goods, bottled water and material to seal rooms against poison gas attacks.

But the shoppers are cheerful as they wait their turn at the check-out counters, telling each other they can always "use the extra stuff."

"It's only because of the children that I decided to buy a bit more than I usually do," one housewife remarked at a supermarket Sunday. Her three shopping bags brimmed with preserves, chocolates and milk products.

"Is it going to help if I buy all the canned tuna fish in the shop?" she asked.

But this mother of three, and countless other Israelis, are following the Israel Defense Force's civil defense instructions to seal windows with plastic strips and nylon sheets.

She has set aside one room for such treatment and stocked it with sweets, toys and a transistor radio, "to calm the kids."

"Just in case" and "to be prepared" are the explanations repeatedly heard around town.

The Education Ministry has ordered schools to seal off at least one classroom against gas attack, in addition to preparing the regular air raid shelters. Principals have been instructed to keep school open until orders are broadcast for all citizens to carry gas masks.

'End Of The World' Parties

There is tension in the air, camouflaged by cool good cheer and gallows humor.

Most of the city's largest nightclubs and discotheques are booked solid for "end of the world" parties on the night of Jan. 15, the U.N.-imposed deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait or face the possibility of war.

Saddam Hussein and his foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, have said Israel would be the first target of Iraqi missiles if Baghdad is attacked by the U.S.-led coalition of forces.

Tel Aviv's popular mayor, Shlomo Lahat, saw a humorous side to the threat.

"A missile from Iraq may reach Tel Aviv in five minutes, but it will take hours to find a parking space," he quipped Sunday.

But the IDF does not indulge in one-liners.

Gen. Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, assured the nation in a television appearance Friday that all branches of the armed forces are fully prepared for any eventuality.

Other ranking IDF officers have played down the destructive effects of a missile attack. The Iraqi missiles that might get through to Israel are comparatively small and would be at their maximum range and minimum accuracy, they said.

"They are really not much more than the Katyushas which the Palestine Liberation Organization and terrorists have been firing toward Israel from Lebanon in recent years, and they have caused no casualties and relatively little damage," one officer pointed out.

ADVISORY URGING NO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL DISAPPOINTS ISRAELI TOURISM OFFICIALS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israeli tourism officials are disappointed with a new U.S. travel advisory urging American citizens to defer any travel plans to Israel.

The advisory, issued Friday, adds Israel and Mauritania to an earlier list of tourist spots now considered dangerous. These include Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia's eastern province, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The travel advisory for most of the Persian Gulf nations had been issued in August, soon after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. On Dec. 26, an advisory was issued for Jordan and the Sudan, and on Thursday for the other North African countries and Yemen.

The last travel advisory affecting Israel, issued Oct. 5, warned that Israel, "like other countries in the region," is affected by "unstable conditions and the possibility of hostile action."

That advisory, which did not urge U.S. citizens to defer any travel plans, argued that Israel's handing out of gas masks to its population did not mark the "beginning of a state of emergency."

The new advisory reads, in part: "American citizens should consider deferring all travel to all of these areas, and those already in these areas who do not have essential reasons for staying should consider departing."

"Americans should also be aware that scheduling their departure out of the region may take some time because of the limited availability of airline seats," the advisory states.

U.S. To Insure Flights

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday that Israel should be avoided "in view of the current situation."

"Recent official Israeli actions and measures have been taken to protect the public, while on the other hand there have been repeated threats issued from Iraq" to "drag Israel into any conflict," Boucher said.

Raphael Farber, Israel's tourism commissioner for North America, expressed "sorrow" at the new advisory. "There is no reason why 4.5 million Israelis are living their usual life and that American Jews won't be with them in these difficult times," he said.

"Israel is organized to deal with every difficulty," such as the "special needs of the tourists, including evacuation by El Al Israel Airlines," he said.

He called it "a little bit strange" that the State Department was not calling for U.S. citizens to defer travel plans to Egypt or Turkey, as well.

In a related development, the State Department said that to ease the departure of U.S. citizens from the Middle East, "the U.S. government has taken steps to ensure continued insurance coverage for American-flag airlines."

That decision was taken "as a result of a steep increase in insurance rates, which prompted several airlines to discontinue or consider discontinuing service to certain cities in the area," the department said in a statement.

Farber said that TWA and Tower Air, a U.S. airline that flies to Israel from New York, are "continuing to fly to Israel, and this is one more sign for life as usual."

PALESTINIANS FEAR A WAR IN THE GULF MAY MEAN CRACKDOWN IN TERRITORIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israeli preparations to maintain law and order in the administered territories in the event of war with Iraq have many Palestinians convinced that Israel intends to "settle accounts" with them while the world is preoccupied with the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

They believe Israel will use the situation to engineer the mass transfer of Palestinians out of the territories or, at the very least, apply severe punitive measures against them.

The Israeli authorities believe most Palestinians back Saddam Hussein. And indeed, there were scattered pro-Hussein demonstrations in the West Bank over the weekend.

Palestinian leaders abroad also have been urging support for Hussein. Their exhortations were repeated in the latest leaflets issued by the intifada leadership.

Police Minister Ronni Milo and his senior officials have been planning measures to cope with a serious escalation of the uprising should war break out. They are worried about an upsurge of terrorism in Israel.

Milo warned Arabs in the territories and Arab citizens of Israel last week not to indulge in hostile acts on the home front or against the army under cover of a war in the region.

The chief military prosecutor of the Israel Defense Force, Judge Advocate Gen. Amnon Strashnov, issued a blunt warning over the weekend. He said if Palestinians engaged in hostile acts against Israel in time of war, they would lose the status of protected civilians under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which protects civilian populations under military occupation.

In that case, the territories would be considered a war zone, and standing orders governing the use of firearms by troops would be revised accordingly, Strashnov warned.

No Gas Masks Yet For Palestinians

At a news conference in East Jerusalem, Palestinian activist Faisal Hussein urged international organizations and foreign governments not to leave the territories but increase their presence there "to protect the Palestinians."

A more fearful mood was evident in the territories over the weekend as the prospect of war became more and more real.

Palestinians are as concerned as Israelis over Iraqi threats to attack Israel with missiles bearing poison gas warheads. But while virtually the entire Israeli population has been supplied with gas masks, Palestinians in the territories have not received the protection.

Distribution of the gas masks to Jewish settlers in the territories began Sunday.

The level of fear has been raised by public service announcements on Israeli television advising what to do in case of a gas attack, which includes how to don a gas mask.

An Arab resident of Bethlehem appealed to the High Court of Justice on Sunday to order the Defense Ministry to issue gas masks to everyone in the territories.

A Moslem preacher during Friday services on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem pleaded with Saddam Hussein not to forget "that hundreds of thousands of Moslem Arabs live in Israel."

"Please take that into account," he urged.

WESTERN NATIONS BRACING FOR WAVE OF TERRORISM BY SUPPORTERS OF IRAQ
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Iraqi threats to unleash a wave of terrorism worldwide if it is attacked by the U.S.-led forces in the Persian Gulf are being taken seriously in Western capitals.

Precautionary measures to prevent terrorist acts and protect probable targets have received top priority in Rome, Bonn, London and as far away as Australia.

Secret services are reported on "red alert." Security forces have been beefed up at airports and railroad stations. Western diplomatic installations are under surveillance and well guarded.

The Iraqis have specifically threatened "Zionist targets." Past experience has shown that any Jewish institution, even a kosher restaurant, is fair game.

The Italian daily Corriere della Sera reported Friday that 50 foreign nationals of Arab origin are under very close surveillance by special police units and counterespionage agents.

"All are suspected of having direct, operative links with many of the groups that comprise the complex, nebulous world of Middle East terrorism," Corriere della Sera reported.

"They are part of the amorphous group that in case of a war in the Gulf could generate the wave of terror attacks already threatened by Saddam Hussein," the newspaper said.

Britain has already ousted 75 Iraqi nationals, seven of them diplomats. The Foreign Office suspected they were involved in planning terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom.

In London, the Board of Deputies of British Jews has called for an increased level of vigilance by the Anglo-Jewish community. Synagogues have been urged to take precautions, because they are within the scope of terrorist attacks.

Scotland Yard's Diplomatic Protection Group has increased surveillance at the Israeli, Egyptian and Iranian embassies in London.

Arrests Made In Germany

Detectives are tracking the movements of known Arab terrorists on the basis of reports that they are moving from the Middle East to European capitals.

In Bonn, German police searched several flats owned or rented by Arabs and arrested two occupants.

The German authorities are cracking down on Iraqis and members of the Palestine Liberation Organization who support Saddam Hussein.

Australian police disclosed last week that they have developed comprehensive counterterrorist measures since the Persian Gulf crisis began.

The police said a dossier of potential terrorists has been prepared, and soldiers are standing by to help.

Terrorism expert Michael Danby told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Melbourne that the Iraqi-based Palestinian May 15 faction continues to present a threat. It attacked Jewish targets in Australia in 1982.

But Danby did not think Australian Jews would be prime targets this time. Iraq is more likely to strike at individuals and institutions in the Middle East, he said.

(Contributing to this report were Joseph Finklestone of the Jewish Chronicle in London, and JTA correspondents David Kantor in Bonn and Jeremy Jones in Sydney, Australia.)

SECURITY STEPPED UP AT L.A. SYNAGOGUES AFTER FIREBOMBING IN NORTH HOLLYWOOD
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Around-the-clock security guards have started patrolling a number of Los Angeles synagogues and police have stepped up surveillance of Jewish institutions, in the wake of a firebombing last week that gutted a building at Aish HaTorah Institute in North Hollywood.

The attack on one of two buildings housing the small Orthodox congregation occurred at 12:45 a.m. last Thursday. Arson investigators would say only that the fire was caused by an "incendiary device," but at least one bottle that appeared to be a Molotov cocktail was found at the scene.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley led city officials in condemning the attack. At an outdoor news conference at the site of the fire, he warned that "acts of violence and terrorism will simply not be tolerated in Los Angeles."

Aish HaTorah, whose name ironically translates as "flame of the Torah," is a 14-year-old shul that conducts an outreach program of adult education classes. Its facilities consist of two one-story, barracks-like, wood-frame structures. The main building, housing the institute proper, suffered only a few broken windows.

But the adjoining building, which was rented to the Sephardic Yad Avraham congregation, was completely gutted. A wood-and-metal cabinet containing two Torah scrolls was singed, but the scrolls were saved "by a miracle of miracles," said Rabbi Zvi Block, dean of Aish HaTorah.

Block said he was devastated by the "crime of hate and bigotry," but vowed that he would not be frightened or intimidated. Damage was put at \$120,000 by fire officials, although Block gave a figure of up to \$250,000.

'Disturbing Pattern' Of Hate Crimes

Although arson investigators refused to divulge details of their findings, Block was questioned by reporters about links between Aish HaTorah and the Jewish Defense League.

A room in the gutted building was used as an office by Irv Rubin, national chairman of the JDL. Block said he had served as the chaplain of the JDL, but he saw no evidence that Rubin might have been the target of the firebombing.

Sympathy and support for Aish HaTorah came from public officials and all segments of the Jewish community, as well as from Shalom International, a Christian pro-Israel organization. A Shalom International delegation that included a Christian motorcycle team of former Hell's Angels "stood guard" outside the synagogue during Saturday morning services.

"This incident, as well as other recent incidents of violence and vandalism, is reflective of a disturbing pattern of anti-Semitic hate crimes that have increased both nationally and locally over the past several years," said David Lehrer, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Lehrer and representatives of the Islamic Center here met Friday with Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner to discuss prevention of hate crimes against both Jews and Arab-Americans.

Several synagogues in the Los Angeles area have received bomb threats in the past month. In November, Jews in the San Francisco Bay Area were shaken by three firebombings and a drive-by shooting aimed at synagogues.

WJC LEADERS MEET WITH GORBACHEV, DISCUSS SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The head of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, held a rare hour-long meeting at the Kremlin last week with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, according to officials of the Jewish organization.

Gorbachev indicated there was "an open door" for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to discuss all matters of the Arab-Israeli conflict with the Soviet Union, WJC leaders reported.

The Jan. 8 meeting, which was reported by the Soviet news media, and sessions with other Soviet leaders gave the WJC leaders cause for optimism that full diplomatic relations would be restored between the Soviet Union and Israel.

Bronfman's encounter with Gorbachev enabled the increasingly embattled Soviet leader "to demonstrate that glasnost continues on a straight line," said Israel Singer, WJC secretary-general, who accompanied Bronfman to Moscow.

At a time when Gorbachev is coming under attack at home for failed policies of openness or democracy, the Soviet leader can demonstrate a proven success in the area of emigration.

If Gorbachev continues to let Jews out of the Soviet Union, "it indicates that he is still the head of a democratic country," that "he is still continuing one of the areas of his greatest relaxation of previous (Soviet) behavior," Singer said.

The meeting could also be interpreted as a sign that Gorbachev intends to live up to the promised emigration reforms that led President Bush to waive trade sanctions contained in the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

Yeltsin Opposes Anti-Semitism

The WJC delegation, which also included its executive director, Elan Steinberg, also met with Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian republic, who has occasionally shown support for anti-Semitic elements in the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin told the WJC delegation he is a "staunch opponent of anti-Semitism" and would soon be issuing a statement "asking for tolerance and equal protection for all national minorities," Steinberg reported. Rumors that Yeltsin was anti-Semitic made it important that he make the statement, Steinberg said.

Over a three-day period, the WJC group met with several major Soviet figures, including V.K. Ossipian, head of the Soviet Academy of Arts and Sciences and also head of Gorbachev's presidential commission on Soviet-Israeli relations, which is in charge of trade and scientific exchanges.

Soviet leaders stressed that the Soviet Union continues to support the U.N. Security Council resolutions on enforcing Iraq to leave Kuwait, Singer and Steinberg said.

They also met with the leaders of the Vaad, the umbrella group of Soviet Jewish organizations, and the group's executive committee. Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Vaad, attended a meeting that the WJC group held with outgoing Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze's recent surprise resignation will "not make any change" in Soviet policy, both the foreign minister and president stressed to the WJC leaders.

Singer, who described the meeting with Shevardnadze as "most moving," said it was clear that Shevardnadze spoke "in retrospect" and fully planned to go ahead with his resignation.

SCIENTIST TIED TO WAR CRIMES IS DENIED ENTRANCE TO CANADA

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- A former German scientist linked to Nazi war crimes has been denied entry to Canada, six years after renouncing his U.S. citizenship and returning to Germany rather than face U.S. Justice Department charges.

A decision was announced Friday in Toronto denying entrance to Arthur Rudolph, 84, a rocket scientist for the U.S. moon exploration program who was brought to the United States after World War II to work on the space program. Rudolph was manager of the V-2 rocket program in Nazi Germany, which employed slave laborers.

Canadian government adjudicator Bill Wiloughby said in the written decision that Rudolph had known that slave labor was being used at the rocket factory. He said prisoners had been forced to work on rockets that were directed at their own countries.

Rudolph "will not be allowed to return in the future without special permission of the minister of immigration," a Canadian government spokesman said.

Rudolph, who worked on prestigious U.S. rocket programs and eventually received U.S. citizenship, went to Toronto last July for what he said was to be a family visit. He was stopped at the Toronto airport because of a 1988 amendment to a Canadian immigration law that excludes people suspected of war crimes from entering the country. An immigration hearing was held during the summer.

In news conferences last summer, Rudolph denied all allegations made against him by the U.S. Justice Department.

Friday's decision was immediately lauded by B'nai Brith Canada, but a B'nai Brith official also expressed hope that the Canadian government would now act to prosecute other former U.S. citizens living in Canada and suspected of involvement with Nazi war crimes.

No 'Retirement Home' For Nazis

"The presence of Nazi war criminals in Canada remains a stain on our national identity," said Ian Kagedan, B'nai Brith's government relations director. "Canada must not become a retirement home for old Nazis, the refuse of other countries."

During World War II, Rudolph, who joined the Nazi party in 1931, directed production of V-2 rockets at an underground factory near the Dora-Nordhausen concentration camp in Germany, U.S. Justice officials have said.

Rudolph originally left the United States in 1984, under an arrangement with the Justice Department that allowed him to voluntarily renounce his citizenship and leave the country so as to avoid charges of brutalizing slave laborers, Justice Department officials said.

Some 10,000 slave laborers are reported to have worked at the camp, at least half of whom died from exhaustion, illness, mistreatment and starvation, according to published reports.

"It's really no surprise the (Canadian) court found him implicated in war crimes, because the evidence was clear," said Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations in Washington.

Sher's department led the original investigation of Rudolph, which culminated in his leaving the country in March 1984.