

**U.S. AND ISRAEL BOTH CALL OCCUPATION OF HOMES IN EAST JERUSALEM A MISTAKE**  
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- Israel and the United States were in agreement this week that the occupation of houses in the Arab village of Silwan by Jewish settlers was the wrong move at the wrong time.

Both countries seemed anxious not to let the provocative act further strain relations between them or upset the Mideast peace process.

Secretary of State James Baker readily agreed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Thursday that the settlers made a "mistake" by occupying five Arab houses in the East Jerusalem suburb the previous day.

"This is something I would agree with and I wouldn't want to take it any further than that," said Baker, who is preparing for his eighth peace-making mission to the Middle East next week.

Of the 50-odd settlers who clandestinely occupied the buildings early Wednesday morning, only a handful remained on Thursday.

The others, after a daylong standoff, obeyed police orders to vacate the premises pending a decision on their claim by State Attorney General Yosef Harish.

Harish's office said the ruling would depend as much on security considerations as on legal briefs. Silwan, which is inside municipal Jerusalem, was under curfew all week to forestall disturbances in connection with the first anniversary of the Temple Mount riots on Oct. 8, 1990.

Local residents have warned that violence was inevitable if the Jews continued to occupy Arab homes in the village.

**'A Historical Pattern Of Disruption'**

A Jerusalem magistrate meanwhile canceled a temporary injunction barring the settlers from taking over one of the other four houses. The magistrate acted after the settlers produced documents indicating that the Arab family that lived in the house did not own it.

The group that took over the houses also claims to own 40 other buildings in Silwan. Most of them were not bought by settlers but by a government housing company, which sublet them.

Ha'aretz reported Thursday that one of the buildings was rented for about \$10 a month.

The settlers also staked their claim to the buildings on the contention that they were originally owned by Jews more than 60 years ago, prior to the 1929 Arab uprising in Palestine.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler meanwhile warned: "As we move closer to a possible peace conference and direct negotiations, extremists throughout the region may take actions in an effort to derail the process."

"Recent incidents across the region are unfortunately part of a familiar historical pattern of disruption in the face of genuine progress."

Tutwiler claimed, however, that the parties to the conflict are "closer than ever before to the just, lasting and comprehensive peace which we and our friends in the region have sought for so long and which the region deserves."

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**ISRAELIS OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES DEFEND RIGHT TO RECONNAISSANCE**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- Ignoring increasingly strained relations with Washington, Israeli leaders of both major parties are hotly defending Israel's right to conduct reconnaissance flights over Iraq if it considers them vital to its security.

"Our assessment is that Iraq still has the capacity to launch missiles at us, and therefore all related intelligence is helpful," Defense Minister Moshe Arens declared.

But with one exception, none of the politicians who waxed indignant over U.S. complaints admitted outright that there had indeed been such flights last Friday.

U.S. officials protested the Oct. 4 flights at the highest level, saying they violated the airspace of several Arab countries just a week before Secretary of State James Baker was due to go back to the Middle East for yet another attempt to set up an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

Iraq lodged a formal protest with the United Nations.

Israeli officials, who refused to confirm or deny the flights, nevertheless indicated that their purpose would be to gather information about hitherto unknown Scud missile-launching sites found by U.N. observer teams in western Iraq.

Except for Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, officials who discussed the subject on the radio and television invariably prefaced their remarks about the alleged flights with the qualifying statement, "if they took place."

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres said Israel did not need anyone's permission to overfly sites in Iraq which represented a threat to Israel. He added, however, that the timing and routing should be carefully considered.

**'The Height Of Cynicism'**

Likud spokesmen took their cue from Arens, who criticized the U.S. reaction.

Arens said Wednesday that he did not believe Israeli reconnaissance flights could jeopardize the proposed peace conference.

"I don't want to enter into the operational actions of the air force. I want to say unequivocally that any responsibility for defending the security of Israel rests with its government and we will continue to do so as we see fit," Arens said.

He dismissed Iraq's U.N. protest as "the height of cynicism and hypocrisy" and suggested that the Americans probably complained at the urging of Saudi Arabia.

Defense Ministry spokesman Danny Naveh said Israel would continue to take any "step necessary" for its self-defense.

Sharon referred directly to the overflights without qualifiers. "The flights are essential for security," he said on a television interview Wednesday night.

He hinted, as did Arens, that the United States did not always supply Israel with complete intelligence data and that Israel must see to its own security needs.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA HALTING EXPORT OF TANKS, WEAPONS TO MIDEAST**

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, Oct. 9 (JTA) -- Czechoslovakia announced Tuesday that it is halting the export of tanks to Syria and heavy weapons sales to all Middle Eastern countries, in a gesture of support for the peace process in that region.

The decision by the federal authorities, who urged other countries to do the same, demonstrated support for the proposed regional peace conference the United States and Soviet Union hope to convene this month.

Czechoslovakia had been planning to export Soviet-made T-72 tanks to Syria. This cancellation affects those plans, which had been opposed by Israel and the United States.

But it could put the shaky Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in further jeopardy and arouse anti-Jewish feelings in a large segment of the population.

The suspension of arms sales to the Middle East could strengthen separatist and nationalist groups in the Slovak republic, where most of the heavy weaponry is manufactured.

Reduced arms production since the end of Communist rule has contributed to rising unemployment in several regions of Slovakia, providing ammunition for social protests and nationalist agitation.

Jews could be held liable because of the juxtaposition of the decision to halt arms exports with the upcoming state visit of President Chaim Herzog of Israel.

He will arrive in Prague on Oct. 14 at the invitation of President Vaclav Havel and will tour both the Czech and the Slovak areas of the federated country until his departure Oct. 20.

**ABIE NATHAN BEGINS PRISON STINT, PREDICTING REPEAL OF LAW HE BROKE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- Abie Nathan reported to prison Thursday, predicting that the law he was sentenced for violating would soon be repealed.

The 64-year-old peace activist was given an 18-month prison term last week for meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in Tunis in June.

Nathan, who readily admitted to the meeting, charged that the law barring contacts with representatives of a "hostile terrorist organization" is counterproductive to peace.

The peace campaigner was sentenced last year to seven months in prison for a 1989 meeting with Arafat and served four months.

He told reporters Thursday that he would not appeal his latest sentence or ask for a pardon, because he expects the "foolish law banning peace talks with the enemy" will be canceled shortly.

Nathan reported Thursday morning to the Ramla Magistrates Court, where he was sentenced Oct. 6. From there, a prison van took him to the Nitzan detention center at Ramla prison, where he will remain until the prison authorities decide at which facility he should serve his time.

He is expected to be sent to Ma'asiyahu, a minimum security prison where white-collar offenders usually are incarcerated.

Nathan announced that his Voice of Peace radio ship, which has broadcast pop music and

peace messages from just outside Israel's territorial waters for the past 15 years, would be silent for the duration of his sentence.

Now, it seems, he is trying to sell the vessel to pay off debts.

For years, the so-called "pirate" radio ship earned money from advertising, which Nathan donated to humanitarian causes around the world. But as the political climate in Israel shifted sharply to the right, advertisers shunned the station for fear of being associated with leftist views.

**SHAS WILL STICK BY ITS MAN IN FRAUD AND FORGERY CASE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- The religious parties in the Knesset have served notice they will fight any move to waive the parliamentary immunity of Shas Knesset member Yair Levy so the attorney general can prosecute him on charges of fraud and forgery.

Levy was officially informed of the charges Wednesday by Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky. He was told that State Attorney General Yosef Harish has asked the Knesset to strip him of his immunity to legal action, a privilege enjoyed by every Knesset member.

The request goes to the Knesset's House Committee and, if approved, will be sent to the plenum for a secret ballot. Political observers say it would win a majority.

Details of the charges against Levy were not immediately available to the media but are connected with his position as director general of El Hama'ayan, the educational network of the Shas party, whose constituents are Orthodox Sephardic Jews.

The charges are understood to involve checks in the tens of thousands of dollars drawn on El Hama'ayan and allegedly endorsed by Levy and his wife with the forged signatures of ostensible beneficiaries.

Levy has denied wrongdoing for personal gain and contends that any irregularities would be of a purely technical nature.

His colleague, Arye Gamliel, also a member of the Shas Knesset faction, insisted the charges are "political."

The attorney general's move capped more than a year of police investigations into alleged financial improprieties by Shas leaders.

Principal among them is Interior Minister Arye Deri, who has been accused of channeling government funds to institutions favored by Shas. But no charges have yet been filed against Deri.

Shas and the three other religious parties have a combined total of 17 mandates in the 120-member Knesset and are essential to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's governing coalition.

There was no speculation this week over how the prosecution of Levy would affect the stability of Shamir's government, given the party's frequent threats to quit over what it calls police harassment.

But Deri and Levy insist that police inquiries into their activities would not trigger a political revolt by Shas.

Shilansky, meanwhile, cautioned Levy not to go abroad before the Knesset acts on his immunity. Levy said Tuesday that he had planned to visit the United States, where he spent some time recently on what he reported to have been medical leave. But he has since changed his plans.

## JEWES OF CROATIA SPLIT OVER SOLIDARITY WITH REPUBLIC

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Zagreb is deeply concerned about loss of life and property damage as fighting has again escalated following another short-lived ceasefire, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned Wednesday.

It also seems split over a declaration of solidarity with the Republic of Croatia.

According to Srdjan Matic, executive vice president of the Jewish Community Council in Zagreb, the extent of damage to Jewish property will not be known until after the war.

"There are many places in the provinces that have former synagogues and Jewish cemeteries," he said by telephone from the Croatian capital. "I suppose there's damage, but I don't know. We will have to wait until the end of the war to find out."

Matic did not report any Jewish casualties.

He referred to a strongly worded statement issued Monday by the Community Council defending the Croatian government headed by President Franjo Tudjman against charges of anti-Semitism and appealing to Jews all over the world to back Croatia against the onslaught of "brutal military forces led by the Yugoslav National Army."

The statement received wide coverage in the Croatian media and was endorsed by most of the community, although some members thought the statement went too far in support of the Tudjman government, Matic said.

But Matic said he was satisfied with the statement. "I think it is balanced. We are supporting the policy of the government, not the government" he said.

"That gives us the possibility of criticizing (the Tudjman regime) if it doesn't live up to" Jewish expectations, Matic added.

### 'Sadness, Dismay and Indignation'

The statement urged "Jewish organizations and individuals around the world to act against the aggression on the population of the Republic of Croatia and in any other part of Yugoslavia."

The statement noted "with sadness, dismay and indignation" that innocent civilians were being killed. The toll as of Oct. 7 stood at at least 700 killed and 2,000 wounded the statement said. It did not mention any Jewish casualties.

It said, however, that cultural, historical and communal property, including churches, mosques and synagogues, have been heavily damaged or destroyed in the attacks.

An estimated 2,000 Jews live in Croatia. Their statement, which spoke of Jewish communities existing there for centuries, was an unqualified expression of loyalty to Croatia and an endorsement of independence.

"Although the present government of Croatia was deliberately depicted as anti-Semitic or neo-fascist, the Jewish Community in Croatia enjoys all rights of a religion or national minority without hindrance or any discrimination," the statement said.

"The government of Croatia publicly denounced and condemned all neo-fascist and extremist ideologies and organizations that threaten the democratic system in Croatia and its citizens and decided to undertake all necessary legal steps to prevent the spread of such dangers," according to the community statement.

It added: "We express our fullest support to the efforts and declared policy of the government of the Republic of Croatia of building a new and democratic society in which human, political, civil, national and religious rights of every citizen and group will be protected."

The community expressed "great sorrow" that the Jews of Croatia have been cut off from contact with Jews in the other Yugoslav republics.

## HOLOCAUST DENIERS CREATE BRAWL AT EDUCATION MEETING IN CALGARY

By Gary Pogrow

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- A town-hall style discussion of education in Calgary, Alberta, last week erupted into a shouting match over teaching the Holocaust.

The dispute, which took place Oct. 5, was triggered by about 10 people, described as die-hard Holocaust deniers, who charged that genocide against the Jews was being emphasized to the exclusion of other atrocities.

The value of teaching the Holocaust in the local school system was disputed, Bob Bergen, a reporter for the Calgary Herald who attended the meeting, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Jim Dinning, the provincial minister of education, who was present at the meeting, told JTA he believes any group has the right to offer its opinion, even if it is to deny the Holocaust or to say there is too much teaching about it.

Personally, he said he tells such people "each time" that "I fundamentally and categorically reject your position."

Yet at one point, the minister, apparently angered by the raucous nature of the debate, told the audience, "I am mad. There's nothing in the curriculum that says: 'Thou shalt teach the Holocaust of the Jews alone.'"

Riki Heilik, community relations director of the Calgary Jewish Centre, said she understood Dinning's frustration and believed his statement was taken out of context.

"When we teach about the Holocaust, it's not for the purpose of just the Jews, it's for the questioning of what happens to a society when hatred is promoted against any group," she said, adding that the Jewish community's "purpose is to teach about racism and intolerance."

Bergen said the uproar was started by a small, noisy group "seeming all to have thick European accents, with one being a definitive German accent."

The reporter singled out one of them, Mark Kruezer, who acknowledged his German descent and complained that he "was subjected to abuse in school because he was made to feel the brunt of the Holocaust."

Bergen said the Kruezer family were known Holocaust deniers "very active in Calgary with Holocaust-denial literature."

Rita Dempsey, who chairs the Calgary Board of Education, said she recognized the protesters from other meetings and correspondence.

"What they are fundamentally asking is that we write the curriculum the way that they want it," Dempsey said.

"They claim they don't believe that 6 million Jews died; they ask about the bombing of Dresden; and they bring up the famine in the Ukraine," Dempsey said.

"These people are filled with hatred and are very negative," she said. "I don't know if they even want a dialogue."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
NEW ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL IN BERLIN  
BATTLING FOUR DECADES OF PROPAGANDA**  
By Aliza Marcus

BERLIN (JTA) -- For over 40 years, the 16 million citizens of the former East German regime were carefully tutored in the vicissitudes of hatred for all things Zionist.

So when the two Germans were reunited last year, the Israeli government immediately started planning ways to reach out to these new citizens who knew nothing of the Jewish state.

Berlin, located in the middle of the five new states that joined the German Federal Republic, was deemed the best launching ground for this counteroffensive against anti-Israel propaganda.

Steps to establish a consulate here were taken even before the German parliament voted this summer to re-establish Berlin as the capital.

And picked to be Israel's first consul general to Berlin was Mordechai Levy, a career diplomat whose flawless German attests to his years of experience in Germany, both as a child and later as a member of the Israeli foreign service.

"We believed the unification process would be detrimental to Israel-German relations if the new citizens of a united Germany would not take part in the rapprochement policy that Germany experienced for almost 25 years," Levy explained in a recent interview, shortly after beginning his duties here last month.

"Our task is to make sure that this population takes part in the rapprochement, and I have reasons to be confident that they are ready to do so," he said.

The 43-year-old Levy -- born on the same day as the State of Israel -- is the child of European refugees who fled to Palestine in the waning days before the outbreak of World War II.

**An Unprecedented Opportunity**

In 1958, Levy's Berlin-born father moved the family back to his native city, where he had a job as a doctor in a Jewish hospital. The younger Levy went to a German school, had his Bar Mitzvah in a local synagogue and became active in a Zionist youth group.

In 1963, the family went back to Israel, where Levy served in the military during the Six-Day War. After studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he entered the foreign service and spent years abroad in both Stockholm and Bonn.

When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Levy was working in Israel on the desk for German-speaking countries.

For Levy and others in the Foreign Ministry, the end of Soviet domination in East Germany was met with relief tempered by memory.

"We felt that we had to be aware of Jewish concerns about unification, but also do justice to the good experiences we had with the Federal Republic of Germany," said Levy.

"We had such a bad experience with the German Democratic Republic as a state, which was so hostile to Israel, that actually we had no reason to be very sad that this kind of state disappeared and democracy was extended throughout all of Germany," he said.

Unification also gave Israel -- and Jewish organizations worldwide -- the opportunity to make contact with the few hundred Jewish citizens of the former East German republic.

Levy believes that one of his main tasks will be to introduce the Jewish community to Israel

and help them establish a sense of affiliation.

"This is a special case of a community that has had no link with Israel for 40 years, and if they heard anything about Israel, it was always negative," he said.

Asked whether there is a future for the Jewish community in Germany, Levy noted this was a question being hotly debated.

"I think it is not easy to be a Jew in Germany," he said simply.

The consul general acknowledged that he came to Berlin without the same obstacles facing other Jews. As someone who has spent nearly 10 years in Germany, he has what he called "a more realistic, less emotionally loaded" approach.

"But this doesn't mean I am not aware of the emotional dimension which is part and parcel of the Israeli-German relations," he said.

Levy said he was distressed to find that during the Persian Gulf War, when Israel's existence was directly threatened by the Iraqi chemical arsenal, some German anti-war protesters took a position that ignored Israel's interests.

"They simply forgot that in order to save Israel from such dangers, it's not enough to cry out against war. One had to take steps to rule out the existential danger which Israel was facing at that time," he said.

What he hopes to see from Germans is not only a sensitivity to Jewish concerns -- which are very much in the foreground in Germany -- but a sensitivity "also toward Israeli matters, because Israel is the only Jewish state."

**ISRAELI STUDY SCORES SCHWARZKOPF,  
BUT WILL BE A SECRET FOR 50 YEARS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- A professional study of the Persian Gulf War, just completed by Israel Defense Force historians, is said to be critical of U.S. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the highly acclaimed supreme commander of the coalition forces that ousted Iraq from Kuwait.

But whatever conclusions the IDF's history department reached will be kept secret for the next 50 years, under standing regulations.

Although the study is supposed to be for IDF use only, copies have been sent to the U.S. Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The study is titled "U.S. Conduct of the War Against Iraq -- The Military Dimension."

Col. Benny Michelson, who heads the IDF History Department, disclosed that a multivolume study of the 1956 Sinai Campaign has also been completed. He said the military historian who did the research had been given access to unpublished documents in British and French military archives.

The Sinai Campaign was an effort by Britain and France to topple Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser in order to regain control of the Suez Canal, which Nasser had just nationalized.

Israel cooperated by invading Sinai, giving the British and French a pretext to land troops in Egypt.

But their project coincided with the Soviet occupation of Hungary and a presidential election campaign in the United States. Powerful pressure from a furious President Dwight Eisenhower forced the invaders to quit Egyptian soil.

**REMINDER: The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Monday, Oct. 14.**