

**SENATE ADOPTS BILL PROVIDING
\$650 MILLION MORE AID FOR ISRAEL****By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA) -- The Senate voted 92-8 Wednesday evening to provide Israel with \$650 million in additional aid to offset its added defense-preparedness costs during the Persian Gulf conflict.

The money for Israel was included as part of an emergency supplemental aid bill covering costs related to Operation Desert Storm.

A similar bill was approved overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives on March 7. But to receive any of the funds, Israel will have to wait for a House-Senate conference committee to iron out differences between the two versions.

Speaking after the vote, Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.) said the bill "reimburses the people of Israel for a portion of the material costs inflicted on them" during the Gulf war.

But the bill covers only Israel's extra military expenses and not property damage caused by the 39 Iraqi missiles fired at Israel.

The Senate took the additional step Wednesday of barring delivery of \$55 million in aid to Jordan this fiscal year unless President Bush certifies to Congress that Jordan is taking positive steps to bring peace in the Middle East.

During the Gulf conflict, the White House suspended further deliveries of U.S. aid to Jordan this fiscal year, specifically blocking the transfer of \$246 million in aid that was about to be released. That action was taken in response to King Hussein's open support for Iraq in the war.

Amendment On Syrian Jewry

The new effort to block additional aid won Senate approval in a voice vote on an amendment sponsored by Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.). A motion to strip the amendment from the bill failed by a vote of 57-43.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Wednesday afternoon that he was "very disappointed" with the Senate action, saying it would reduce Bush's "flexibility" in foreign policy at a time when he is trying to bring about peace in the Middle East.

Also as part of the bill, the Senate adopted an amendment calling on Syria to allow its estimated 4,000 Jews to reunite with family members abroad. The measure, adopted by voice vote, was sponsored by Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.).

The eight senators who voted against the bill, all Republicans, were Hank Brown of Colorado, Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, Richard Lugar of Indiana, Nickles of Oklahoma, William Roth Jr. of Delaware, Robert Smith of New Hampshire and Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming.

On another subject, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously adopted an amendment Tuesday that calls on the administration to encourage Arab nations to recognize Israel's right to exist. The Senate resolution, introduced by Sens. Charles Robb (D-Va.) and Connie Mack (R-Fla.), has 51 co-sponsors.

A House version, sponsored by Reps. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), has 71 co-sponsors.

**EUROPEAN JEWISH GROUPS UNITED
IN DRIVE TO CURB ARAB BOYCOTT****By Yossi Lempkowicz**

BRUSSELS, March 20 (JTA) -- European Jewish groups, riding the prevailing pro-Israel mood of the Persian Gulf war's aftermath, have launched a concerted effort against the Arab boycott of Israel and of companies which do business with the Jewish state.

One target is the Brussels-based European Community, which was urged this week to promote anti-boycott legislation and to coordinate such legislation by its 12 member states.

The appeal was made at a free-trade seminar organized here by the recently formed European Jewish Information Center.

The Jewish center also called on Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states that adhere to the Arab League boycott of Israel to "cease and desist from these discriminatory practices."

"As an initial confidence-building measure, these states should abandon immediately the trade restriction practices against companies that trade with boycotted firms," according to a resolution put out by the Jewish center.

The center directed its attention as well to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and several other countries that diligently observe the Arab boycott.

"They should be made aware of the dangers of restrictive trade practices, both to the countries against whom they are applied and the countries that apply them," the resolution said.

It pointed out that the enactment of anti-boycott laws in the United States several years ago did not harm U.S. trade with the Arab states. Under those laws, firms have been fined for cooperating with the boycott.

Emerging As Pro-Israel Lobby

The seminar expressed satisfaction with the German government's recently expressed intention to take legal measures against boycott practices and called for similar action by other European countries.

Benjamin Gill, director of the new center, said anti-boycott initiatives are expected to be adopted by the European Parliament, the E.C. legislative body based in Strasbourg, France.

Several members of the Parliament attended the seminar, including Derek Prag, a British Conservative, and Marijke van Hemeldonck of Belgium, a Socialist.

Anne-Marie Lizin, the Belgian secretary of state in charge of coordinating the country's integration into the single European entity that will come into being in 1992, was also present, as were representatives from the United States and Israel.

The seminar decided to establish a database to gather and disseminate information about Arab boycott activities and their influence on national and multinational firms.

The center has emerged as a pro-Israel lobby in Europe. It is chaired by Jacques Graubart of Belgium.

Its governing board includes Jean Kahn, president of CRIF, the representative body of French Jewish organizations, and Lord Weidenfeld of Britain.

KNESSET OPPOSITION BLOCKS FUNDS TO YESHIVOT, SETTING OFF A CRISIS **By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- Israel's Likud-led government was shaken in the Knesset on Wednesday, when the opposition succeeded, with the help of two coalition partners, in blocking a multimillion-shekel allocation to religious institutions of the Orthodox parties.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir invoked coalition discipline to preserve his government, which depends largely on the religious parties for its parliamentary majority.

But he faced defiance from at least one member, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who heads the two-seat secular Tsomet faction. Eitan suggested the time may be ripe for early elections, however inconvenient they would be for the two major parties.

The turmoil began when the plenum unexpectedly rejected the allocation of some 90 million shekels of state funds, about \$41 million, mainly to institutions of the Shas and Agudat Yisrael parties.

The monies had been approved by the Finance Committee only hours before, and passage of the requisite legislation seemed routine.

But an unexpectedly large opposition turnout voided the allocations on a motion by Haim Oron of Mapam. It was supported by Eitan, who has traditionally objected to the haggling that determines allocation of state funds. Several members of the National Religious Party, which is also Orthodox, agreed that the allocations should be set according to established standards.

Shamir, who summoned his ministers for urgent consultations, insisted that Tsomet and the NRP support the measure in its original form. He called for a second vote.

Time was short, however, since the Knesset had planned to start its Passover recess Thursday.

The NRP announced Wednesday afternoon that it would vote for the allocations, but only if they were reduced to 38.5 million shekels, about \$17.7 million.

While Shas and the Agudah balked at any changes, Eitan stood fast. He said he would not support the allocations, even if he had to resign or was fired by the prime minister.

Shamir told Eitan a negative vote in the second round would be tantamount to a vote of no confidence in the government and would trigger his dismissal from the Cabinet.

WITH ADOPTION OF WAR CRIMES BILL, BRITAIN PREPARES TO PROSECUTE NAZIS

By Anne Sacks

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, March 20 (JTA) -- Scotland Yard is poised "to hit the ground running" in the investigation of suspected Nazi war criminals living in Britain as soon as royal assent is given to the new war crimes bill, which Parliament passed overwhelmingly Monday.

According to Britain's famous criminal investigations agency, the final authorization is likely soon after Passover and the first suspects could be brought to trial within three years.

Commander Roy Penrose, head of Scotland Yard's international and organized crime branch, said time is of the essence because the people involved are elderly and nature could allow them to elude justice. Therefore, a special detective

squad has been set up to begin interviewing suspects as soon as the bill becomes law.

Home Office Minister John Patten said the investigations could cost up to 2.1 million pounds a year, about \$3.7 million. He told the House of Commons that over 10 million pounds, or \$17 million, has been set aside for legal aid to ensure fair trials.

At the moment, at least three alleged war criminals are known to the police and the Home Office, which reported that evidence has been prepared against them.

The names of eight more suspects will be handed over to the authorities by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center as soon as the law takes effect. All are said to have been involved in crimes against Jews in Lithuania during World War II.

Ephraim Zuroff of the center's Israel office provided the names of nine other suspects on June 7, 1990. All are said to be Lithuanian citizens who found refuge in Britain after the war.

Ready To Override The Lords

The war crimes bill, which swept through the House of Commons by a 254-88 vote, permits British courts to prosecute alleged war criminals living in Britain for crimes committed abroad.

It was first adopted on March 19, 1990, by an equally lopsided majority of 273-60, only to be nullified by the House of Lords.

The peers voted 207-74 on June 6, 1990, to set aside the law, citing such reasons as old age, the passage of time and the validity of retribution.

But this time, the government confirmed it is ready to override objections from the House of Lords. That could be done by invoking the 1949 Parliamentary Acts, which prevent the peers from blocking legislation.

It has never been done, and Conservative member of Parliament David Sumberg, whose constituency includes a large part of Manchester's Jewish population, hopes it will not be necessary.

"The MPs have made their point, and I hope the Lords will allow us to get the law on the statute books without invoking the Parliament Acts," Sumberg said.

Hayim Pinner, secretary-general of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said he was pleased by the government's tenacity in getting the war crimes bill through Commons unamended.

Similar legislation exists in Canada and Australia. The constitutionality of the Australian law is being contested before that country's supreme court.

In New York, the World Jewish Congress welcomed the reintroduction of the measure after its setback last year.

According to WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg, 2,553 individuals sought by Britain were found listed by the U.N. War Crimes Commission when that defunct agency's long-secret archives were opened in 1987.

"Although it is likely that many if not most of the criminals wanted by Britain in the U.N. files are dead, even if only 10 percent are alive, we are still talking about more than 250 cases," Steinberg said.

In Toronto, Les Scheininger, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said, "Bringing suspected Nazi war criminals to justice is a multinational responsibility to assure that those who perpetrated atrocities during the Holocaust are held accountable."

GULF WAR HAS MADE ISRAELI PUBLIC MORE WARY THAN EVER ABOUT GERMANY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- Israelis now have stronger negative attitudes toward Germany than at any time in the last 10 years, according to the latest public opinion survey.

It goes deeper than resentment of Germany's equivocal policies in the recent Persian Gulf crisis, experts said.

The poll was conducted under the auspices of the Koebner Chair in German History at the Hebrew University.

A random sampling of 1,200 Israeli Jews over age 18 was interviewed. Of that number, 36 percent believed German-Israeli relations could not be described as normal, up from 20 percent who felt that way in a poll taken last year.

Ten years ago, 30 percent gave a negative response.

According to 34.5 percent of the respondents, today's Germany is not a "different Germany" from the Germany of World War II, the Third Reich.

Such feelings were reported by only 13 percent 10 years ago.

Asked to rate five nations -- the United States, France, Germany, Holland and the Soviet Union -- only the Soviet Union received a more negative response than Germany. Among 10 possible ratings, Germany ranked lowest.

Professor Moshe Zimmerman, who now holds the Koebner Chair, attributed Germany's negative image to the way it is portrayed in the local press, against the background of Israelis' collective memory of history.

But according to Zimmerman, these public attitudes will not affect Israel's pragmatic approach to Germany, based on its leading role in European affairs.

The poll's results can be contrasted with the official Israeli position, voiced last week during Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy's visit to Germany.

Following Germany's economic and political offerings to Israel, the Jewish state seemed prepared to forget, or at least play down, anger at Bonn for the help German firms gave Iraq to produce poison gas.

Levy praised the Bonn government for solidarity it demonstrated with Israel when it came under Scud attack from Iraq. Bonn gave Israel humanitarian financial aid and sent special tanks equipped to detect nuclear, biological or chemical gases.

KOHL PRESENTED WITH FINDINGS OF STUDY ON GERMAN ATTITUDES

By David Kantor

BONN, March 20 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl got disturbing evidence from leaders of the American Jewish Committee Tuesday that his government's special relationships with the Jews and Israel do not reflect the attitudes of large numbers of Germans.

The chancellor, who conferred for two hours with an AJCommittee delegation led by the organization's president, Sholom Comay, was presented with the findings of a recent survey the group conducted among a representative sampling of adults in what had been West and East Germany before unification.

The study, the first of its kind, found a

disturbingly high tendency to "put the memory of the Holocaust behind us."

A majority of the respondents rejected the notion of a special relationship between Germany and Israel. But there was strong agreement in both parts of Germany that the history of the Nazi period should be taught in schools and that anti-Semitic organizations should be banned.

In the face of the report, Kohl reaffirmed Germany's special relationship with Israel, the AJCommittee delegation reported. He indicated a willingness to assist Israel in resettling hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

He also suggested that the European Community, of which Germany is a key member, explore ways to help end compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel.

Kohl cited new legislation before Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, to tighten restrictions and increase penalties for illegal exports of technology through which German firms helped both Libya and Iraq develop chemical weapons.

He told the group there are nearly 100 legal proceedings pending against German exporters.

Pays Tribute To AJCommittee

According to Kohl's spokesman, Dieter Vogel, the chancellor acknowledged AJCommittee's early, strong support for German unification. He also paid tribute to the 86-year-old American Jewish human relations agency for its longstanding cooperation with successive Bonn governments.

He stressed the long tradition of German-Jewish coexistence and cooperation despite the horrors of the Nazi past. Kohl said the united Germany wants to perpetuate those traditions.

He said Germany intends to work together with the United States and its European allies for a Middle East settlement that guarantees Israel's right to exist and resolves the Palestinian problem.

Vogel reported that Comay thanked the chancellor for Germany's recent political and humanitarian assistance in the Persian Gulf war.

The delegation was in Germany for three days of meetings in Bonn, Dresden and Berlin in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Joining the delegation was Seymour Reich, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Morton Kornreich, an AJCommittee board member who is chairman of the board of the United Jewish Appeal.

SIXTH FLEET TO DOCK IN HAIFA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) -- More than 12,000 officers and sailors of the U.S. Sixth Fleet will enjoy shore leave in Israel next week after seeing action in the Persian Gulf war.

Five ships, fresh from the war zone, are due in Haifa to give their crews five days of rest and relaxation while they undergo repairs and maintenance at Israel Shipyards on Haifa Bay.

The visitors are the helicopter carriers Nassau and Guam and the landing craft Portland, Pensacola and Lamour County.

All but the Guam, which has too deep a draft, will enter the Haifa shipyard, providing much-needed business for Israel's only deep-sea shipbuilding and repair facility.

Meanwhile, the Haifa municipality and various volunteer organizations are arranging to entertain the American sailors.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
CHALLENGES FACING JEWISH REVIVAL
IN USSR EVIDENT AT MOSCOW GATHERING**
By Charles Hoffman

MOSCOW (JTA) -- Launching a religious revival among Jews in the Soviet Union is proving to be an uphill struggle, mainly because the liberalization of Soviet society has opened the way for the mass exodus of Soviet Jews.

That was evident at the second Congress of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Soviet Union held here last week.

The podium was graced by distinguished rabbis and halachic sages from Israel and the United States, who came to offer advice and encouragement. But the 200 delegates in the audience, mostly men over 60, seemed to be at a loss about what to do.

Having worked all their lives to preserve the tattered remnants of religious life, when official government policy opposed all religions, they are now free to do as they please.

But they do not know where to begin. Nor do they have the tools or the knowledge of Judaism to revive the synagogue as a center of communal life.

Most serious is the growing shortage of Jews to fill the synagogues. The mass aliyah in the past year has drastically reduced the Jewish population in many areas.

In the large Ukrainian city of Kharkov, for example, over half the Jews have gone to Israel in the past year. Their departure coincided, ironically, with the government's return of the synagogue, a large building that had been used as a community gym.

Kharkov's Jewish community lacks the money to restore and furnish the building or buy the ritual accessories.

The building therefore remains empty except for a small room used as a makeshift chapel, where the Torah scroll is kept in an old refrigerator instead of a proper Ark.

A Dozen Synagogues Returned

All over the Soviet Union, about a dozen synagogue buildings have been returned by the government in the past two years, to be used for their original purpose.

There are about 100 cities and towns with significant Jewish populations, and practically all of them now have synagogues. But apart from a dearth of congregants, there is only a handful of Soviet rabbis and religious teachers.

The Union of Jewish Religious Communities was formed a year ago and has 77 member communities. It is headed by the leaders of Moscow's Choral Synagogue, Rabbi Avraham Shayevitch and the congregation president, Vladimir Federovsky.

Shayevitch said that the fact that "great rabbis" came to the congress from Israel and America "gives us great strength and hope for the future. Democratic change has enabled us to have ties with Jews all over the world. We expect much help from Jews abroad."

The distinguished guests included, from Israel, Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, Haifa Chief Rabbi Shear-Yeshuv Cohn and Rishon le-Zion Chief Rabbi Simcha Hacohen Kook.

Participants from the United States included Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America; Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of Appeal of Conscience Foundation and senior rabbi of New York's Park East Synagogue; Ralph Gold-

man of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; and rabbis from the Lubavitcher Hasidic movement Chabad.

In the past two years, Chabad and its Israeli affiliate, Shamir, composed of Soviet immigrants, have sent rabbis and teachers to several dozen Soviet communities.

The chief rabbi of Kiev and the Ukraine, Rabbi Ya'acov Bleich, is a Karlin-Stolin Hasid from Brooklyn. The head of the rabbinical court of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities is Rabbi Pinhas Goldschmidt of Israel.

A New Yeshiva Started

A plan was announced at the congress to create a central rabbinic authority for the Soviet Union, headed by Rabbis Goldschmidt and Shayevitch, which would work in coordination with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. One of its tasks would be converting people of Jewish ancestry who want to immigrate to Israel.

Reciting a list of urgent needs, Shayevitch said Soviet Jews must have more religious literature in Russian, more schools and more yeshivot.

During the congress, the formation of a new yeshiva in Moscow was announced. It has an enrollment of 20 students from various parts of the Soviet Union.

It is sponsored by Moscow's Choral Synagogue and Agudath Israel of America. One of its purposes is to train indigenous religious leaders for Soviet Jews. Two other yeshivas in Moscow are sponsored, respectively, by Chabad and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz of Jerusalem.

Goldschmidt, the head of the new yeshiva, appealed to the delegates to find two or three young men in their communities willing to devote themselves to five years of study, who could then return to serve their communities.

"We need locally trained leaders," he stressed. "Synagogues without rabbis are dead."

The delegates were looking forward to an "invasion" of 50 emissaries from Israel who will conduct Passover seders in 30 communities.

That program, sponsored by Israel's Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Joint Distribution Committee, will also provide kosher food for 10,000 people at the seder.

SLOVAKIA PLANNING HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL
By Ruth E. Gruber

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (JTA) -- Slovakia plans to hold a competition for a Holocaust memorial monument to be erected in Bratislava and would like to open a Jewish museum here.

But there are various problems, an official of the Slovak Ministry of Culture explained. No date has been set for the competition, but it will be announced "soon," the official said.

The monument would be erected on Zidovska (Jewish) Street, in the former Jewish quarter.

So would the museum. But a dispute has arisen over ownership of the building where it would be housed, and there is also a personnel problem, the official said.

While the Slovak National Museum has the budget and the authorization to hire a person to direct the Jewish museum, it has been hard to find the right person.

According to the ministry official, there is a woman well qualified for the job. But the Orthodox community objected because its tradition prohibits women from handling certain religious items that might be part of the museum's collection.