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## PALESTINIANS TO SHOW UP WEDNESDAY DESPITE DISPUTE WITH U.S. OVER VISAS

**By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Despite a dispute with the State Department over visas, the Palestinians are sending a negotiating delegation to Washington for the second round of bilateral peace talks, which the United States has scheduled for Wednesday.

Israel is sticking with its decision not to participate in the talks until next Monday. But in a gesture of good will, its three negotiating delegations will begin arriving here Thursday.

Nevertheless, Israel is likely to suffer a "black eye" in world public opinion, if it becomes the only invited Middle East party not to show up on Wednesday. In addition to the Palestinians, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan have all indicated they will be here on schedule.

To minimize the negative public relations fallout, Israel is sending Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington to mount a media blitz. Netanyahu, who recently left the Foreign Ministry to become a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, is frequently called to represent the Israeli government's point of view on American television news broadcasts.

An Israeli official here said that Netanyahu will not be taking part in the bilateral talks but will be on hand to conduct interviews with the news media.

The official explained that one of Netanyahu's duties is to back up Israel's positions in the peace process with "hasbara," a Hebrew word that translates roughly as public relations.

"Since he's so good in that, there's no reason why he won't be here when we are about to start the bilateral talks," the official said.

It is unclear whether Netanyahu will join Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval in what has lately become a regular part of his daily schedule -- meeting at the State Department with Dennis Ross, director of the policy planning staff and a close adviser to Secretary of State James Baker.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Monday that Netanyahu is coming here independent of the peace talks.

### 'Open And Ready For Business'

Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, said Netanyahu would "try to prevent the Arab side from exploiting the empty chairs to their advantage."

Jahshan also said that the Palestinian delegates might take advantage of the opportunity of being in Washington to meet with leaders of major American Jewish organizations.

Meanwhile, the Israeli delegations will begin arriving here Thursday, when Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubenstein, who is leading the talks with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, is expected to show up.

He will be followed Friday by Uri Lubrani, who is heading the talks with Lebanon and is also Israel's top negotiator on the hostage crisis.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, who is heading the team that will negotiate with Syria, is due to arrive Sunday.

Whether the Arab delegations will remain in Washington until next week remains to be seen.

The State Department is playing down the delay in the arrival of the Israeli delegation, pointing instead to Israel's acceptance of Washington as the venue for the talks, a site it originally opposed.

But spokeswoman Tutwiler reiterated Monday that the United States is sticking to the scheduled Wednesday resumption of the bilateral talks, which began in Madrid last month.

"We'll be open and ready for business," she said, explaining that it would have been wrong for the United States to change the date after other delegations had accepted the U.S. invitation.

### PLO Members Turend Down

There was some uncertainty Monday whether the Palestinians would come as planned, when the State Department refused to issue visas to all 11 members of the "advisory committee" that accompanied the delegation to Madrid.

When the Palestinians sent in a request en bloc for all 11 members, the State Department replied that such applications had to be submitted individually.

When the Palestinians did so, the United States "said no to some names" on the list, said Tutwiler.

Sources said among those turned down were Mahmoud Darwish, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee, and Nabil Shaath, an adviser to the PLO's foreign affairs committee.

Tutwiler refused to divulge the names of those who had been rejected, citing their right to privacy. But she confirmed that visas would not be issued to members of the PLO, in compliance with U.S. law.

Nevertheless, a visa reportedly has been granted to journalist Akram Haniya, a member of the revolution council of the PLO's largest branch, Al Fatah.

When asked why the State Department would issue a visa to a member of Al Fatah, an Israeli source speculated that the administration may be distinguishing between officials of the PLO command in Tunis and members of its constituent groups.

Jahshan of the Arab American group said visas had also been issued to Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and another members of the advisory committee: Taysir Aiuri, a former physics professor at Bir Zeit University and member of the Israeli Communist Party.

A well-placed State Department official would neither confirm nor deny that Haniya and Aiuri had been issued visas.

## WEST BANK SEETHES WITH TENSION AFTER SETTLER DIES OF INJURIES

**By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- The West Bank seethed with tension Monday after a Jewish settler died of wounds sustained the evening before in a shooting attack on his car in the Palestinian town of El-Bireh.

Zvi Klein, 45, of Ofra, succumbed at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. As the news spread, the outrage of Jewish settlers turned to fury.

Large numbers of settlers gathered near the Tapuah junction, south of Nablus, determined to set up an unauthorized new settlement there in an act of defiance.

They were urged on by the Tehiya party, which ended its convention Monday in the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

A group of convention delegates headed for Tapuah to show their solidarity with the settlers, but they were blocked by Israel Defense Force troops.

Two Jews were killed at the site in a bus ambush a few days before the Middle East peace conference opened in Madrid on Oct. 30.

The settlers brought two mobile homes to the spot to serve as the nucleus of a settlement. IDF soldiers, sent to ward off the provocative move, exchanged invectives with the settlers, but no clashes were reported.

Other soldiers, meanwhile, combed the area around the twin cities of Ramallah and El-Bireh, northeast of Jerusalem, which have been under curfew since Monday night.

They are searching for the gunmen who attacked Klein, but also for others who may have helped them by stoning his car to slow it down.

The attack may have been linked to the peace talks scheduled to open in Washington on Wednesday, though Israel is not planning to send its delegation until next Monday.

## NRP BALKS AT BUDGET COMPROMISE, THREATENING COALITION'S STABILITY

**By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Representatives of the Likud-led coalition withdrew the budget bill from the Knesset agenda Monday to forestall a vote that might have toppled Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government on the eve of bilateral peace talks.

The budget, which must be enacted by the end of the year, has to pass its final readings in the plenum.

But what should have been a routine roll call became a coalition crisis when the National Religious Party threatened to cast its five votes against the measure.

The NRP, which is affiliated with the religious Zionist movement, Mizrachi, has refused to support a budget that includes "special funding" for institutions of the non-Zionist haredi bloc, consisting of the ultra-Orthodox Shas, Agudat Yisrael and Degel HaTorah parties.

The haredi parties will not vote for a budget that does not contain the special funding.

In either case, the government probably would fall.

Shamir offered a compromise acceptable to the haredi parties. But the NRP balked, and the vote was postponed again.

Shamir proposed to abolish the special funding, which was opposed across the political spectrum.

Instead, each of the haredi parties would have its educational system funded directly out of the national budget.

The NRP objected on grounds that the haredi schools would not be required to meet the same criteria for funding as do all educational institutions.

Haredi politicians accused the NRP of "trying to destroy haredi education."

## SPANISH LEADER VISITS ISRAEL 500 YEARS AFTER THE EXPULSION

**By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain participated in ceremonies here Monday marking the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Spanish Jewry.

He was the guest of President Chaim Herzog at the presidential residence following talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Gonzalez, on the first official visit to Israel by a Spanish head of government, told the gathering that one "must learn from the past in order to build a more just future."

He spoke of Spain's yearlong program of seminars, exhibitions and cultural events commemorating the quincentennial of Christopher Columbus' voyages of discovery.

Columbus' expeditions coincided with the expulsion of the Jews. Herzog referred to the "Golden Age" of Spanish Jewry, which ended 500 years ago but continues to have a profound influence on the Jewish people to this day, he said.

He also paid tribute to the efforts by Spanish officials to save Jews during the Holocaust, even though the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco was aligned with the Nazis.

Gonzalez, whose country recently hosted the first round of the Middle East peace talks, visited the Knesset earlier Monday. He told the lawmakers that peace must bring Israel security but must also guarantee the rights of other people, including the Palestinians.

At their meeting, Shamir thanked his guest for the hospitality extended him by Spain when he headed the Israeli delegation to the talks in Madrid. Gonzalez said he was proud of the Spain's role in the search for Middle East peace.

The Spanish prime minister promised Levy his country would support Israel's bid for closer association with the European Community.

## BODIES OF NAPOLEON'S MEN UNEARTHED

**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Excavations for a modern housing development on the outskirts of Acre have unearthed the bodies of a score of French soldiers who died nearly 200 years ago in Napoleon's ill-fated attempt to take the city.

The soldiers, whose failure to take the city ended Napoleon Bonaparte's campaign against Syria, are to be reburied with full military honors in a Haifa cemetery.

The French consul in Haifa has accepted responsibility for the reburial, in a Haifa cemetery where other French soldiers of the period lie interred.

The recently discovered bodies were identified from the metal regimental buttons still attached to recognizable fragments of their uniforms, which were worn by the French emperor-general's forces when they were forced to call off their assault against Acre in May 1799.

The hill outside Acre from which the famous general directed the battle is still known as Tel Napoleon.

The French consul informed the Haifa Municipal Council last week that he would arrange for annual memorial services for the servicemen of Napoleon's eastern Mediterranean campaign to be held annually.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES: AGENCIES DISCUSSING NEW STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS REALITY OF INTERMARRIAGE

**By Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

NEW YORK, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Until recently, American Jewish communal institutions had one approach to intermarriage: Try to discourage it.

But about a year ago, the Council of Jewish Federations made public the findings of its 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, and the results stunned many Jewish communal professionals.

Even those Jewish leaders who had confronted intermarriage in their own families were shocked to learn that, according to the CJF study, 52 percent of Jews married in recent years had chosen spouses who were not born Jewish.

That means that for every marriage between two Jews in the United States today, two marriages between a Jew and a non-Jew take place.

The findings of the CJF survey have now convinced many in the Jewish communal world that the long-favored tactics of persuading people to seek Jewish mates through admonition and guilt, supplemented by efforts to strengthen Jewish identity, have failed to stem the tide of intermarriage.

"Any effort to stop intermarriage has essentially failed," according to sociologist Egon Mayer of Brooklyn College. He believes the Jewish community must now accept the reality of intermarriage and learn to adapt to it.

Indeed, Jewish leaders are beginning to realize that they must accept the intermarried and include them in their planning, if they hope to meet the needs of the Jewishly affiliated community of the 21st century.

But current programmatic outreach in that direction is sparse and fragmented.

### Few Federation Programs

According to Mayer, just a handful of the 189 federations in North America have implemented programs to reach out to the intermarried -- notably Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, MetroWest, N.J., and, most recently, Boston.

And a recent survey of the major federations revealed that only two have put outreach to the intermarried on their agenda, according to David Sacks, president of the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

In other places, the outreach is conducted by federation-funded Jewish family and children's service agencies and Jewish community centers. But few of these efforts are coordinated nationally, and in most places, programs are scheduled only sporadically.

Likewise, synagogue efforts have generally been planned and executed independent of direction from their national coordinating bodies.

The exception is the Reform movement, which has made outreach to the intermarried a priority, through comprehensive programming.

The Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach, which was established in 1979 and has an annual budget of about $500,000, employs two full-time and 13 part-time professionals around the country to deal with intermarriage.

One reason why there is not more programming of this kind is that Jewish individuals and organizations alike -- particularly consensus bodies, such as federations -- find intermarriage a difficult issue to contend with.

Facing the reality of intermarriage "triggers a tremendous amount of anxiety about survival and a tremendous amount of guilt about where we have failed," according to Mayer, the sociologist.

Nevertheless, Jewish communal leaders are beginning to acknowledge that the reality of intermarriage demands a comprehensive response from the American Jewish community.

The CJF took a major step toward that response at its recent General Assembly in Baltimore by conducting a day-long symposium on "Intermarriage and Jewish Continuity."

### A Hunger For Guidance

The symposium drew "a large number of people with varying points of interest," said Martin Kraar, CJF's executive vice president. "We were able to agree action was necessary and that federations and CJF should take a leadership position in this. Our primary goal was to see where the consensus lay."

But CJF is still grappling with "the whole question of where our focus should be" on the issue, said Donald Feldstein, CJF associate executive vice president.

At the symposium itself, the hunger for guidance was clear. Some 220 participants crowded into sessions to which only 150 federation lay and professional leaders had been invited. They came from every size community and spanned a wide range of religious positions.

Almost without exception and despite their concerns, they agreed that the national Jewish community's approach to intermarriage must be updated, and updated now.

"We can no longer afford to bury our heads in the sand and hope for the best," Linda Cornell Weinstein, vice president of the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and symposium co-chair, said in her opening remarks.

Speakers at the symposium urged that communal response be carried out in a variety of ways, but all be directed to bring intermarrieds closer to the core of more active, more committed Jewry for the sake of "Jewish continuity."

Rabbi Lavey Derby, director of the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation Council in Los Angeles, suggested that federations and synagogues work together on community strategies in "a new cooperative partnership," combining the "ritual, emotional and spiritual content that synagogues have to offer, and the resources and personnel of federations."

### A Need For More Resources

Education and enrichment of the "core" Jewish population need not be sacrificed in order to devote more attention and resources to outreach, stressed Rabbi Rachel Cowan, herself a convert to Judaism and a prominent spokesperson for "Jews by choice."

"There's a false dichotomy between 'inreach' and outreach," she said at the symposium. "We cannot do one without the other."

David Belin, a lawyer and investment adviser who is president of the Jewish Outreach Institute, urged the Jewish community to earmark more resources for reaching the intermarried.

"It is essential that federations make a major commitment of funds and people" for outreach, he said in an interview from Des Moines.

"We spend hundreds of millions of dollars for the exodus of Russian Jews, one-third or one-fourth of whom are intermarried. I call upon the Jewish community to spend a few percent of that, perhaps $6 million, for stemming the exodus of our own daughters and sons from Judaism."

## MERRIMENT BUT NO MENORAHS LIT AT CHANUKAH PARTY HOSTED BY BUSH

**By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- There was plenty of merriment but no blazing menorahs Monday, as President Bush hosted a Chanukah celebration at the Old Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House.

White House regulations forbid candles to be lit inside the building.

However, that did not prevent children from three Hebrew schools in the Richmond, Va., area from reciting the blessings over the candles, though they omitted any mention of God's name, since the ritual could not be completed.

God's name was also omitted when Jewish communal leaders from Richmond bestowed upon Bush the Hebrew blessing recited for a ruler or king. The reason was uncertainty over whether a popularly elected official qualifies as either.

Leaders of the Jewish Community Federation of Virginia also presented the president with a bronze menorah, as a gesture of gratitude for his efforts to win freedom for Jews in the Soviet Union and, more recently, Ethiopia.

Bush also was thanked for his emigration advocacy by Yekaterina Rabkin, a 10-year-old Soviet immigrant who now attends the Rudlin Torah Academy in Richmond.

"Just as the Temple of Jerusalem was rededicated at Chanukah, so are we rededicated to freedom of faith around the world," Bush told 125 people at what has turned into an annual event.

As in past years, many of those invited were elementary Hebrew school students from around the region, this year coming from Richmond.

Bush said the menorah is a "reminder of history's first recorded battle for religious freedom. As a symbol of the centuries-long quest for liberty and tolerance, it proudly shines with courage and with constancy, with conscience and with strength."

### Little Luck With The Dreidel

As examples of the "light shining" today, Bush cited the movement toward democracy in Eastern Europe, the newly revived Middle East peace process and the airlift of more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel earlier this year.

"In the words inscribed on many of the Chanukah lamps: 'Blessed shall you be in your coming, and blessed shall you be in your going,' " the president said.

A choir of 8- to 10-year-olds from Rudlin Torah Academy sang "Maoz Tsur" (Rock of Ages) in Hebrew and English for the president. Also in attendance were children from Temple Beth El Hebrew school and the Jewish Community Day School of Central Virginia.

Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle played several spins of dreidel, with the president on many of his tries winding up with the letter "heh," meaning half the pot. Apparently frustrated with the result, Bush remarked that "two halves make a whole."

Among the Jewish administration officials joining in the celebration were Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's policy planning staff; Richard Haass, the National Security Council's senior director for the Near East and South Asia; Marshall Breger, legal counsel at the Labor Department; and A. Mark Neuman, director of congressional affairs at the Commerce Department's Bureau of Export Administration.

## FROM THE KREMLIN TO THE KOTEL, MENORAHS LIT AROUND THE WORLD

**By Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

NEW YORK, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- From the Kremlin in Moscow to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and the headquarters of the Lubavitcher Hasidic movement in Brooklyn, Chanukah menorahs were lit simultaneously Sunday, in a ceremony witnessed by millions around the world via satellite broadcast.

The ceremony this year did more than usher in the traditional Jewish "Festival of Lights." It celebrated the demise of 70 years of Communist rule in the Soviet Union, where religious freedom has been restored.

More than 7,000 people crammed into the Kremlin Palace of Congresses for the first Jewish festivities ever held with the official blessings of the Soviet government.

The Lubavitchers hailed the historic occasion as heralding the imminent coming of the Messiah.

"Moshiach's on the Way" read a banner across Eastern Parkway, a grand boulevard slicing through Brooklyn's troubled Crown Heights neighborhood, where the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, makes his home.

In his remarks, telecast worldwide, the rebbe said the technology that has amplified an ancient message was a manifestation of God's will.

On this Chanukah, "the fulfillment of divine intent is achieved when modern technology is put to the use of spreading godliness around the world," he said.

"It was extremely moving to see all the countries, especially from the Kremlin for the first time," said Zalman Shmotkin, a rabbinical student who helped coordinate the event.

"One of the children of Chernobyl thanked the rebbe from the Kotel (Western Wall) for helping him. The rebbe had tears in his eyes," Shmotkin said.

### Broadcast Around The Globe

The two-hour event was broadcast on 70 public television stations across the United States and 1,400 cable stations in North America.

Satellite-fed cable stations broadcast the ceremony in Israel, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Britain, France, Italy, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and India.

There was live feed from such locations as Brooklyn, Moscow, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Australia, and Paris, where 22,000 people gathered at the Eiffel Tower for the event.

On Eastern Parkway, outside Lubavitcher headquarters, some 3,000 people watched a giant television screen in the rain.

An estimated 3,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants celebrated the first night of Chanukah in a park in West Hollywood, an area known as the "Little Moscow" of Los Angeles.

The crowd, evenly divided between adults and children, joined in the lighting of the first Chanukah candle, followed by a carnival with rides, games, raffles and lots of food.

Igor Shnader, a 50-year old dentist who moved from Moscow to Los Angeles last March, found the ceremony particularly meaningful.

In the Soviet Union, he said, "I know that I am a Jewish man, but I cannot celebrate."

The Los Angeles event was organized by the Chabad Russian Immigrant Synagogue.

*(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this report.)*