

**BUSH, STILL ANGRY AT PLO, SAYS
U.S. WILL NOT RESUME DIALOGUE**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- President Bush, declaring again that the Palestine Liberation Organization was on the wrong side in the Persian Gulf war, is showing his determination to exclude the PLO in the current effort to revive the Middle East peace process.

Bush has not forgiven the PLO and its leader, Yasir Arafat, for support Iraq's Saddam Hussein in his aggressive takeover of Kuwait.

"He simply bet on the wrong horse," Bush said of Arafat, after meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand in Martinique on Thursday.

Bush said that the United States does not plan to resume its dialogue with the PLO that was broken off last June, when Arafat refused to condemn an abortive terrorist attack on a Tel Aviv beach by a PLO splinter group, the Palestine Liberation Front.

"We are not writing off anything," Bush said. "But we don't have any intention of resuming our dialogue" with the PLO.

Mitterrand repeated the French view that it was up to the Palestinians to select their own representatives and they still appeared to want Arafat and the PLO.

Bush was even more vehement on the subject of the PLO's backing of Iraq at a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday, after meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

'Chose The Wrong Side'

Arafat and the PLO "chose the wrong side -- boy, did they choose it wrong," Bush said, adding that Arafat had supported Saddam Hussein "overzealously" and had gone "far beyond where he had to go."

Bush and Mulroney agreed that Arafat's actions had decreased the Palestinians' credibility in the eyes of those countries that made up the military coalition against Iraq.

"I think the credibility of the leadership of the PLO is zero," Mulroney said.

Arafat's credibility is reportedly even lower among the Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which had been the chief bankrollers of the PLO. They have indicated that they will not support the PLO as long as Arafat leads it.

Bush expressed the hope that something can come out of that organization "that will be more reasonable."

But when Secretary of State James Baker met with Palestinians from the West Bank in Jerusalem on Tuesday, they reportedly rejected his proposal that they talk directly to Israel.

Mitterrand on Thursday expressed his continued support for an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem. But Bush indicated that the French have agreed to first allow the United States to try to get the peace process moving.

Bush said that he and Mitterrand have not agreed on any specific approach. "The United States has expressed its opinion on an international conference over and over again, saying that at the right time it could be useful," Bush added.

**NEW FRENCH ENVOY TO ISRAEL
KNOWN AS TOUGH NEGOTIATOR**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 14 (JTA) -- France has selected a career diplomat with knowledge of the Middle East and the reputation of a tough negotiator to be its next ambassador to Israel.

But according to diplomatic custom, the appointment of Jean-Louis Lucet, 58, former deputy director of Mideastern and African affairs at the Foreign Ministry, will not be announced until Israel has approved it.

Lucet served as counselor to the French Embassy in Cairo from 1974 to 1978. He speaks Arabic and is reportedly studying Hebrew in preparation for his new post.

He comes from a family of diplomats. His father, Charles Lucet, was ambassador to Washington in 1972, when his career was sidetracked after American Jewish activists, enraged because France agreed to sell combat planes to Libya, stormed the Chicago hotel where the visiting French president, Georges Pompidou, was staying with his wife.

Pompidou reportedly blamed the ambassador for lax security. Slated to become secretary-general at the Foreign Ministry in Paris, an office equivalent to U.S. undersecretary of state, the elder Lucet was instead named ambassador to Rome.

His son will be replacing the current French envoy in Tel Aviv, Alain Pierret, long considered a warm friend of Israel who worked hard to improve Franco-Israeli relations.

**MULRONEY ATTEMPTS TO MEND FENCES
WITH PRO-ISRAEL CIRCLES IN CANADA**

By Bram D. Eisenthal

OTTAWA, March 14 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney attempted to mend fences with Israel supporters when he made an unscheduled appearance at the parliamentary dinner of the Canada-Israel Committee here this week.

The dinner took place Tuesday night during the national conference of the CIC, which serves as the Canadian Jewish community's official voice on Canada-Israel relations.

Briskly shaking the hands of as many of the 1,000 CIC delegates as he could grasp in 20 minutes, Mulroney seemed to mollify some of the anger in pro-Israel circles over External Affairs Minister Joe Clark's remark last week in Amman, Jordan, that the Palestine Liberation Organization should play a role in Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

While the Canadian prime minister made no public remarks, he conversed briefly with Ronni Milo, Israel's minister of police, who was keynote speaker at the affair.

Milo, a last-minute substitute for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who was occupied meeting in Jerusalem this week with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, relayed what Mulroney told him.

"I was happy to hear from the prime minister of Canada that, according to his belief, nobody should tell Israel what is good for the country," the Likud minister said.

That was good news for supporters of Israel.

Meanwhile, outside the Capital Congress Center, where the CIC dinner was held, pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian crowds staged simultaneous demonstrations.

The demonstrators stood on opposite sides of the road, separated by police, shouting slogans and waving flags.

The pro-Israel crowd had gathered to demonstrate solidarity with the Jewish state. The Palestinians' message was that Israel should "get out of the territories."

Their organizer, Sala Musa, charged that Jews wield undue influence over the Western news media, producing bias against Palestinians. There are about 100 Palestinian families in Ottawa, many of them recent arrivals.

Inside the hall, Milo described the first night Israel was attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles after the Persian Gulf war began.

"If we had acted, we could have destroyed all of the Scuds in western Iraq, this I can assure you," he said.

But "we accepted the request of the United States and waited," he said. "I believe that, as Israelis and Jews, we will never forget that night, waiting and asking ourselves, 'What's next?'"

"I can assure you that in the future we shall not allow any Arab country, any Arab leader, to attack the civilian population of Israel," Milo vowed.

ISSUE OF ARAB RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL PLAYS OUT IN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

By Arthur J. Magida
The Baltimore Times

BALTIMORE, March 14 (JTA) -- Now that the guns are stilled in the Persian Gulf, the battle of the ads has begun.

In Wednesday's New York Times, the American Jewish Congress took out a full-page advertisement asking Arab members of the anti-Iraq coalition to "seize the moment" of the postwar period and recognize Israel; end the anti-Israel trade boycott; and help encourage Israel toward the first steps to resolving the Palestinian question.

Full-page ads from "the state of Kuwait and its people" appeared earlier this week in such publications as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Time and Newsweek magazines.

The ad thanked "America and the global family of nations" for its "swift response" in the effort to restore Kuwait's independence.

The ad's map of the Middle East portrayed Israel, not "Palestine," in its present borders. It also did not have demarcations for the Gaza Strip or West Bank.

Some observers of the Middle East interpret this as a sign of Kuwaiti displeasure toward Palestinians, who sided with Iraq during the recent war.

In its ad, the AJCongress urged Arab states to "hold out the promise of full and formal normalization of relations once the Palestinian issue is resolved.

The promise of formalization of relations with its Arab neighbors will remove the major obstacle to Israel's ability to deal with Palestinian aspirations in a forthcoming manner."

The ad did not detail the specifics of an Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said the ad was intended "to let Arab states know that support

exists among segments of the American public (and) that progress in peace talks is impossible without a certain threshold being established. We know for a fact that this will be met with an appropriate Israeli response."

Siegman said recent polls indicating that Israel's public is evenly split -- 49 to 49 percent -- between retaining the administered territories and trading land for peace were "remarkable."

"This is after Palestinians were cheering Iraqi Scud attacks from their rooftops," he said. "Think what the Israeli response would be after a substantive initiative from the Arab side."

The AJCongress ad also asked for contributions "to help bring this message to the Arab world."

Asked which papers in Arab nations would even consider publishing an ad from a major American Jewish organization, Siegman said interest has come from several Egyptian newspapers and a Palestinian paper published in East Jerusalem.

He said another route to getting the ad to Arab readers would be through a newspaper such as the English-language International Herald Tribune, which is distributed in the Arab world.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAY JORDANIANS HAVE REDUCED HOSTILE BORDER ACTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Senior Israeli security officials have credited the Jordanian army with successfully reducing hostile activity against Israel from Jordanian soil, despite the growing influence of Moslem fundamentalists among junior officers and soldiers of the ranks.

The claims were made following a number of recent incursions of armed infiltrators from Jordan, which have resulted in fatalities to both Israeli troops and Jordanian intruders.

According to the officials quoted Thursday by Israel Radio, Moslem extremists are responsible for most of the recent terrorist infiltrations of Israel from Jordan. Intruders have been found to carry Koranic scripture in addition to arms.

The latest incursion occurred Monday morning, when six intruders carrying Korans along with automatic weapons and grenades were killed in a running battle with an Israel Defense Force patrol. Three IDF soldiers were wounded.

While elements within the Jordanian establishment do not actively oppose them, the Islamic militants have no major influence over army decisions.

Moreover, although Jordan's economy is in dire straits, King Hussein is not about to lose his throne, the Israeli officials say, if only because there is no alternative to him.

Nevertheless, Hussein's international stature has taken a battering because he supported Saddam Hussein of Iraq during the Persian Gulf crisis and war.

According to the Israelis, Jordan provided intelligence to Iraq, including advance warning to its forces during the war, and also helped operate the American-made Hawk anti-aircraft batteries Iraq captured when it invaded Kuwait.

As a result of Hussein's pro-Iraq policy, Jordan has lost the financial aid it once received from Saudi Arabia and the other oil-rich Gulf states.

In addition, Jordan no longer benefits from the paychecks of thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians who once worked in Iraq and Kuwait.

POLL REVEALS SOVIET PEOPLE HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ON JEWS

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- A comprehensive study of how Soviet citizens view Jews, Israel and Jewish issues has found that while substantial portions of the population hold positive attitudes, 56 percent agree that the Soviet Union "should be more resolute in fighting Zionism and Zionists in the USSR and all over the world."

The survey, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, also found that despite their views on Zionism, 64 percent want the Soviet Union to restore diplomatic ties with Israel and 44 percent would like to visit Israel as tourists.

AJCommittee officials said this and other information gleaned from the survey of 3,712 Soviet citizens would be useful in monitoring trends, pinpointing potential problems and offering suggestions on Soviet educational programs.

They said the information about restoring diplomatic ties to Israel would be especially useful in countering official Soviet claims that this cannot be done because of opposition from the general public.

"Clearly this poll tells us that public opinion strongly supports such a step," said David Harris, AJCommittee executive vice president. Israel and the Soviet Union recently established consular but not full diplomatic ties, 23 years after ties were broken.

Harris added that the apparent discrepancy between respondents' views on restoring diplomatic ties to Israel and their general feelings on Zionism stemmed from the tendency of Soviet governments to use the word Zionism when they wanted to malign Jews.

A Force Of Its Own

"Zionism has successfully been portrayed by the enemies of Israel as a demonic ideology, and that view has taken root even by people considering themselves well-disposed to Israel," said Harris. "It's taken on a life of its own."

Harris said that the Soviet Union "has often used Zionism or Zionists as code words when they often meant Jews but wanted to avoid the appearance of anti-Semitism."

The survey found that overall, 40 percent of respondents harbor some negative feelings toward Jews, with 10 percent strongly anti-Semitic and 2 percent openly hating Jews.

When asked how they generally viewed Jews, 61 percent said their attitude was "generally positive." Jews are viewed more favorably than Uzbeks or African-Americans, according to the survey, but less favorably than Russians, the British and Germans.

Although the majority of respondents agree that Jews are generally hard workers, good family men, well-bred and educated, a majority or a plurality also hold negative stereotypes about Jews.

Forty-one percent say money means more to Jews than human relations, 61 percent believe Jews avoid physical labor and 63 percent agree Jews are richer than others.

While only 16 percent think Jews "must answer for killing Christ," 34 percent disagreed and 50 percent said they did not know.

"There is much ignorance about Jews, including about the Holocaust, and we would encourage Soviet officials to try to reverse that,

since a good part of the Holocaust took place by the Nazis on Soviet soil," said Harris.

When people were asked how many Jews they believed died in the Holocaust, 74 percent said they did not know, and only 2 percent were able to give the figure of 6 million.

In an open-ended question asking which Jews have inflicted great harm on either the Soviet or other peoples, 87 percent could not name one, but Adolf Hitler showed up as sixth on the list of those named.

The survey, conducted last October by the Moscow-based Soviet Center for Public Opinion and Market Research and headed by scholar Tatyana Zaslavskaya, employed face-to-face interviews, a method that David Singer, AJCommittee's director of research and publications, said was unlikely to have resulted in less honest answers.

Referring to an earlier study conducted by Zaslavskaya on Soviet views of President Mikhail Gorbachev, Singer said respondents were more than willing to make negative comments, despite the use of face-to-face interviews.

10 Of 15 Republics Polled

"Soviet citizens, far from being shy, are delighted to have the opportunity to tell you what they think," Singer said Thursday during a news conference at AJCommittee headquarters.

The survey polled people in 10 of the 15 Soviet republics, excluding those five with negligible numbers of Jews. The republics, ranked from greatest to least hostility expressed toward Jews included: Byelorussia, Moldavia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaidzhan, Russia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Lithuania.

The findings, broken down also by age, educational status, sex, occupation and religion, found that negative attitudes toward Jews are most frequently held by the elderly, those with low educational and occupational status, and those living in rural areas.

But Singer cautioned that even among highly educated professionals in urban areas, a certain anti-Semitic view was more prevalent than among people with only a secondary education.

"Indeed, such respondents constitute an actual majority of those who fall into the extreme anti-Semitic category: they are ideological anti-Semites with an intellectual bent," according to the AJCommittee report on the survey.

The survey also found that a large majority, 83 percent, agree that Jews have the right to decide whether or not they want to stay in the Soviet Union.

Sympathetic Attitudes

Most respondents also exhibited neutral or sympathetic attitudes on why Jews were seeking to emigrate.

For example, 31 percent believe it is because Jews "want a better future for their children"; 24 percent picked "because of the economic crisis and high crime rate"; and 15 percent responded "because their national dignity is insulted and they are persecuted and threatened."

But 36 percent believe such emigration weakens the national economy, 28 percent see it as undermining the country's prestige and 28 percent think it encourages others to leave.

The survey also found that Jews are not the only ones seeking to leave: 16 percent of those interviewed expressed the desire to leave permanently -- which translates into 45 million of the Soviet Union's 280 million citizens.

ETHIOPIAN REFUGEE WILL RESUME SOON, ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY BELIEVES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- Jewish emigration from Ethiopia, interrupted last week, will resume shortly, Israel's Foreign Ministry believes.

The ministry said Thursday that contacts with the government in Addis Ababa indicated there would be an early resumption of flights out of the country carrying Jews seeking to be reunited with families in Israel.

At the same time, the ministry dismissed charges that the Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam halted the flow of emigres to pressure Israel for arms.

One flight a week had been arriving in Tel Aviv via Rome since the first of the year. About 2,000 immigrants arrived through the end of February, leaving some 18,500 left in Addis Ababa.

But the flights stopped suddenly at the beginning of March. The Jerusalem Post on Monday quoted an unnamed source as charging that Mengistu was holding up the emigration to get military equipment and gasoline for his army, which is currently engaged in critical battles with various rebel forces.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian Embassy in Tel Aviv denied the allegation, and Israel's Foreign Ministry concurred.

The Foreign Ministry suggested there had merely been an interruption in the flow of emigres because of technical difficulties. It noted that the process of "family reunion" is complicated and prone to periodic difficulties.

But an Ethiopian immigrant leader here, Rahamim Elazar, told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz on Thursday that he still believed the stoppage was aimed at extracting supplies from Israel for the hard-pressed Ethiopian army.

Similar charges were reported Thursday by the Washington Post.

In Washington, the State Department was asked about the reports at its daily news briefing Thursday.

Deputy spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters that the United States had "raised these reports at a very high level in Addis Ababa, and we have asked for clarification.

"If these reports proved true, it will be a matter of deep concern to the United States," he said.

POLITICAL TURMOIL IN SLOVAKIA SPAWNS OLD-TIME ANTI-SEMITISM

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, March 14 (JTA) -- Political turmoil in Slovakia has spawned an anti-Semitic campaign exploited by racists and used for their own ends by nationalist demagogues who threaten the existence of Czechoslovakia as a federal state of two national republics.

The scapegoat at the moment is Fedor Gal, coordinator of the Public Against Violence, the political arm of Slovakia's governing coalition.

Slovakian Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar broke with it after the movement's managing committee refused to merge the post of coordinator with the office of prime minister.

It was a strong vote of confidence in Gal, who was born in the Theresienstadt ghetto in 1945.

Because of his Jewish background, his poli-

cies have been attacked as "Zionist" and "cosmopolitan."

Gal fully supports economic reform in Czechoslovakia and President Vaclav Havel's democratic ideas.

Meanwhile, Meciar, reputedly the most popular politician in Slovakia, seems to believe he can gain mileage by pitting himself against Gal.

When Gal was confirmed as coordinator of the Public Against Violence movement, Meciar and 12 followers left to found a rival political movement, with a platform stressing Slovakian nationalism.

At the same time, a group of Slovak intellectuals, including a number of former Communists, issued a declaration claiming priority for laws passed by the Slovak National Council over those adopted by the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly.

Slovakian nationalists organize daily meetings in Bratislava, their capital, in support of Slovakian independence. It is at such rallies that leaflets charging a "Zionist conspiracy" are distributed.

The well-organized Voice of the People celebrated on March 14 the 52nd anniversary of the founding of the Nazi puppet state of Slovakia, which preceded in the next three years to deport virtually all of Slovakia's Jews to death camps.

Havel, in one of his regular broadcasts to the nation, warned Slovaks to remember that March 14, 1939, brought war and misery, and that the Slovak state then was Hitler's creation.

The president's spokesman, Michael Zantovsky, pointed out at a news briefing that a new coalition seems to be forming in Slovakia consisting of old-line Communists, reform Communists of 1968, separatists and those who recall wartime Slovakia as a golden age of the Slovak nation.

Besides nationalist and personal political reasons, the upheaval in Slovakia has economic and social roots.

Nationalist leaders on the right and socialists on the left blame federal authorities for radical reforms aimed at a market economy that are hurting the Slovakian economy.

For example, many factories built in Slovakia under Communist rule to supply Soviet bloc countries and their Arab allies with arms and ammunition no longer have outlets for their products.

At the same time, unemployment is growing in Slovakia faster than in the Czech republic.

Little wonder, then, that the majority of the few Jews remaining in this country stands firmly behind Havel and the forces who want to save democratic Czechoslovakia.

ISRAEL BOOSTS IMAGE IN EASTERN GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 14 (JTA) -- Israel launched a campaign Wednesday to improve its image in what was formerly East Germany with the first of a series of "Israel Days."

The opening event, attended by the Israeli ambassador to Germany, Benjamin Navon, was held in Magdeburg, a city which as recently as last summer was still dominated by a Communist Party hostile to Israel.

Participants in the event said it drew thousands of people, who attended various discussion panels dealing with the Jewish state.

Anti-Semitism and negative attitudes toward Israel and Jews in general are believed to be widespread in the former East German territory.