

**ISRAEL BRACES FOR U.S. PRESSURE  
AS BAKER HEADS FOR THE MIDEAST**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sought to assure his Cabinet ministers Sunday that they have no cause for alarm that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's two-day visit here spells new pressure on Israel.

Baker was due here Monday night from Turkey and was scheduled to leave Wednesday for Cairo, and possibly Damascus and other capitals in the region.

It will be the secretary's second visit in less than a month and was announced in Washington only on Friday.

Shamir avoided a full-scale Cabinet debate in advance of the talks. He said he would hold consultations Monday with Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, prior to working sessions with Baker on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the prime minister counseled his colleagues not to heed Israeli media speculation that Baker will upbraid the government over Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's new settlement drive in the West Bank or demand a binding commitment by Israel to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates that territory must be relinquished for peace.

Baker was last in Israel on March 11 and 12, at which time there was considerable talk here and in Washington of a regional visit later this spring or summer by President Bush.

The short time that elapsed since Baker's last visit and the apparent haste with which his latest jaunt was arranged have given rise to speculation that the administration is seriously concerned that the opportunity to resolve the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian disputes is fast slipping away.

That was confirmed in Washington by Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, who said Sunday on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" program that the administration fears the "window of opportunity" created by the Persian Gulf war will be lost.

**'Willingness To Take Harder Steps'**

"Whether there is also the willingness to take the harder steps that are necessary on each side is what we have to find out," Scowcroft explained, adding, "That's the reason Secretary Baker has returned only such a short time after his first trip."

Scowcroft stressed that because of the successful outcome of the Gulf war, "there is probably as good a chance to make progress as there has been in the long and tragic history of that continent."

But he warned, "This window of opportunity will not stay open long, and if everyone does not move now to take advantage of it, attitudes will slip back into the old intransigent mode."

Regarding the substance of Baker's talks here, the key issue appeared to be the idea of a regional conference, this summer, convened by the United States and possibly the Soviet Union.

It would be a curtain-raiser for the "two-track" approach, separate parallel peace talks between Israel and the Arab states and between

Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to American policy thinking, that approach needs to be preceded by "confidence-building measures" by Israel toward the Palestinians and by the Arab states toward Israel.

An example would be an end to the 40-year Arab economic boycott of Israel. Israel would be expected to show its good will by reopening Palestinian universities in the West Bank, closed since the start of the intifada in December 1987.

**Settlements Will Continue**

Israel's position prior to Baker's last visit was wedded to Shamir's May 1989 proposal, which envisaged Palestinian elections in the territories and a five-year interim autonomy period, as mapped out in the Camp David accords.

But the Bush administration has emphasized its view that the land-for-peace formula is central to any settlement.

The Likud government flatly rejects the principle. The Labor opposition professes to be much more flexible. But it is the Likud, with coalition partners even farther to the right, which governs Israel.

The contretemps between Israel and Washington over Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements in the administered territories will have to be resolved if the administration's "window of opportunity" is to stay open.

Nearly 100,000 Jews presently live among 1.75 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Housing Minister Sharon plans to double the Jewish population in two years with a massive building program and powerful economic inducements to settlers.

Washington, moreover, has seen Housing Ministry documents containing plans that appear to be a betrayal of Israel's promise not to settle immigrants in the territories.

Asked how Israel would respond to a U.S. request to freeze settlement activity, Sharon replied in a radio interview Sunday that he trusts the premier to "make it clear" to Baker "that Israel has always built, is building and will in the future build" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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

**CURFEWS ORDERED IN EAST JERUSALEM  
TO AVERT UNREST DURING BAKER VISIT**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police are taking extensive security precautions in preparation for the second visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in less than a month, mindful of the bloodshed that preceded his arrival here March 11.

As one security precaution, police extended a ban on the entry of West Bank Arabs into Jerusalem that had been in effect during the Passover holiday, which ended Saturday night. The ban will be lifted after Baker's departure Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Palestinians observe the start of the 40th month since the intifada broke out in December 1987, the kind of anniversary invariably accompanied by violence.

The police accordingly clamped a curfew

Friday on parts of the Wadi Joz neighborhood at the foot of Mount Scopus in East Jerusalem. Its proximity to the Jewish neighborhood of French Hill makes it a probable source of trouble.

But two Israeli Arab residents of Wadi Joz appealed to the High Court of Justice on Sunday to revoke the curfew. They argued that it is illegal to impose curfews on areas where Israeli citizens reside.

A skirmish broke out in Wadi Joz on Sunday, when young Arabs blocked traffic on the neighborhood's main thoroughfare with barricades of trash bins. Masked youths stoned border police who came to remove them.

The police measures are being taken with fresh memories of the carnage in Jerusalem on March 10, the day before Baker's first visit to Israel.

A Palestinian from the Gaza Strip fatally stabbed four Jewish women at a bus stop in the Kiryat Yovel neighborhood in the western part of the city. The assailant, who shouted "Allahu Akhbar" (God is Great) as he slashed his victims, told police later that he wanted to send a "message to Baker."

The high tension between Jews and Arabs caused by the killings prompted Baker to cancel a tour of the Old City. It was not clear Sunday whether he would go there on this trip.

But Baker has indicated he is ready to meet again with the same delegation of 10 Palestinian notables he met in Jerusalem on March 12. That group was headed by Faisal Hussein, a prominent activist whom the Israelis consider an instigator of the intifada and agent of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was later rapped by the White House for stating that Israel would never talk to any of the Palestinians received by Baker.

The Palestinians themselves are locked in debate over whether it would be worthwhile for them to meet again with the secretary of state.

## **JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS SPEAK OUT AGAINST IRAQI TREATMENT OF KURDS**

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- American Jewish organizations joined the chorus of public appeals late last week that may have contributed to the Bush administration's belated decision to provide humanitarian aid to the Kurds in Iraq.

Israeli officials have also spoken out strongly in recent days against Baghdad's treatment of its Kurdish citizens, who have been fleeing northern Iraq en masse since the collapse of their revolt against the regime of Saddam Hussein.

According to news reports from the region, as many as 2 million Kurds and others fled their homes in panic after Hussein's forces crushed the revolt that followed the expulsion of Iraqi troops from Kuwait in late February.

President Bush on Friday ordered U.S. air force transports to begin dropping food, blankets and clothing to the Kurdish refugees. The first air drops Sunday included tents and medical supplies.

Secretary of State James Baker flew to Turkey on Sunday and was to visit its border with Iraq, which many refugees are trying to cross in search of safe haven from Iraqi troops.

Prior to these actions, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council issued a statement last Thursday urging the Bush administration to "speak out forcefully against the

atrocities Iraqi forces are committing against the Kurdish population" and to provide the victims swiftly with humanitarian assistance.

"We are reminded of the tragic consequences of a world that remained silent," said the statement, which was issued by NJCRAC's chairman, Arden Shenker.

The umbrella group is the policy coordinating body for 11 national Jewish agencies and more than 100 local community relations councils around the country.

### **Sitting Back With 'Arms Folded'**

In Washington, B'nai B'rith International issued a statement last Thursday expressing "profound disappointment with the indifference being displayed by the family of nations toward the Kurdish people now fleeing murderous attacks being perpetrated by the forces of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"It is intolerable that the allies who so recently went to war to curb the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein should now sit back with arms folded and watch Iraqi troops massacre innocent men, women and children," said the statement, which was issued by the group's international president, Kent Schiner.

He urged "immediate intervention and humanitarian help."

The National Jewish Democratic Council, a Washington-based independent organization of Jews who support the Democratic Party, said it "strongly encourages the United States to take a number of steps to stop Hussein's brutal repression of the Kurds."

Its statement demanded that the Bush administration "admit that it had encouraged the Iraqi people" to overthrow Hussein at a time when there were over 100,000 U.S. troops in Iraq but has since "abandoned the Kurdish people who responded to the president's call."

Both NJCRAC and the Democratic group noted that Jews will observe Yom Hashoah this week, the Day of Remembrance for the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Shenker observed in that connection that "our experience as a people has sensitized us forever to the policies and practices that threaten genocide against other national, ethnic and religious groups, and the necessity to speak out clearly and forcefully whenever such threats arise."

### **'We Jews Cannot Be Silent'**

On Sunday, at New York's annual commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the plight of the Kurdish refugees was mentioned by Benjamin Meed, a Holocaust survivor and president of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization.

"As we read of the plight of the Iraqi refugees fleeing from the obscene brutality and slaughter of Saddam Hussein's army, our memories return," said Meed. "Of all people, we Jews cannot be silent to the agony of the Kurds and the Shi'ites. Of all people, we survivors must call on our country and on the United Nations to stop this killer, Saddam Hussein."

In Jerusalem, President Chaim Herzog said Sunday that Jews must "raise our voices in regard to the plight of the Kurdish people, since no one knows better than us the meaning of the persecution of a people."

Likewise, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir spoke out publicly last Thursday against Iraq's treatment of the Kurdish population.

**EGYPTIAN POLICEMAN GETS 12 YEARS FOR KILLING AND WOUNDING ISRAELIS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 7 (JTA) -- An Egyptian court sentenced a young border policeman Saturday to 12 years in prison for killing five Israelis and wounding 25 others in a highway ambush just inside Israel's border with Egypt last Nov. 25.

The families of the victims immediately protested that the penalty was too light, considering the carnage.

But the court, which pronounced sentence in Suez, said it had to consider the mental state of the accused, Ayman Mohammed Hassan, 23.

A recruit serving two years' compulsory service in the border police, Ayman was diagnosed as having a "brain deficiency" which, according to the medical report, "reduced his responsibility but did not entirely absolve him of it."

Relatives of the slain victims, who included four Israel Defense Force soldiers and a civilian bus driver, said the court should have imposed the death penalty, which is prescribed for murder under Egyptian law.

Reports from Suez said Hassan's family, on the other hand, appeared overjoyed by the relatively lenient sentence.

The incident more than four months ago drew a strong protest from Israel to Egypt.

As the authorities of both countries pieced it together, Hassan, who was in uniform and carrying an automatic weapon, left his post on the Egyptian side of the border and penetrated about 300 yards into Israel.

He took a concealed position facing the Eilat-Rafah highway near Ein Netafim and commenced shooting at oncoming traffic. His targets included a military bus, a civilian bus carrying soldiers and a private car.

Three IDF sergeants and the civilian were killed instantly. A fourth soldier died later.

The shooting spree ended when Hassan fired at a bus carrying civilian employees of the Ovdad air force base and was wounded by its guard.

He was taken into custody and turned over to the Egyptian authorities, who promised a thorough investigation and speedy trial.

According to his statement at the time, Hassan said he shot the Israelis to avenge 17 Palestinians killed by Israeli border police during the Temple Mount riot in Jerusalem on Oct. 8.

**JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER PICKETED**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, April 7 (JTA) -- More than 100 pro-Israel Christians and Jews demonstrated outside the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach last Thursday while President Bush was meeting inside with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

The demonstrators, carrying signs such as "Stop the Boycott," were protesting the compliance by Japanese companies with the Arab-directed economic boycott of Israel.

A petition urging Japan to change its discriminatory trade practices was presented to a Japanese official, who promised to bring it to his prime minister's attention, said Mali Leitner, president of the Jewish Community Center of Orange County and one of the protesters.

The demonstration was organized by the Rev. Frank Eiklor, head of the pro-Israel Christian organization Shalom International, and Rabbi Haim Asa of Temple Beth Tikvah in Fullerton, Calif.

**FBI DIRECTOR DISCUSSES THE BENEFITS OF COLLECTING HATE CRIME STATISTICS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA) -- The collecting and publishing of national statistics on hate crimes by the U.S. Justice Department will not put a stop to them, but it "will result in a greater awareness and understanding of the true dimensions of the problem nationwide," FBI Director William Sessions said last week.

He said minority groups should not look at the collection of hate crimes statistics as a "panacea" for such crimes, "which can divide a community and terrorize individuals."

The FBI began collecting hate crime statistics Jan. 1, following the signing by President Bush last April of the Hate Crime Statistics Act.

The law requires the Justice Department to gather information on crimes based on prejudice against race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. The FBI will publish the statistics as part of its annual Uniform Crime Reports.

Sessions spoke last Thursday at a news conference at FBI headquarters, attended by representatives of state and local police departments, and community and civil rights groups, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee.

Sessions noted that the news conference was being held on the 23rd anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., which he said demonstrated how a hate crime can "affect an entire nation."

He said today there is a "growing concern that hate-related violence has increased." He conceded that this may be due to better reporting of such crimes in recent years, but said that with the gathering of statistics, the "full nature and full scope" of the problem can be learned.

Sessions said the success of the program will depend on law enforcement agencies throughout the country. He said the FBI has already conducted regional training programs that have included representatives from all 50 states.

**126 Hate Crimes Convictions**

The FBI has also published a training guide on collecting the data, which was developed with ADL's assistance.

"We all know that prejudice and bigotry cannot be legislated, regulated or tabulated out of existence," Burton Levinson, ADL's honorary chairman, said at the news conference.

He praised the FBI for using the new law "not just as an administrative responsibility, but rather as an important tool to confront violent bigotry."

Sessions said that combating bigotry is not only up to law enforcement agencies. "I urge each and every citizen, whether civilian or sworn law enforcement (officer), whether in the private or public sector, to become more active in combating crimes spawned by bigotry and by hatred," he said.

The statistics law followed a law adopted in 1988 that imposes federal criminal penalties for hate crimes against individuals or religious property and cemeteries.

James Turner, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, said last Thursday that during the last three years, the department has indicted 139 defendants in 26 states for hate crimes. Of these, 126 have been convicted, a 91 percent conviction rate.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY MOURNS DEATH,  
PAYS TRIBUTE TO SEN. JOHN HEINZ**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders have expressed their shock and grief at the death last week of Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.), who had close ties with the Jewish community and was both a strong supporter of Israel and an ardent advocate for Soviet Jewry.

Heinz, 52, was killed shortly after noon last Thursday, when a light plane he was in collided with a helicopter over Merion, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb. The accident occurred near an elementary school, killing seven, including two schoolchildren.

"The death of Sen. John Heinz is a great tragedy for the country and the Jewish community," Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Malcolm Hoenlein, its executive director, said in a statement.

"He was an outstanding legislator, a true patriot, and a great friend of Israel," they said.

Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, said Heinz was "a strong champion of Israeli in the Senate, working to assure that Israel received vital foreign aid, diplomatic and moral support from our country."

But it was the senator's efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry that he will perhaps be most remembered by the Jewish community.

Cardin, who is also chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Martin Wenick, its executive director, took note of this in a telegram of condolence to Heinz's widow, Teresa, and their three sons.

"As we rejoice at the numbers of Soviet Jews who are now leaving the USSR to live their lives in freedom and dignity in the basic human right of free emigration, we recall Sen. Heinz's unstinting devotion to their cause," they said.

"We trust, too, that many refuseniks, including Maria and Vladimir Slepak, whose plight Sen. Heinz so eloquently brought to the attention of both houses of Congress, will always remember his advocacy on their behalf."

**Wealthy Man With A 'Big Heart'**

Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, also recalled that Heinz's staff was one of the most helpful in Congress to Soviet Jewry advocates.

But it was not only on Israel and Soviet Jewry that he supported the Jewish community, according to Mark Talisman, Washington director of the Council of Jewish Federations.

"He has been extremely close to our community on the domestic side as well as on Soviet Jewry," Talisman said.

Heinz had a "big heart" and was "a man of enormous wealth who chose to commit his life to public service," Talisman said.

Comay pointed to Heinz's support of the proposed civil rights bill, aimed at decreasing racial, religious and sexual discrimination in the workplace, and his leadership in developing and monitoring programs that assist the needy.

Heinz "also played a key role in the fight against bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism as a supporter of the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act," Comay said.

"I knew John Heinz personally and recall his commitment to justice, dedication to principle and willingness to take leadership," he said.

Heinz was heir to the H.J. Heinz Co. and

worked for the Pittsburgh-based firm before being elected to the House of Representatives in a 1971 special election and then to the Senate in 1976.

His death was especially tragic to the Jewish communities in Pennsylvania.

Nicholas Lane, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, described Heinz as a "tower of strength" on the Soviet Jewry issue.

"The senator always made a deliberate point to push the Soviet Jewry cause when meeting with Soviet officials, at a time when it was not a very popular or prominent cause," Lane said.

**THEY GATHERED SUNDAY TO REMEMBER,  
REMINDED BY THE PLIGHT OF OTHERS**

By Shlomo Zwickler

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- As much of the world focused on the plight of Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iraqi forces, thousands gathered here Sunday afternoon to remember the persecution of another people: the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis during World War II.

Some 3,200 people of all ages filled a dimly lit hall of the Javits Convention Center to take part in the 48th annual commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and a memorial service for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

A solemn candlelight procession and musical presentation by children from the Abraham Joshua Heschel School set the atmosphere: no clapping for speakers -- just weeping for fallen family and friends, amens to memorial prayers, and a mass recitation of the Kaddish.

As in past years, the theme of the day was never to forget.

Benjamin Meed, president of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, attributed America's swift action against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait to the power of remembrance.

"America heard the voices of the survivors and remembered," he said. "President Bush, his advisers and the American people understood what was at stake in the Persian Gulf, and we acted to confront and to defeat the tyrant."

While praising Bush, Meed went on to call for assistance to other peoples facing certain destruction. "Of all peoples, we Jews cannot be silent to the agony of the Kurds and the Shiites," he said in a statement issued separately.

Meed called members of the Iraqi minority "the victims of a contemporary slaughter by their own murderous ruler, Saddam Hussein."

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) and Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) joined Meed in a call for U.S. action against Iraq.

In his speech, D'Amato said he was "not proud that our country is not taking the lead to bring the brutal Saddam Hussein to trial for his war crimes. The history of the Holocaust challenges this government and the United Nations to take a stand and do something now."

Among the Holocaust survivors taking part in Sunday's ceremony was Sabina Anstenberg, originally from Brody, Poland, who would not go so far in drawing parallels between the Kurds and the Jews of World War II.

"We should help them all we can, but their plight is different," she said. "My family died because they were Jews. The Kurds are being killed because they opposed Saddam Hussein."

Jeffrey Schleider, age 12, agreed. "The Holocaust was different because no one paid attention until it was too late," he said.