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## LEVY SAYS REPEAL OF U.N. MEASURE INDICATES HEALTHY U.S.-ISRAELI TIES

**By Larry Yudelson**

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- The repeal of the U.N. resolution branding Zionism as racism "demonstrates that relations between the United States and Israel are friendly," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Wednesday, a day after meeting with President Bush in Washington.

Levy told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that conclusion of the peace talks in Washington on Wednesday was as originally scheduled and did not indicate that the talks were in a state of crisis.

Levy said he told the president that the Arabs must not "delude themselves into thinking the longer they stall on procedure, the greater the chance of the United States intervening. This is how they are acting, and they must be told this is not the proper course of action, and that the U.S. will not intervene.

"We are doing all we can to promote the talks and overcome the obstacles," said the foreign minister. "It is our initiative, and Israel sincerely wishes for peace."

What is not compatible with the peace process, Levy said, is Syria's continuing support for Iranian elements in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, who are training Hezbollah members for terrorist attacks on Israel.

With regard to the issue of Israeli MIAs, Levy said he recounted to Bush Israel's role in the release of Western hostages.

"We felt as if they were our sons as well. We did our part and they were reunited with their families. We expect the same feeling to be demonstrated here.

"The president says he feels the same way, has done what he can do and will continue to speak out," Levy said.

Levy, still jubilant over the U.N. vote two days earlier, told the Conference of Presidents that the victory demanded celebration, not attempts to analyze motivations or speculate on American motivations.

He said Israel was pleased that six Arab countries did not vote and that Egypt's failure to vote for the repeal was no disappointment.

On the contrary, said Levy, who revealed that shortly before the balloting he received a message from Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa saying that Egypt had decided not to participate in the vote in order to position itself to lead the non-radical Arab states.

## NEWS ANALYSIS:

## ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TALKED MORE TO MEDIA THAN TO EACH OTHER

**By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- During two weeks of fruitless bilateral negotiations here, Israelis and Arabs seemed more interested in talking to U.S. public opinion than to each other.

This was especially true in the dispute that arose when the Palestinians demanded that Israel negotiate with them separately, rather than as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

To present their opposing cases, both sides sent spokespersons here who have demonstrated skillful use of the news media in the past and, perhaps more important, can do it in fluent, understandable English.

For the Israelis, it was Benjamin Netanyahu, a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office who previously served Israel in Washington and at the United Nations. For the Palestinians, it was Hanan Ashrawi, an English professor at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank.

While both were familiar to American television audiences, they really came to the fore at the peace conference in Madrid, which launched the negotiations.

Ashrawi was said by some to have done more for the Palestinian cause in a few days at Madrid than Yasir Arafat has done in his decades of leading the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But in Washington, the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which adjourned Wednesday, were overshadowed by other news, from the rape trial of William Kennedy Smith to the collapse of the Soviet central government.

The Palestinians especially bemoaned the lack of media coverage. While Netanyahu accused the Palestinians of "sound-bite" diplomacy. Ashrawi bitterly complained that the Palestinian message had not gotten on television.

While opposing the Israeli demand that talks be moved to the Middle East, Ashrawi quipped that there would be more coverage there since the region is always a news "hot spot."

### Preference For Quiet Diplomacy

The Israelis have continually maintained they would prefer quiet diplomacy.

Elyakim Rubinstein, chairman of the Israeli delegation for the talks with the Palestinians and Jordan, argued Tuesday that the 1978 Camp David talks were successful because they were held for 13 days in seclusion, without the news media.

Although the Israelis want quiet diplomacy, Netanyahu said Tuesday he knew how to play the media game, too.

Both Netanyahu and Ashrawi sought to blame the other side for failing to agree on procedure. And they have accused each other of delaying tactics, what Netanyahu has called "talk-busters."

But they also used their media platforms to blame part of the deadlock on what was occurring back in Israel and the administered territories.

Ashrawi used every briefing to charge that Palestinians continue to be oppressed through curfews and such events as the takeover of six Arab homes by Jewish settlers in the East Jerusalem enclave of Silwan.

Netanyahu charged that Palestinians in the territories were trying to sabotage the peace talks by stepping up terrorist activities, including attacks on Palestinians.

Since the Madrid conference, Israel has uncovered 100 terrorist cells, arresting some 500 people, Netanyahu said.

Meanwhile, the United States sought to keep from being drawn into the procedural dispute, despite the Palestinians' desire to have Washington settle the issue.

The Israelis have charged continually that the Palestinians and the other Arabs want the United States to "deliver" Israeli concessions.

One of the reasons the Israeli delegation waited five days after the official start of the talks to come to Washington was to demonstrate that Israel cannot be delivered.

But the Bush administration, which has been taking a hands-off approach, appeared to be running out of patience Tuesday.

President Bush, in a White House meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, said it was time for both sides to stop debating procedure and begin substantive negotiations.

**Talks To Resume Jan. 7**

Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told reporters that both sides have been given this "message."

"We share the president's sentiments entirely," Netanyahu said later.

Levy told reporters that the peace process "was first and foremost an Israeli initiative. We are deeply interested in promoting the process."

He said Bush agreed with him that "the peace process is not a matter for others, but for those concerned." Bush also affirmed the "principle of direct negotiations without preconditions," Levy said.

The Israeli delegation was scheduled to depart Washington late Wednesday. While the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation adjourned without resolving the procedural dispute, Rubinstein said the two sides agreed to resume Jan. 7. But the venue must still be decided.

No date was set for the resumption of Israel's talks with Syria and Lebanon. But they, too, are expected to resume after the new year.

At a final briefing Wednesday at which Netanyahu was joined by the chairmen of the three Israeli negotiating teams, the Israelis all stressed that the Washington talks had not been "wasted time," even though none of the Arab delegations had moved from its stated position.

The Israelis spent 30 hours in talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, 19 hours with the Lebanese and 16 with the Syrians.

During this time, both sides had a chance to understand each other's concerns and positions, as well as to know each other as individuals, Netanyahu said.

This was true even of the Syrians, said Yosef Ben-Aharon, chairman of the Israeli team negotiating with the Syrians. But he said the Syrians maintained their hard line and believed that by just mentioning the word "peace" the Israelis would "swoon" and agree to leave the Golan Heights.

Netanyahu cautioned everyone, especially the media, to have patience as the second round of bilateral talks ended. "This was the first lap in a very long journey," he said.

### ISRAELI JETS BOMB LEBANON BASE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Israel air force jets bombed a Palestinian terrorist base in eastern Lebanon on Tuesday and returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman announced.

It was the first Israeli air raid over Lebanon in a month, and according to sources in Lebanon, was carried out by four Phantom jets firing air-to-ground missiles.

Israeli sources identified the target as a base used by Ahmed Jabril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command to launch incursions against the Israel Defense Force and its allied South Lebanon Army in the southern Lebanon security zone.

It was located near Sultan Yakub in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Two terrorists were killed and two Lebanese news photographers were wounded during the attack, according to reports Wednesday from Beirut.

### SYRIANS, ANGERED BY KLARSFELD, POSTPONE DUMAS VISIT TO DAMASCUS

**By Michel Di Paz**

PARIS, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' official visit to Syria was postponed indefinitely Wednesday, a day before it was to take place.

Although the Foreign Ministry gave no reason, the Syrians announced suddenly Wednesday that President Hafez Assad would be out of town.

They appear to be irked by a number of factors, including the brevity of the French minister's visit.

Dumas was to have spent only a few hours in Damascus enroute from Amman, Jordan to a European Community meeting in Brussels. But according to informed sources here, the Syrians were most disturbed by the fact that he planned to raise two embarrassing issues -- the condition of Syria's 4,500 Jews and the presence in Syria of Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner.

French Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld was expelled from Syria on Dec. 10 after protesting outside the Justice Ministry in Damascus against the haven granted Brunner for more than 30 years.

The Syrians apparently felt insulted when Dumas received her and her Nazi-hunting lawyer husband, Serge Klarsfeld, at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

The insult may have been compounded by Beate Klarsfeld's admission she had entered Syria with false papers. She told reporters she had not expected the Syrians to respond to her protests against Brunner or their treatment of Syrian Jews.

The purpose of her trip was to remind Dumas to raise those issues in his talks with Syrian leaders, she said.

Dumas' intention to comply apparently further angered the Syrians, French sources said.

The 79-year-old Brunner, who commanded the Drancy internment center near Paris where Jews were herded for deportation to Auschwitz, is one of the last major Nazi war criminals still at large. His extradition has been sought in vain for years by both France and Germany.

Brunner has lived under the alias Georg Fisher in a villa on George Haddad Street in Damascus. On Oct. 15, the Syrian authorities moved him to a less conspicuous location. According to some reports, they would like to ease him out of the country to improve their image with the West.

### BODIES OF INFILTRATORS FOUND

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Military authorities are trying to establish the identities of two heavily armed men whose bodies were found on a beach south of Gaza this week.

It remains unclear who sent them and how they arrived. But the weapons they carried left little doubt that they were infiltrators on their way to commit a terrorist act.

They drowned before they reached their target, an Israel Defense Force spokesman said.

## IMMIGRANTS UPSET OVER DECISION TO END TEMPORARY RESIDENT STATUS

**By Yehonathan Tommer**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- North American and other Western immigrant associations in Israel are actively lobbying the Knesset Finance Committee to reverse a government decision that would eliminate temporary resident status for new olim, beginning Jan. 1.

The so-called A-1 visa grants new arrivals temporary resident status for five years, during which they are entitled to exemptions from army service and from taxes on the purchase of household goods, electrical appliances and imported cars.

They are also eligible for favorable government mortgages and various medical and social benefits.

After five years, temporary residents must acquire Israeli citizenship and thereby become responsible for paying regular taxes and serving in the Israel Defense Force.

A spokesman for the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel called the Oct. 9 Cabinet decision to eliminate A-1 status "wrong and discriminatory."

"Western olim should not be punished for misleading Finance Ministry claims that Soviet olim with A-1 temporary resident status are exploiting Western olim rights, to supplement their absorption basket," said Ira Cohen, referring to the special subsidy that Soviet immigrants receive during their first year.

Such abuses are marginal, he said, since few Soviet olim can take advantage of the benefits given Western olim. And in any case, he added, the number of Western olim is "too small to justify such drastic measures."

Figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics tend to bear out his charges. Between January and September 1991, only 2,429 potential immigrants holding A-1 temporary resident visas made aliyah, fewer than a third of whom came from North America. During the same period, only seven of the 118,753 Soviet olim arriving in Israel came with A-1 visas.

"Close the loophole, if necessary, but not at the expense of Western aliyah," said Cohen.

### Not Clear Which Benefits Cut

The Finance Ministry does not understand the fuss.

"Western immigrants will continue to benefit from traditional olim rights," said ministry spokesman Arie Gru'enblatt. "They are simply being asked to take on immediately the responsibilities and burdens of regular Israeli citizens."

Despite a Finance Ministry request from Oct. 27, Absorption Ministry officials are only now beginning to draft detailed guidelines on the impending changes.

The new rules apparently will not apply retroactively to olim with A-1 status who arrived prior to January 1992 but have been living in Israel less than five years.

But sources say it is still not clear which benefits will be eliminated and which will remain.

According to one Finance Ministry interpretation, most of the benefits are being guillotined, including: Absorption Ministry financial assistance to olim studying in five-month Hebrew-language ulpanim, medical insurance and social security, easy-term mortgage loans, rent assistance, and student living and tuition allowances.

However, some benefits would be preserved, including exemptions on income, property and sales tax, and waivers of the value-added tax on purchases of household goods, furniture and electrical appliances.

Other Finance Ministry officials reportedly have indicated that there is no need for immigrants to panic, since the government's decision will not be implemented.

Michael Kleiner, chairman of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, is pressing the Finance Ministry to delay implementation of the Cabinet decision until April, to give the government time to introduce an alternate temporary resident visa that would exempt young olim between the ages of 18 and 24 from army service.

## FORCEFUL DEPORTATION OF SOVIET JEWS WAS NECESSARY, DUTCH GOVERNMENT SAYS

**By Henriette Boas**

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Dutch Justice Minister Aad Kosto explained to Parliament on Wednesday why a predawn raid by riot police was necessary to expel Soviet Jewish emigres from Israel denied asylum in Holland.

Although the ouster was supported by virtually the entire Second Chamber of Parliament and by some Jewish community leaders here, the authorities appeared embarrassed by what seemed to many to have been an excessive use of force.

Wilma Stein, director of the Jewish Social Welfare Federation, said she approved of the government's decision but not of the methods used to implement it.

She was referring to the use Tuesday of 100 riot police, along with local police, to evict from an immigrant hostel in Eindhoven 43 Soviet Jewish immigrants from Israel and place them aboard a charter flight to Tel Aviv.

At least one emigre was seriously injured when he leaped from a window to escape the police. Others complained they were given no chance to dress.

The emigres were among some 200 Soviet Jews who came to Holland from Israel during the past year seeking haven because they were unable to adjust to life in the Jewish state. Some said they had been harassed in Israel because they were either not in fact Jewish or progeny of mixed marriages.

Although the Netherlands has always had a liberal policy toward refugees, the government ruled that these Jews did not qualify for asylum because they were in no danger of persecution in the country from which they came.

Kosto told the members of Parliament that a large police force was used because the refugees at Eindhoven had a week ago physically resisted an effort by authorities to evict a couple with two children.

Fearful of disorders, the Dutch authorities sent 20 members of the state police and two members of the Eindhoven police force to accompany the refugees on the four-hour flight to Israel.

They also sent along two representatives of the Justice Ministry and two doctors.

Many of the refugees landed at Ben-Gurion Airport barefoot in their pajamas. Kosto said that was because they refused to dress to avoid removal from the hostel.

Some of them insisted on being sent to another country and refused to pass through Israeli customs.

## JEWS APPLAUDED FOR SPEAKING OUT ON SAFE HAVEN FOR HAITIAN REFUGEES

**By Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Leaders of the Haitian community in the United States are applauding Jewish groups that have called on President Bush to permit Haitian refugees fleeing military dictatorship to reside freely, at least temporarily, in the United States.

In the more than 10 weeks since a military coup deposed democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Sept. 30, nearly 7,000 Haitians have fled their native Caribbean island.

Traveling in small boats and carrying nothing but the clothes on their backs, most have been plucked out of the water by U.S. Coast Guard cutters and sent to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they are being detained in military camps.

Hundreds of refugees have drowned attempting to escape from Haiti, according to Jocelyn McCalla, executive director of the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees.

The Bush administration would like to return the refugees to Haiti, but on Dec. 3 was temporarily restrained from doing so by U.S. District Judge Clyde Atkins of the Southern District of Florida.

That ruling was overturned Tuesday by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. But the case is now expected to go to the Supreme Court.

A statement of support for the plight of the refugees came first from a coalition of Hasidic groups in the Crown Heights, Williamsburg and Boro Park sections of Brooklyn.

It was soon followed by statements from organizations including the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Jewish Labor Committee, New York Jewish Community Relations Council and the Institute for Public Affairs of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

And two Jews spoke to a crowd of 3,000 Haitians at a rally in Washington on Dec. 13: Gary Rubin, director of national affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and Rabbi David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

### Haitians Pleased By Support

In statements and speeches, all of the Jewish groups have called upon President Bush to provide the refugees safe haven in the United States by granting them temporary protected status, allowing them to live and work in this country legally until the political crisis in Haiti is resolved.

The Jewish organizations' statements of concern for the refugees were welcomed by Haitian leaders here.

"We are happy to see that the Jewish community recognizes that we Haitian people, even though we are black and poor, we are people too. There is no double standard," said Philippe Wilson Desir, Haiti's consul general in New York.

"I'm very pleased by the kind of support that the Haitians have gotten from Jewish groups all over the spectrum," said McCalla. "It's essential that the Jewish community demonstrate this support."

"Haitians feel like the Jewish community is the one that can relate to it and is responding," said Rubin.

But while Jewish statements of support are important as humanitarian gestures, he said, they are not going to do much to heal rifts in the black-Jewish relationship.

"We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking this is the front-burner issue in black-Jewish relations," Rubin said.

That relationship "will be made more on domestic social issues," he said. "As a coalition issue, this is more of a high priority for some of the church groups. It's not in the top tier of issues for blacks."

### Hasidic Stand Made An Impression

But the statement made by the historically insular Hasidic communities, especially by the Lubavitchers in Crown Heights, made an important impression, said the Haitian leaders.

For it was in Crown Heights that anger, violence and death ripped through the Lubavitcher and the black, largely Caribbean-American, communities in August.

Some in the black community attempted to legitimize the violence against the Jews at the time by saying it was borne out of frustration at being treated with a double standard by police, city officials and the Lubavitchers themselves.

The joint statement signed by the Lubavitchers, while not enough to heal the rift, is "a move in the right direction," said McCalla.

According to Desir, "the position of those (Jewish) organizations and the members of the Jewish community in this matter will never be forgotten" by Haitians.

"Now we know that the Jewish people and the Haitian people can work together, and we hope that in the future we will work together for unification and better understanding between us," Desir said.

Haitians beyond the level of organizational leadership have been made aware, through local newspaper articles, of the Jewish statements of support.

David Pollock, associate executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, said about a dozen Haitians had tracked down the JCRC and called him to thank the Jewish community for all that it has done.

## ADL HAILS BAN ON RACE-NORMING

**By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League has welcomed what it sees as the first tangible benefit of the 1991 Civil Rights Act: a Labor Department ban on race-norming.

The Labor Department announced recently that state employment service offices and contractors who use the department's general aptitude test battery will no longer be able to adjust test scores on the basis of race or ethnicity.

This practice, known as race-norming, was condemned by the ADL in a letter to President Bush last May that urged him to order government agencies to abandon this practice. A ban on race-norming was included in the Civil Rights Act adopted by Congress this fall.

"When minority applicants are ranked only within their own particular racial or ethnic group, the implication is they cannot compete against the general applicant pool," the ADL said in a statement issued Tuesday.

"ADL has always believed that it is illegal, ineffective and immoral for employers to hire or promote by reference to an individual's race, ethnicity, or gender," the group said.