

**SOVIET JEWRY GROUP URGES PRESIDENT TO WAIVE JACKSON-VANIK FOR ONE YEAR**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 30 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said Thursday that it would support a one-year waiver of Jackson-Vanik Amendment sanctions against the Soviet Union because of the "unprecedented numbers of Soviet Jews" being allowed to emigrate.

The National Conference acted because President Bush must notify Congress by Monday which countries should receive most-favored-nation trade benefits, which allow them to export their products to the United States at the lowest tariffs.

The White House said Thursday that Bush has not yet made a decision whether to waive the Jackson-Vanik provisions, which bar the Soviet Union from receiving MFN status. The amendment to the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 permits a waiver of sanctions if the Soviet Union allows a sustained high level of emigration.

Bush is also still deciding whether it is time to ask Congress to ratify the trade treaty he signed last year with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and whether to approve a \$1.5 billion grain credit for the Soviet Union.

Last December, Bush approved a partial waiver of Jackson-Vanik sanctions to allow the Soviets to buy grain and other agricultural products to prevent starvation over the winter.

The National Conference made its recommendation in "appreciation" for the continued flow of Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel, as well as for the Soviet legislature's adoption on May 20 of the long-awaited emigration reform law, said James Wexler of Chicago, the group's vice chairman.

A National Conference statement noted that the organization first expressed conditional support for a Jackson-Vanik waiver in June 1989. Since then, more than 300,000 Soviet Jews have been allowed to emigrate, including 50,000 during the first four months of 1991.

**UCSJ Still Opposes Waiver**

But another Soviet Jewry advocacy umbrella group, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said Thursday it would continue to oppose a waiver, because it considers the emigration law flawed.

"I don't understand what has changed, even if the emigration law were compliant with international standards of free movement, which it is clearly not," said David Waksberg, the group's vice president.

He pointed out that even if it were a good law, it does not go into effect until January 1993 and "will do nothing to help" those Soviet Jews who have been refused permission to emigrate.

The Union of Councils has sent a letter to Bush urging that he also not grant MFN status to China, because of its abuse of human rights. "We seek a uniform standard of compliance with the stricture of Jackson-Vanik," said a Union of Councils statement.

The Union of Councils is an association of grass-roots Soviet Jewry groups that has tended to adopt a harder line on concessions to the Soviet Union. The National Conference, which is more of an establishment body, has argued that

actual Soviet emigration performance matters more than what is codified in law.

The National Conference executive committee made its decision on the recommendation of its Jackson-Vanik task force, Wexler said in a telephone interview.

But he stressed that despite the move, his group is still concerned about any arbitrary "bottlenecks" to emigration, such as denial of visas to applicants because of their alleged access to state secrets or because of outstanding financial obligations to so-called "poor relatives."

The National Conference is also concerned about recent difficulties in the processing of applications for Soviet Jews seeking to immigrate to the United States, Wexler said.

The bureaucratic hangup will probably mean that the full complement of 40,000 Soviet immigrants will not come to the United States before the end of the current fiscal year on Sept. 30.

This problem was raised by a State Department team that went to Moscow recently, said Mark Levin, the National Conference's associate executive director. The group will continue to urge the administration and Congress to press the Soviets to remove all obstacles, he said.

**U.S. TO GIVE ISRAEL MORE F-15 JETS, WILL KEEP FUNDING MISSILE RESEARCH**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA) -- The United States will continue to fund the Arrow anti-missile project and will provide Israel with 10 more advanced F-15 fighter-bombers, U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced here Thursday.

The defense secretary, who arrived in Israel on Wednesday for a two-day official visit, also underscored that U.S.-Israeli ties are as close as they have ever been. He spoke of America's "unshakable commitment" to Israel's security.

Cheney met for two hours Thursday with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens. After a private session, the two were joined by senior Israel Defense Force officials, including the chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak; the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown; and other U.S. officials.

At a news conference following the meetings, Cheney said he had told Arens that the United States would cover 72 percent of the costs of the second stage of research in the development of the Israeli-designed Arrow, which is known in Hebrew as the Hetz missile.

Israel will pick up the other 28 percent of the four-year project, whose total cost is estimated to be at least \$340 million.

Cheney said the United States would also provide Israel with 10 additional F-15 jet fighters, taken from U.S. weapons stocks no longer needed in Western Europe. The Bush administration is doing this under authority granted by Congress last fall to provide Israel with \$700 million in "drawdown" weaponry from Western Europe.

The F-15s are the older "A" and "B" models, and not the advanced F-15E, Cheney stressed at the news conference. They are air-defense weapons with limited offensive capabilities, and they are less advanced than F-15s already in Israel's arsenal.

In Washington, White House spokesman

Marlin Fitzwater said Thursday that Cheney's promise of arms for Israel was not in conflict with Secretary of State James Baker's criticism of Israel last week for its settlement policy.

"We have a very complex and positive relationship with Israel," Fitzwater said. "They are a major ally and friend."

Cheney's announcement is an "appropriate signal" that "we intend to continue that relationship in a way that stabilizes that region," he said.

**Committed To Israel's Security**

Fitzwater said the arms sales to Israel also do not conflict with President Bush's new proposal to limit arms to the Middle East.

At the State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher explained that despite the arms control initiative, the United States remains "committed to our longstanding policy to maintain the security of Israel."

Israel considers development of the Arrow of the utmost importance.

On Wednesday, the director general of Israel's Defense Ministry, David Ivri, told Israeli army radio that "the Arrow missile should provide protection four to 10 times better than that of the Patriot missile," which was used to deflect Iraqi Scud missiles during the Persian Gulf War.

Ivri pointed out that Israel's adversaries would not necessarily strike next time at civilian targets, as Iraq did during the war, but could very well choose to attack military targets, just as the United States did in its preliminary assaults on Iraqi military hardware.

"The next Scuds will not necessarily fall in Ramat Gan or Ramat Chen," said Ivri. "There are other strategic targets."

"We need a means that will enable us, after a surprise strike, to activate our forces en masse and effectively, so that it will not be worthwhile for whoever would want to strike a first blow to do so.

"The Arrow is meant to provide this solution," he said.

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

**NEWS ANALYSIS:**

**ISRAEL IS REACTING CAUTIOUSLY TO BUSH ARMS CONTROL PROPOSAL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA) -- Israel is reacting cautiously to President Bush's new initiative for arms control in the Middle East.

The tone was set by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who told visiting British Conservative Party members that Israel welcomes the president's call for curbs and international supervision on weapons of mass destruction, but has "some questions" about it.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens, talking to reporters after a meeting with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, said Israel would "study very closely" the details of the initiative and would "continue to discuss it" with the United States.

Both leaders stressed that Israel has long favored regional arms controls in principle. "We have been the major victims of the lack of arms control," Arens observed.

Nevertheless, Bush's plan, which he unveiled Wednesday afternoon, after brushing aside a written request from Shamir for prior consulta-

tion, has aroused nervousness in policy-making circles here.

On the one hand, officials are privately buoyed by the interpretation of the plan voiced in Washington -- that it would mean effectively enshrining Israel as the only nuclear power in the region, by forbidding any other country from acquiring or producing nuclear materiel. Israel, after all, is believed to be the only Middle Eastern nation that now has a nuclear capacity.

**Peres Welcomes Proposal**

On the other hand, the president's call for curbs on all future nuclear arms production, coupled with his call for a ban on missile supplies into the region and the eventual destruction of missile stockpiles, worry Israeli policy-makers, who base the Jewish state's "last resort" strength precisely on these two strategic components.

Traditionally, Israel has refused international inspection of its nuclear facilities and has not signed the non-proliferation treaty, despite international pressure over the years.

A highly placed defense official, briefing reporters Thursday, said Israel could only go along with the U.S. proposal if it embraced all of the regional powers -- including those far removed from Israel's borders. The official mentioned, for example, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, widely credited abroad with being the father of Israel's nuclear strength, said Thursday he welcomes the U.S. proposal, but said it would stand or fall on the complex issue of verification.

In its official reaction to the Bush announcement Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office reiterated Israel's long-proclaimed policy that it would "not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the region."

A statement released by Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, also stressed, though, that Israel regards the massive quantities of conventional arms presently in Arab hands as a strategic threat to which arms control efforts should be applied.

**JAPANESE MINISTER IN ISRAEL, WILL DISCUSS ARAB BOYCOTT**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA) -- Japan's foreign minister arrived in Israel on Thursday to discuss, among other things, Japan's continued partial adherence to the Arab boycott of Israel.

Taro Nakayama created a moment of embarrassment almost immediately when he referred to the administered territories as "Palestine."

The diplomatic faux pas was attributed to the fact that a conversation he had just held with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy was translated into English after each had spoken in his own language.

Levy, who had explained to his visitor the Israeli position on the Middle East peace process, charged that some Arab countries were setting preconditions for negotiations.

Nakayama said Japan supports the American peace efforts in the region and is prepared to play some sort of role.

He pointed to the Persian Gulf War as an example of the world's readiness to enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions, adding that Resolutions 242 and 338 should be applied to the administered territories.

At the same time, Nakayama cited Israel's "realistic, flexible position" in the peace process.

**DELETED ANTI-SEMITIC REFERENCES REAPPEAR IN CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOK**

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, May 30 (JTA) -- Blatantly anti-Semitic references removed from Catholic prayers by Pope John XXIII in 1959 have reappeared in a Catholic prayer book published by Benedictine monks in the south of France.

The text calls on the faithful to "pray for the perfidious Jews, so that God would take off the veil covering their hearts and that they recognize Jesus Christ."

It also says: "God, Thou who art merciful even to the perfidious Jews, answer the prayer we are addressing to Thee for this blind people. Let them be dragged away from their darkness."

The Benedictines deny having printed an anti-Semitic prayer book.

"The term 'perfidious Jews' never had any aggressive or insulting intention toward the Jewish people," said a spokesman for the monks.

"The words just mean 'unbelievers,' that is to say that they don't have faith in Christ. It is a theological description and not a moral one. It is without any anti-Semitism."

The Prayer for the Jews evolved from the Latin, which used the word "perifideles," or "half-believers," explained Eugene Fisher, director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

The word evolved into "perfidious" by the 20th century, he said.

The monks of this monastery, located in Barraux, near Grenoble, were followers of the late Bishop Marcel Lefebvre, a schismatic Catholic who did not accept Vatican II and was excommunicated. The monks were excommunicated, too.

When Lefebvre died, said Fisher, the monks were allowed back on condition that they remain under the auspices of a mentor, retired Cardinal Paul Agustin Mayer, who is now living in Rome. They would be allowed to pray the Tridentine Mass, which existed at the time of Vatican Council II and did not undergo changes, said Fisher.

**French Church Fails To Respond**

The monks "are not accurate to the Tridentine Mass that existed at the time of Vatican Council II," said Fisher.

Vatican II, which met between 1962 and 1965, changed the Prayer for the Jews. The new text is: "For the Jews, let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they may continue to grow in the love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant."

A spokesman for the French Catholic Church said that French church officials have no intention at this time of officially reacting to the monk's prayer book.

"The bishops do not want to give any publicity to this publication," said the spokesman.

But he said that "many bishops saw with great sadness the new edition of this missal, including sentences removed a long time ago."

L'Amite, the Society for Friendship Between Christians and Jews, blasted the prayer book in a leading French magazine, Le Croix.

The French daily newspaper Le Monde called the publication of the prayer book symptomatic of "the state of complacency and blindness" of the conservative circles within the government of the Catholic Church in Rome.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

**GOOD FRIENDS OF JEWS INCLUDED AMONG NEWLY ELEVATED CARDINALS**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, May 30 (JTA) -- Several of the 22 new cardinals appointed Wednesday by Pope John Paul II, including the two American cardinals, are widely considered to be good friends of the Jews, lending a sympathetic ear to Jewish concerns and actively involved in building bridges between the two religious communities.

Never before have Jews had so many friends in this senior Vatican position, according to observers.

Among the cardinals newly elevated by the pope are Anthony Bevilacqua, 67, archbishop of Philadelphia, and Roger Mahony, 55, archbishop of Los Angeles.

Others among the newly appointed cardinals considered to be good friends of the Jews are Edward Cassidy, 66, archbishop of Australia and president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews; Pio Laghi, 69, archbishop of Italy and formerly papal nuncio in Jerusalem and Buenos Aires; Antonio Quarracino, 67, archbishop of Buenos Aires; and Angelo Sodano, 63, the Vatican secretary of state.

They will join the College of Cardinals, the most important governing body in the Catholic hierarchy. Its 163 members act as the pope's advisers and elect his successor. They are second only to the pope in authority.

The elevation of several who are strong supporters of Jewish interests "can be an important support in Rome," said Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, a consultant on interreligious affairs and past chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

Their appointment indicates a "maturing of 26 years of Catholic-Jewish relations," according to Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

It was 26 years ago that the Vatican issued "Nostra Aetate," redefining its relationship with Judaism.

**Personal Friend Of The Pope**

Bevilacqua has "a strong record of work and commitment in Jewish-Catholic relations," said Tanenbaum. And Mahony has "very close working relationships" with leaders of the Los Angeles Jewish community and rabbinic groups.

Cassidy was the first church official to call publicly for Catholics to do "teshuvah," (the Hebrew word for repentance) for their role in the Holocaust, and was a key player in recent meetings between Catholics and Jews in Rome. He is also known as a personal friend of the pope, Tanenbaum said.

According to Leon Klenicki, director of interfaith affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Laghi "is a great friend of the Jewish people" and, when in Buenos Aires as a papal nuncio, helped free Jewish political prisoners who were sentenced under Argentina's military rule in the 1970s and '80s.

And Quarracino, presently stationed in Buenos Aires, has been an active partner in dialogue since he promoted the very first meeting between Latin American Jews and Catholics in 1968, Klenicki said.

Sodano, the newly-appointed secretary of state, will be a critical link in the discussion between Jews and the church on the Vatican's establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel.

**UKRAINE TO MARK BABI YAR MASSACRE, IN MAJOR REVERSAL OF SOVIET PRACTICE**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 30 (JTA) -- The government of the Ukrainian republic of the Soviet Union is now trying to rectify years of Soviet failure to acknowledge that more than 33,000 Jews were massacred by the German army at Babi Yar, outside of Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

A weeklong series of commemorative events will take place in Kiev between Sept. 29 and Oct. 6, Sergei Komissarenko, the Ukrainian deputy prime minister, said in meetings with Jewish organizations last week.

Komissarenko, in talks with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial here and the World Jewish Congress in New York, said the commemorations would underscore the Jewish dimension of the tragedy.

The Ukraine, which is now striving toward autonomy from Soviet authorities, has been making strides in recent times to affiliate with Jews and to make amends as best as possible for past grievances. The Ukrainian independence movement, Rukh, and Jewish groups have been supporting each other's requests for independence and respect.

The massacres began on Sept. 29, 1941, when the German army took the 33,771 Jews remaining in Kiev to the ravine at Babi Yar, shot them and dumped their bodies in the pit. Most of Kiev's Jews had fled earlier, and those who were shot were largely the elderly, the sick, women and children.

During the following months, Babi Yar was used as an execution site for Gypsies and Soviet prisoners and other Jews, perhaps totaling as many as 100,000, although nobody knows for sure.

As the Red Army advanced toward Kiev in August 1943, the German army spent the next month digging up the mass graves and burning the bodies to conceal the crime.

The Soviet Union did not erect a memorial to the victims after the war. This was publicized in the Soviet Union and abroad in 1961, when Soviet poet Yevgeni Yevtushenko wrote his famous poem, "Babi Yar," in which he lamented that "no gravestone stands on Babi Yar."

But when a memorial stone was finally erected in 1974, it made no mention of the Jews.

**Important To Pay Tribute**

Now the Ukrainian government plans to change this.

In addition to the week of observances, a new monument will be erected to tell what happened to the Jews. The memorial will stand at the site where the Jews were massacred, said Komissarenko, who is chairman of the Babi Yar 50th Commemoration Committee.

He told the members of the council that as many as 40,000 Jews may actually have been killed during the first two days of the massacre, since many Jews were in Kiev at the time from the villages outside the city.

"It is important for our republic to pay tribute to those who were murdered on our soil at Babi Yar," he said.

A biochemist, Komissarenko said he was working at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York in 1981 when he saw a television program on the Holocaust and realized that many people do not know the true history of what happened.

He believes what happened during the Holocaust must be known and should especially be taught to children.

Komissarenko said the commemorative events, including memorial services, academic conference and other programs, are to be funded entirely by the government of the Ukraine.

**Flags At Half Mast**

The Kiev City Council has declared Sept. 29 an official Day of Memory and Sorrow. The city will lower its flags to half-mast, and public prayers will be held by all religious organizations, Komissarenko said.

The ceremonies will also include a reading by Yevtushenko of his poem, with translation to other languages by other readers.

Komissarenko came to the United States to invite members of Congress and Jewish, human rights and business leaders to attend the events.

In Washington, Komissarenko met with several members of Congress. Following that, he went to the Holocaust Council, where he was shown the models of both the exterior and interior of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which is being built near the Washington Monument.

At the request of the council members, Komissarenko said he would help them get artifacts from Babi Yar, including a copy of the posters that were placed throughout Kiev in 1941, ordering all Jews to report to a site near the Jewish cemetery, where they were to be taken to what would be their death.

**ROMANIAN SENATOR URGES BAN ON ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA**

BUCHAREST, Romania, May 30 (JTA) -- A magazine's publication here of a blatantly anti-Semitic article has raised troubling questions about the extent of freedom of the press that should be allowed in former Communist-ruled Romania.

A member of Romania's Senate, Gelu Voican-Voiculescu, has urged the government to ban the magazine Europa for publishing the article, written by a Romanian army reserve captain, which the senator said was calculated to incite pogroms.

The writer accused Israel of wanting to turn Romania into a "Yid state" and the International Monetary Fund of plotting to make Jews the masters of Romania and turn Romanians into "cesspool cleaners and dustmen."

He urged the officers corps to "take action."

Voican-Voiculescu noted that the writer recently visited Libya as the guest of Col. Moammar Gadhafi.

The senator also protested what he said were attempts to rehabilitate Romanian dictator Ion Antonescu, who allied the country with Nazi Germany early in World War II. Antonescu is held responsible for the deaths of nearly 300,000 Jews.

Elsewhere, the newspaper Bucovina, in the northeastern city of Suceava, published an attack on Romanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, which was signed by the president of the National Peasant Christian and Democratic Party in Radauti. The party's leadership promptly repudiated the article and expelled its author.

Finally, an article appeared in the magazine Natiunea extolling Transnistria, where 80,000 Jews died of starvation and disease during the war. The article depicts Transnistria in that period as a veritable paradise.