

VOL. 69 - 74th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1991

NO. 180

**ISRAEL WELCOMES BUSH'S CALL TO U.N.  
TO RESCIND 1975 ZIONISM RESOLUTION**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Israeli and American Jewish leaders have warmly welcomed President Bush's call Monday to the U.N. General Assembly to repeal its 1975 resolution branding Zionism as racism.

Labor opposition leader Shimon Peres said the president's address proves that he is "no foe, but a friend of Israel and of Zionism."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir praised Bush's words as well, but he and other government leaders also emphasized that the speech would in no way soften their determination to reject American pressure for a freeze on settlement-building in the administered territories.

In his remarks to the General Assembly, Bush said the infamous Resolution 3379 negates the ability of the United Nations to function as a peace-seeking body.

"To equate Zionism with racism is to reject Israel itself," the president said. "This body cannot claim to seek peace and at the same time challenge Israel's right to exist."

Bush said that Zionism is "not a policy." Rather, he said, "it is the idea that led to the creation of a home for the Jewish people, to the State of Israel."

Ironically, the Israeli delegates to the United Nations were not present to hear Bush's call for the repeal because they were observing the holiday of Sukkot.

Among Israeli leaders praising Bush's speech was President Chaim Herzog, who was Israel's ambassador to the United Nations at the time the resolution was passed. He said it would be a "historic moment" if the resolution were repealed.

**Attempt To Ease Tensions With Israel**

Shamir, in a statement issued by his office, said Israel "expresses gratification and appreciation for the president's speech. The president's firm words were very encouraging. We hope that other states will raise their voices too against this shameful resolution."

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, in New York for the start of the General Assembly session, said Bush's call for a repeal of the resolution was "only natural. It expresses well the common values which Israel and the United States share with other enlightened nations."

Levy called for other nations to join the United States in efforts to bring about a repeal.

American Jewish organizations also responded with enthusiasm to Bush's speech.

What remains to be seen, however, is whether the president's words will provide an impetus for the steps that must be taken to rescind the resolution. The Bush administration has urged the resolution's repeal since 1989, but the president did not suggest a timetable in his speech.

The Israelis have indicated in the past that they will not go forward without assurances that they have a comfortable majority of votes.

Dr. Harris Schoenberg, director of U.N. affairs for B'nai B'rith International, said he believes that support is forthcoming, now that most, if not all, of the Eastern European coun-

tries are behind Israel. In addition, a highly-placed Soviet official has offered assurances of Soviet support, he said.

Schoenberg suggested that the time is right for the United States, together with other like-minded democratic nations, to go beyond words of support by introducing a resolution.

In praising Bush's remarks, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations expressed the unlikely hope that the president's appeal would gain the support of the Arab states at the United Nations "and send a dramatic message that Israel's former enemies may at last be prepared to recognize Israel's rightful place among the nations of the Middle East."

Officials in Jerusalem said Bush's speech had plainly been designed to ease tensions between the United States and Israel, and between the administration and Israel's supporters in America. In addition to calling for the repeal, the president made no mention of Palestinian rights.

Nevertheless, the crisis atmosphere between Jerusalem and Washington surrounding Israel's request for loan guarantees to help absorb Soviet immigrants shows few signs of abating.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, a former U.N. envoy, said Tuesday that praise for Bush's remarks "should be kept in proportion," in that every U.S. president since 1975 has spoken out against the Zionism resolution.

(JTA correspondent Jackie Rothenberg at the United Nations contributed to this report.)

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****LINK OF LOANS TO SETTLEMENT ISSUE  
PUTTING STRAINS ON LIKUD GOVERNMENT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The worsening political crisis between Israel and the United States has so polarized Israel that the government may have no choice but to resign and call for a fresh mandate in early elections.

The far right is actively seeking the downfall of the Likud regime, which, ironically, is the most right-wing in Israel's history.

So far neither Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir nor his closest associates have shown any inclination to dissolve the 12th Knesset before its present term expires a year from now.

But the premier is being battered by the right flank of his governing coalition, which threatens to defect if Israel agrees to participate in peace talks with Palestinians.

Shamir is trying hard to mollify them with fire-eating rhetoric vowing the continued mass settlement of Jews in the administered territories.

"All of the territories that can be populated will be built up as far as the horizon," he declared Tuesday at the dedication of a new settlement called Tsur Yigal. The territories "belong to Israel," he asserted.

Such talk only further irritates Washington.

The Bush administration, by demanding a four-month delay before Congress considers Israel's request for U.S. guarantees of \$10 billion in loans, is clearly conditioning help to resettle Soviet immigrants on a freeze of Jewish settlement-building in disputed territory.

Israeli newspapers on Tuesday headlined

hints from Washington that certain key members of Congress, including Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), have proposed deducting whatever sums Israel spends colonizing the territories from future U.S. aid to Israel.

Israel receives an outright grant of \$3 billion in economic and military assistance from the United States each year.

#### Tehiya May Leave Government

Nevertheless, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, regarded as the closest to Shamir of all his ministers, has flatly rejected a settlement freeze. That would be tantamount to freezing Israel's right to the land, which is unacceptable, he said.

Gush Emunim, the militant settlement movement, is prodding right-wing politicians to increase pressure on Shamir "before the government leads the country into the disastrous trap of the peace conference."

Such sentiments are shared by a significant section of Likud -- and not only the circle around outspoken Housing Minister Ariel Sharon.

Geula Cohen and Elyakim Haetzni of Tehiya said Tuesday they hoped to persuade their party to leave the government in light of the deteriorating relations with Washington and the fact that the Palestine Liberation Organization is involved in setting up the peace conference.

If Tehiya leaves, it hopes to take with it the Tsomet and more radical Moledet factions.

Key figures in the opposition Labor Party, meanwhile, are urging their colleagues to oppose the government's stand on settlements and the peace conference unequivocally, even at risk of being branded "unpatriotic."

Writing Tuesday in the Labor newspaper Davar, Uzi Baram, the party's former secretary-general, said the time was past for Labor to try to retain the sympathies of centrist voters by blurring its differences with Likud.

Labor should condemn the settlements as an obstacle to peace and say clearly that it is ready to negotiate over all the territories, except Jerusalem, he wrote.

Israel should agree in principle that the Palestinians "have the same right to determine their fates within negotiated borders as the Croats, the Moldavians and the Uzbeks," he said.

#### Shamir Rhetoric 'Worsening Matters'

Similar opinions were expressed Tuesday in the daily Ha'aretz by another Laborite, Knesset member Yossi Beilin. But neither of those relatively young Knesset members can be said to speak for the entire party.

Labor's two veteran leaders, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, have tried to steer a middle course. While criticizing the accelerated pace of settlement-building, they have also faulted the United States for linking the humanitarian loan issue with the political dispute over settlements.

Peres sharpened his rhetoric Monday when he accused Shamir of "worsening matters with Washington every time he opens his mouth."

But the Prime Minister's Office took pains to assure the United States that the new settlement just inaugurated was in fact inside Israel's pre-1967 borders, not in the West Bank. It is part of a planned chain of settlements astride the former border zone, long known as the Green Line.

Publicly, Shamir said the Green Line no longer exists and it is therefore of no importance how a particular site is designated.

#### **U.S. PROMISED PALESTINIANS NO VETO OF DELEGATES TO PEACE CONFERENCE** **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The United States has promised the Palestinians that the delegation they choose to attend a peace conference with Israel will be of their own selection and not subject to an Israeli veto, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

That was one of the guarantees contained in a letter U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reportedly gave Palestinian representative Faisal Husseini when they met in Jerusalem last week.

The United States also stipulated that the Palestinian delegation would be part of an overall Jordanian delegation.

Representatives of East Jerusalem and the Palestinian diaspora would participate in the negotiations, but only in their final stage, the letter said.

Husseini is believed to have conveyed the letter to the Palestine Liberation Organization for consideration at the meeting of the Palestine National Council, which opened Monday in Algiers.

The PNC is expected to decide this week whether Palestinians will attend the regional peace conference, which the United States and Soviet Union hope to convene next month.

Israel Radio said it obtained a copy of the document Monday.

#### **24 KNESSET MEMBERS URGE PNC TO ENDORSE PEACE CONFERENCE**

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The Peace Now movement, joined by 24 Knesset members, urged the Palestine National Council this week to endorse the Middle East peace conference that the United States and Soviet Union are hoping to convene next month.

A statement issued here Sunday by the dovish group warned the so-called Palestinian parliament-in-exile not to block a historic opportunity for Israeli-Palestinian peace by refusing to send a Palestinian delegation to the conference.

The PNC session, which began Monday in Algiers, shaped up as a long, bitter debate between mainstream leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has not rejected peace talks, and die-hard radicals demanding armed struggle instead of diplomacy.

The Peace Now statement reminded the Palestinian leadership that "only in a peace with Israel will Palestinians solve their problem, as only in the peace process with the Arab nations will Israel get her security."

The statement urged the PNC to select leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to represent the Palestinians at the conference.

But Israel made clear that any local Palestinians who turned up at the Algiers meeting would face dire consequences when they returned.

The warning was aimed chiefly at Palestinian activists Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, who were in London contemplating flying to Algiers.

It appeared on Tuesday, however, that they would go to Washington instead to see Secretary of State James Baker, whom they have met several times in Jerusalem, most recently last week.

Signing the Peace Now statement were 14 of the 39 Labor Party Knesset members, the three Mapam members, all five of the Citizens Rights Movement and the two Knesset members of the Center-Shinui Knesset faction.

## IDF KILLS THREE INFILTRATORS IN CLASH ON BORDER WITH SYRIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Three heavily armed Palestinian infiltrators were killed by Israel Defense Force soldiers on Monday, in a normally quiet zone on the Israeli-Syrian border patrolled by U.N. troops.

No Israeli casualties were reported in the clash, which took place on the slopes of Mount Hermon.

The dead men were identified as members of Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization opposed to peace talks with Israel.

They carried Kalachnikov assault rifles, LAW anti-tank missile-launchers, hand grenades and a pistol with a silencer.

According to Israeli officials, their mission was to stage a "showcase attack" on Israel timed to coincide with the opening Monday of the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

The PNC, the so-called Palestinian parliament-in-exile, is expected to decide whether Palestinians will attend the Middle East peace conference that the United States and Soviet Union are hoping to convene next month.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said it was not clear whether the intruders came from Lebanon or Syria.

The Democratic Front, which published a map of the terrorists' alleged route in Beirut newspapers Tuesday, said the men had trained at Ba'albek in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon, which is adjacent to Syria, but that they avoided crossing Syrian soil to enter the border zone.

The zone is patrolled by an Austrian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon whose assignment is to supervise the 1973 Israel-Syria disengagement agreement, not intercept armed infiltrators.

### Pro-Israel Sheik Mistakenly Killed

The Democratic Front claimed responsibility for an operation in the same area in June, when armed infiltrators managed to break into an IDF outpost, kill the soldier on guard duty and escape.

That incident, in which IDF reserve Sgt. Maj. Ehud Ben-Mordechai died, was the first in the Mount Hermon region since 1973, when Israel and Syria entered their disengagement agreement following the Yom Kippur War.

The IDF, meanwhile, has launched an investigation into the killing of a Druse dignitary Sunday afternoon by Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, in what appears to have been a case of mistaken identity.

The soldiers, suspecting a car bomb, opened fire on a white Mercedes that continued to approach them after being ordered to pull over.

They discovered that they had killed Sheik Faris Darawi, a leader of the Druse community in the southern Lebanese town of Hatzbiyeh, whose son is an officer in the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

Another Druse sheik in the automobile was injured. He was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Haifa.

The IDF expressed its apologies and regrets to family members and to the Druse community. While some Druse leaders were prepared to accept them, there were angry anti-Israel demonstrations Tuesday in Druse areas of Lebanon.

## SIX JEWISH GROUPS URGING THE SENATE TO OPPOSE SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Six Jewish organizations are urging the Senate to reject the appointment of Judge Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, while two Orthodox groups support his confirmation.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which held hearings on the confirmation last week, is expected to vote on the nomination this week.

Thomas, a 43-year-old black conservative who sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, is expected to be approved by the committee and then the full Senate to succeed Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black to sit on the court.

The Jewish organizations that have voiced opposition to Thomas are the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, National Council of Jewish Women, New Jewish Agenda, Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Workmen's Circle.

Agudath Israel of America and the National Council of Young Israel have endorsed Thomas. Agudath Israel was the only Jewish organization to testify at the confirmation hearings.

David Zwiebel, Agudath Israel's general counsel, told the committee that as chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1982 to 1989, Thomas demonstrated sensitivity to the rights of Jews and other religious minorities.

Zwiebel cited two examples in which Thomas enforced a federal requirement that employers give reasonable accommodation to religious practices after employers misinterpreted Supreme Court rulings.

In one, employers were forbidding the wearing of yarmulkes on the job after the Supreme Court ruled that the military could forbid a Jewish officer from wearing one.

In another case, Thomas ruled that the Supreme Court's striking down of a Connecticut law requiring Sabbath observers time off did not apply to other less absolute laws.

### 'Contempt' For Affirmative Action

These cases not only demonstrate Thomas' commitment to religious liberty, but also "his sensitivity to the potential power of a Supreme Court ruling and its ability to affect the everyday lives of Americans," Zwiebel said.

But the American Jewish Congress maintained that during five days of testimony, Thomas did not forthrightly declare his views on abortion, civil rights and "natural law."

"He lacks the vision of the Constitution as an instrument of progress toward a fair society," said Henry Siegman, its executive director.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, while also citing these issues, expressed concern that "the right of religious freedom, as protected by the wall of separation of church and state, will be placed at even higher risk if he is confirmed to join an ideologically narrow U.S. Supreme Court."

The Workmen's Circle charged that Thomas "has shown contempt for genuine affirmative action programs." It found nothing in his career to show that Thomas "can rise above his ideological biases."

The three other Jewish groups had expressed opposition to Thomas before the hearings.

## LIBRARY PROVIDES ACCESS TO PHOTOS OF DEAD SEA SCROLLS, DESPITE THREAT By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Despite the threat of legal action from Israel, one of the world's foremost research libraries went ahead this week and opened its photographic collection of the Dead Sea Scrolls to all qualified scholars.

The move by the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., was hailed by many biblical scholars as the breakup of the tight academic cartel that for the last four decades has controlled the rare manuscripts, which are widely regarded as one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

But it was bitterly attacked by the Israel Antiquities Authority in Jerusalem as tantamount to trafficking in stolen property and as a flagrant violation of a longstanding agreement.

The Antiquities Authority, an Israeli government agency that is the official custodian of archaeological finds in Israel, said it is considering legal action against the library.

The library's director, Dr. William Moffett, received a faxed message Sunday from the authority's director, Amir Drori, warning Huntington that it faces litigation if it insists on granting access to unpublished extracts from the scrolls.

The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday quoted Drori as saying, "If they do this, it would be a clear legal and ethical transgression. We have informed them that if this occurs, we will weigh action."

A decision to take legal action was made at a meeting of the special committee of scholars overseeing publication of the 2,000-year-old manuscripts, the Post reported.

Until now, access to the scrolls has been restricted to about 40 scholars around the world, to whom fragments have been parceled out for deciphering and analysis. They work under the supervision of the Antiquities Authority.

Critics have long charged that the privileged scholars have been slow and secretive in researching the fragments and in sharing their findings with other scholars and the public.

### 'Slipshod Scholarship' Feared

But Drori has been quoted as saying that 80 percent of the scroll material has already been published and the remaining 20 percent should be ready for publication by a 1997 deadline set by the scholars committee.

Israeli officials contend that open access to the uncompleted texts could prevent a "definitive interpretation" of the scrolls.

An unnamed Israeli scholar warned that "black market publication" of the remaining fragments would set off "a gold rush conducive to slipshod scholarship."

Another source said it invited "the law of the jungle."

The Huntington Library has stored about 3,000 photographic master negatives of virtually all of the original scrolls and fragments. Its announcement last weekend that it would grant access to them was an academic bombshell that made the front pages of major newspapers worldwide.

Moffett told reporters that his action will render restrictive agreements on translating and publishing the scrolls "null and void -- or at least pointless. At one stroke, we liberate the scholars as well as the Scrolls," he said.

He described his action as the scholarly

equivalent of breaching the Berlin Wall and freeing hostages in Lebanon.

But according to Magen Broshi, curator of the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem, which houses the scrolls, along with the Rockefeller Museum, "It's a most scandalous thing."

Drori accused the Huntington Library of breaking an accord under which the photographic copies were to be kept solely for preservation and safe-keeping.

### Not Bound By Any Agreement

The Antiquities Authority claims that in 1980, fearing loss or damage to the scrolls in the event of war or other disaster, it signed a contract with the Huntington Library allowing the library's chief photographer to make microfilms of the fragments.

But the agreement was for safekeeping only, not for distribution, the authority contends.

Moffett told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his library was not bound by any agreement with Israel and stated that by the terms under which Huntington acquired the photo collection, the library was "indemnified from any legal action."

Whether a formal or implied accord existed restricting the use of the photos is likely to be the subject of future bitter debates.

The original scrolls were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in caves in the Judean Desert near the Dead Sea. They remained under Jordanian jurisdiction until the 1967 war, when they came under Israeli control.

The Jordan government, like Israel, had restricted access to a small group of selected scholars.

The scrolls consist of 800 leather and papyrus documents, which have been dated from between 200 BCE and 68 C.E. Written in Hebrew and Aramaic, they include some of the earliest known Old Testament texts and descriptions of the community life of an ascetic Jewish sect, the Essenes.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

## VOICES OF DEAD HEARD AT NAZI'S TRIAL By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- People who are no longer alive bore witness in a Stuttgart court last Friday to the deliberate murder of Jewish children by Josef Schwammberger while he was commandant of two concentration camps in Poland during World War II.

The latest accusations against the 79-year-old former SS officer stem from depositions given by witnesses who died before the wanted war criminal was extradited from Argentina last year.

One of them, Isaak Hamel, testified he saw Schwammberger force a woman with a baby to undress and then machine-gunned both of them.

Another deposition contained testimony the late Mary Hoch gave to a Hamburg court several years ago. She said she saw Schwammberger at the scene when children were being thrown from the windows of a Jewish orphanage.

According to the witness, the children who survived the plunge were shot to death.

Schwammberger has been on trial since June 26 for war crimes committed when he headed the concentration camps of Przemsyl and Rozwadow. He is charged directly with the murder of 45 people and complicity in the murders of 3,377 people.