

**SHAMIR ADDRESSES CJF ASSEMBLY,
CALLS TERRITORY VITAL TO SECURITY**
By Mark Joffe

BALTIMORE, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made a strong appeal Thursday for North American Jews to unite behind the policies of his Likud government as moves ahead in the Middle East peace process.

Addressing thousands of delegates at the 60th annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations here, Shamir said, "Above all, we hope and expect our brothers and sisters of this great Jewish community to stand solidly with us in the critical days ahead."

Sounding a theme reminiscent of U.S. President John Kennedy, Shamir said that when world Jewry is divided, it is like a "fragile reed. But when we are united, we are a powerful spiritual and moral force that is unbeatable."

The "great Jewish community here in North America," the prime minister said, "has always stood at our side and labored together with us for the good of our people."

He later added, "I know that in seeking peace, the government of Israel can rely on the support of every Jew, wherever he may be."

While the applause that resounded throughout the cavernous Baltimore Convention Center gave the impression that Shamir has already locked up that support, other signs have emerged in recent days to indicate that North American Jewish leaders are at odds with some of his government's policies.

'Differences Of Opinion'

A survey released Wednesday by the Los Angeles-based Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies showed, that unlike the Shamir government, a vast majority of CJF board members support territorial compromise on Israel's part in exchange for "credible guarantees for peace."

It found they also overwhelmingly back a freeze on Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank, especially if the alternative is forgoing \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees Israel is seeking for immigrant resettlement.

Likewise, Americans for Peace Now on Thursday released an open letter to Shamir, signed by 235 rabbis from more than 75 cities, urging an immediate settlement freeze.

"Continued settlement activities are not only detrimental to the peace process, but also to the successful absorption of the new olim in Israel," said the letter, which was delivered to the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

But Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, suggested Thursday that the CJF and rabbinic leadership may be more open to the idea of a settlement freeze and territorial compromise than the bulk of North American Jewry.

Cardin, who does a lot of public speaking, said she rarely encounters calls from Jewish audiences for a settlement freeze. "I don't hear that when I travel," she said. But she acknowledged that there are "differences of opinion" on that subject among Jews here and in Israel.

Cardin and leaders of the Conference of Presidents met with Shamir immediately after his

speech here. The prime minister then left for Washington for a late-afternoon meeting with Secretary of State James Baker.

Shamir meets Friday morning with President Bush, in a session that is expected to focus on the Middle East peace process.

Cardin said she expects an announcement from the Bush administration soon afterward on the location and timing of the next round of Middle East peace negotiations.

'Hungry For Peace'

In his speech to CJF leaders, Shamir restated his commitment to the peace process begun in Madrid. "We are hungry for peace. We passionately desire it. Israel desperately needs it," he said.

But he also warned his listeners that "peace without security spells disaster for our state."

"Not everybody understands our security needs," the prime minister said. "We are often lectured by governments that would not themselves dream of relinquishing land acquired in war. Yet they tell us we should give up crucial areas gained in a defensive war, areas from which wars of annihilation were launched against us."

Shamir seemed to be trying to convince his Diaspora listeners that Israel needs to retain the territories, not for ideological reasons, but because of security considerations.

The prime minister also lashed out twice at Egypt, accusing it of both attacking Israel's immigration policy and failing to live up to the peace treaty it signed with Israel in 1979.

"I am sorry to say that to this day, Egypt has refused to fulfill many normalization agreements concluded 10 years ago and continues to oppose the abolition of the grotesque U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism," he said.

But on an upbeat note, Shamir recalled that the last time he addressed the CJF General Assembly, two years ago in Cincinnati, large-scale aliyah was still a dream."

Aliyah Was Only A Dream

"In the interim," he said, "nearly 400,000 olim have entered Eretz Yisrael. We have registered a 10 percent increase in our population.

"By the time you meet three years from now," he told the American and Canadian Jewish leaders, "we expect a total of 1 million refugees and immigrants will have entered Israel from all over the world."

Shamir expressed hope that the Bush administration would soon approve guarantees enabling Israel to borrow \$10 billion for immigrant resettlement from commercial banks.

Saying that Israelis "understand the present economic conditions of the United States," Shamir stressed that Israel was not seeking "additional financial aid, or debt forgiveness or loans."

"I still hope that, before long, the decision will be reviewed and we shall receive the cooperation we have requested," he said.

"But one thing is clear: We shall not ask a single Jew in the Soviet Union, or Romania, or Ethiopia or elsewhere to wait until the loan guarantees are finally approved.

"Aliyah is a life-saving operation that should not be tied to any political issues," he said to thunderous applause.

**EGYPTIAN WINS TOPS U.N. SLOT,
RAISING CONCERN AMONG JEWS**

By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- The selection of Boutros Boutros Ghali to be the next U.N. Secretary-General has led to expressions of concern from Jewish officials.

Ghali will be the first Arab to assume the post, if, as expected, his vote of confidence Thursday night in the Security Council is ratified in the General Assembly.

In addition to concern that the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs may have difficulties playing an impartial role in mediating the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Jewish observers take strong exception to his lead role in opposing repeal of U.N. resolution 3379, equating Zionism with racism.

And the fact that he is a member of Egypt's Christian Coptic sect, and that his wife was born Jewish, has been interpreted by some as giving him even more incentive to demonstrate his commitment to the Arab line.

"The test will come in whether he will support the repeal," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"He ought to proclaim, as did Javier Perez de Cuellar, his intent to support the effort to repeal," said Hoenlein.

Perez De Cuellar will conclude his second five-year term as secretary-general Dec. 31, having chosen not to seek reelection.

Ghali was born in 1922 to a family with a strong tradition of government service. He earned a law degree at Cairo University and was a Fulbright fellow at Columbia.

He met his wife Leah Nadlar, the daughter of Romanian Jews, while earning a doctorate in international law in Paris. She later converted to Christianity.

Ghali taught international law at Cairo University for 30 years, heading its political science department when he was tapped by Anwar Sadat to join the Egyptian cabinet in 1977.

Three weeks later, Ghali accompanied Sadat on his flight to Jerusalem.

Before that visit, Ghali did some research on Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, with whom he knew he would be spending time. Dayan's interest in archaeology was legend, and Ghali brushed up on the field to make small talk.

As recounted in a recent profile of Ghali in the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot, the Egyptian minister waited for Dayan to start the conversation during the ride from the airport.

Finally, Ghali began. "I understand we have a common interest," he said.

"Yes, I know that hobby very well," replied Dayan. "We both have blonde, Jewish wives."

After the visit, Ghali remained intimately involved in the peace process, through the Camp David talks and the signing of the peace treaty.

And it is Ghali who is credited with coining the phrase "cold peace" to describe Egypt's relations with Israel, which, since the outbreak of the Lebanon war in 1982, never reached the level of full normalization called for at Camp David.

Ghali has kept the Palestinian problem high on his public agenda with the Israelis, leading some in Jerusalem to dub him "the bad man," even as this year he hosted Likud Foreign Minister David Levy and a coterie of junior Likud Knesset members.

But Egypt's fundamentalist, and anti-Israel, opposition press likes him less.

"In the office of the U.N. Secretary-General your loyalties and obligations to your homeland vanish," he assured Yediot. "And on the Israeli issue, it's definitely possible that I can improve the ties between Israel and the U.N. From my position the past 14 years, I recognize well the problem of the Middle East."

Ghali's role at Camp David puts him at odds with past U.N. sentiment; the General Assembly has condemned the Egyptian-Israeli accords.

It remains to be seen how the presence of an Egyptian secretary-general -- together with a Saudi in the more ceremonial role of president of the General Assembly -- will affect the U.N.'s response to the current peace process, in which both countries are playing an active role.

And there will be an awareness that it was Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, acting at the request of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who withdrew U.N. observers from the Straits of Tiran in May 1967, creating the atmosphere of hostilities that led to the Six-Day War. As Secretary-General, Ghali would be responsible for U.N. forces in Lebanon and on the Syrian border.

"The election places a great responsibility on Egypt to demonstrate that it will adopt an even-handed policy toward the Mideast," said Harris Schoenberg, director of U.N. affairs for B'nai B'rith International.

**TURKEY SAID TO BE PREPARED
FOR FULL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Turkey is prepared to upgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel in order to host the multinational phase of the Middle East peace talks, Yediot Achronot reported Thursday.

The Turkish government approached the countries involved with its offer recently. Israel agreed, but only on condition that Turkey establish full diplomatic relations with it. Israel and Turkey have only de facto relations at present.

The multinational talks are expected to deal with regional items such as water resources and environmental issues.

The United States, which hopes to get the talks started next month, in collaboration with the Soviet Union, plans to invite the European economic powers, Canada and Japan, as well as Israel and the Arab states of the Middle East and North Africa.

Costly projects are expected to emerge from the talks and Washington would like its allies to help foot the bill.

The regional talks will be independent of the bilateral peace talks Israel is to hold separately with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The bilateral talks, which opened formally at the Madrid peace conference three weeks ago, have been delayed because of disagreement over a site. Israel insists they be held in the Middle East, alternating between Israel and Arab sites.

Israel also prefers a Middle East site for the multinational talks. It hinted to the Turks that Ankara would be acceptable if Israel had an ambassador there.

According to Yediot Achronot, Turkey agreed to make the gesture in advance of the conference opening.

ONE MAN HOSPITALIZED AS LUBAVITCHERS FORCIBLY EVICTED FROM LENIN LIBRARY

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A group of about 25 Lubavitcher Hasidim were shoved and physically ejected from the Lenin Library in Moscow on Wednesday night as they tried to retrieve their collection of some 12,000 books, which have been held in the state library since 1921.

An elderly member of the group, Avrom Genin, 73, a man with only one foot, was pushed to the floor by Russian police and so badly bruised that he had to be hospitalized, said Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, spokesman for the Lubavitcher rebbe in New York, who has been in constant touch with the Lubavitchers in Moscow.

The group of Hasidim had resolved to remain in the library after being told by staff there that "all the librarians are on vacation for an indeterminate time," recounted Krinsky on Wednesday night following his latest telephone conversation with Moscow.

The library staff had laughed at the group, Krinsky said.

The library has so far refused to comply with several written court orders that it turn over the entire collection of Lubavitcher books to the movement.

The latest order was issued Monday, although it seems additional paperwork from the court was issued on Wednesday, as well. But those orders in hand were not enough to convince the library to comply, Krinsky said.

The violence, perpetrated by library staff and about 10 members of the police, was witnessed by reporters, including Francis Clines of The New York Times, and recorded by television cameras, including those of the Atlanta-based Cable News Network, Krinsky reported.

The Lubavitchers had been promised that Russian President Boris Yeltsin and newly reappointed Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would become personally involved in helping to resolve the matter on the Lubavitchers' behalf, said Krinsky.

On Monday, a decision was handed down ordering the library to immediately turn the books over to the Lubavitch movement in Moscow. The court called unacceptable the library's claim that it owned the books because they had been nationalized.

The decision followed a written order issued in early October.

The Moscow court ruled that the books belong to the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, as successor to a preceding Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Sholom Ber Schneersohn, whose property the books had been.

The Lubavitchers went to the library on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to try to retrieve the books. On Wednesday night they tried to remain there.

The group was carried out bodily from the library, but they plan to return, said Krinsky.

"What is most incomprehensible is that if the Russian court system cannot enforce its decision, then how can the government keep on pleading for foreign investment?" asked Krinsky.

"If it invariably happens that any deals would lead to litigation, there is no legal recourse. We have done everything we could. I hope that the final yard will not include violent measures by the Russian people," he said.

HEBREW U. GETS PERMISSION TO COPY HEBREW MANUSCRIPTS IN LENIN LIBRARY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- The Hebrew University's Jewish National and University Library gained access to a treasure trove of Hebrew manuscripts when it signed an agreement this week with the Lenin Library in Moscow, the national library of the Soviet Union.

The Jerusalem library will be permitted to microfilm the rare collection at the Lenin Library for the benefit of scholars in Israel and from abroad. The Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus, where the microfilm is housed, will become the only place outside the Soviet Union where it can be studied.

About 80 percent of the Lenin Library's Hebrew collection consists of manuscripts that date to before 1500 C.E. Some are the only copies extant. Much of the collection is from the private library started by Yosef Yoel Ginzburg and expanded by his son, Baron David Ginzburg.

The collection has a wealth of material from rabbinical literature, biblical exegesis, prayers, Kabbalah and Jewish studies generally. The works include early versions of the book "Messilat Yesharim" by Rabbi Moshe Haim Luzzatto and writings of the Vilna Gaon.

The library also contains manuscripts stolen by the Nazis from Jewish libraries in Europe, including the library of the rabbinical seminary in Breslau and the Jewish community libraries of Berlin and Vienna.

SUCCESSOR TO ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ATTENDS ISRAELI LABOR CONVENTION

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The successor to Italy's once powerful Communist Party is taking steps to patch up any differences it had with Israel and strengthen its ties with Jews. "We are retying loose ends with the whole of Jewish culture, one of the historic cultures of the left," declared Piero Fassino, a Democratic Party of the Left activist who was heading a delegation to the opening of the Israeli Labor Party's convention in Jerusalem on Tuesday night.

The Democratic Party of the Left, or PDS, is the name chosen by the former Italian Communist Party after the 1989 revolution in Eastern Europe, when it declared itself part of the Social Democratic mainstream in Europe.

Recently, it "twinned" with Mapam, a small left-wing party in Israel.

At its peak in the decades after World War II, the Italian Communist Party was the largest Communist party in the West and second in size only to the Christian Democrats in Italy. Although the Italian Communists largely ignored the Moscow party line, they subscribed to the pro-Arab policy of most of the Communist world, especially after the Six-Day War.

"For Italian Communists, as for those all over the world, Israel was the enemy, the expression of American imperialism in the Middle East," L'Indipendente wrote.

"In that period, to be Jewish and a Communist in Italy was almost impossible," Fassino told the newspaper. "The majority of the Jewish members felt forced to choose one side or another. Those who remained in the party left the (Jewish) community. Those who chose the community left the party."

COOK TRAVEL PROMISES TO WITHDRAW PAMPHLET CALLING ISRAEL DANGEROUS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Thomas Cook & Sons, the British-based world travel organization, has promised to withdraw a pamphlet distributed by its American division since the Persian Gulf War in January that describes Israel as a dangerous place under Scud missile attack and prone to pestilential diseases.

The pamphlet, still available on request, was brought to the attention of Israel's Tourism Ministry by someone in Dallas said to have been "enraged" by it.

It is packed with misinformation about Israel, the ministry said. A Cook spokesman in London "couldn't apologize enough." Neither could he explain why the leaflet contained so many inaccuracies or why it had not been revised or withdrawn long ago, the Jerusalem Post reported last week.

Israel's tourism industry was ravaged by the Gulf war, as was that of the entire region. But Cook's pamphlet, distributed only in the United States, seems to go out of its way to depict Israel as an undesirable place to visit.

It says that "those traveling to Israel should be forewarned regarding not only the Scuds but the lack of water and electricity, due to bombings. With sanitation factors absent, disease is soon to follow on a grand scale. Israel already has a history of typhoid, polio and rabies."

The Tourism Ministry pointed out that neither water nor electric supplies were disrupted by the war and there was no increase in the incidence of disease.

Israel's history of typhoid, rabies and polio is similar to that of all Western countries, the ministry asserted.

The pamphlet erroneously told U.S. travelers they would require a visa to visit Israel, gave incorrect information about the climate, the time differential and electric current and gave the impression that it is impossible to find a restaurant or cafe open on the Sabbath. The last is true only for Jerusalem.

AMERICAN BLACKS VISIT ISRAEL, LEARN FROM TRIP ABOUT MIDEAST

By Yehonathan Tommer

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A group of visiting American black Christians said Tuesday that their exposure to Israel taught them that the Middle East conflict is far more complex than they had believed.

The seven men and four women, activists representing various Christian denominations in the Greater New York area, were full of praise for the way Israel has absorbed Ethiopian immigrants throughout the country.

They were especially struck by seeing firsthand that the Ethiopians so identify with their Jewishness. But some expressed skepticism about the future of a small black community in the predominantly white Jewish state.

They feared that in a nation of new immigrants, Israel's small and vulnerable black community may not be spared the resurgent racism which is striking roots in Europe and other parts of the world.

"I come from a country where, despite our constitutional Bill of Rights, de facto segregation still exists. I've also been told that Jewishness

transcends racism. But I want to see how the Ethiopians have integrated, 10 years from now," said Barbara Horsham-Barthwaite, director of the Ministry for the Black Catholics in the diocese of Rockville Centre, Long Island.

The Rev. Reginald Tuggle, a Presbyterian pastor who is director of community affairs for the Long Island daily newspaper Newsday and president of the Black Clergy Association of Nassau County, said he was "encouraged by Israeli openness towards Ethiopian Jews, and hopeful of their successful integration."

Tuggle, on his third trip to Israel, said this was his first real opportunity to learn about the "fluid and dynamic character of Jewish politics."

The group is on a 12-day study tour for black Christian leaders organized by the American Jewish Committee and the Israel Colloquium, which promotes dialogue between Israelis and American Christian minorities.

The tour is led by Rabbi A. James Rudin, the AJC's director of interreligious affairs.

Until recently, American blacks concentrated almost exclusively on domestic issues and, apart from opposing South African apartheid, had little interest in international problems, Rudin said.

But because Israel is sacred to three world religions, it occupies a special place on the American black Christian agenda, he added.

LONDON POLICE MUST ALLOW SABBATH OBSERVERS THEIR DAY

By Julian Kossoff

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A Jewish police constable here who is religiously observant has won an agreement allowing him to not work on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays.

Although the decision applies to all religious and ethnic minorities, the deal struck between police attorneys and the Board of Deputies of British Jews represents a personal victory for Constable Nigel Brown of the Metropolitan London Police.

For two years, Brown fought Scotland Yard for changes in work rules that would allow swapping shifts in order to meet religious obligations.

Still, he had been forced to work on the Sabbath. Brown, who wears a kippah and tzitzit, would put in his time but attempt in every way possible to minimize breaking religious law, he said. For example, he would not write a traffic ticket on Saturdays.

Once, called to investigate a burglary in an Orthodox home on a Friday night, he found the place in darkness. Brown amazed the owner by saying he also could not turn on the light.

For a time, Brown was able to trade Saturday shifts for Sundays, Christmas and Easter duty. But that ended when a new superior took over.

Brown said he told himself, "I had to make a choice of giving up being an Orthodox Jew, leaving the force, or fighting."

It proved a difficult fight. Brown had initially been backed by the Police Federation, but it pulled out because his problem applied to only a minority of its members.

The Commission for Racial Equality filed a brief on his behalf, but withdrew it.

Finally, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which had been criticized for not taking a stand, began lobbying for an acceptable outcome.

Two weeks ago, police attorneys asked for a meeting and an agreement was finally reached.