

**ADL REPORTS 1991 WAS RECORD YEAR FOR ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN U.S.**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- 1991 was a record year for anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, according to a nationwide survey conducted by the Anti-Defamation League.

The ADL recorded 1,879 acts of violence, threat and harassment against Jews for the year, an 11 percent increase over 1990 and the highest number since the agency began its annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents 13 years ago.

For the first time, there were more attacks on Jewish individuals than against their property, with 950 incidents of harassment, threats and physical assault reported -- a 25 percent increase over 1990 -- and 929 incidents of vandalism.

The number of physical assaults of Jews, 60, was twice the 1990 figure, and included the August murder of Australian scholar Yankel Rosenbaum by a gang of black youths in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

The past year also saw the greatest number of "serious crimes" ever reported, according to the audit, which was released Thursday.

Twelve incidents of arson, six bombings, one attempted bombing and 22 cemetery desecrations added up to 29 percent more serious crimes against Jews than the previous high in 1990.

Anti-Jewish activity on campuses remained at the "disturbingly high" level of 1990, according to the audit, but may have leveled off after increasing 72 percent over the last three years.

**'Such Ideas Have Consequences'**

Last year, 101 incidents of anti-Semitism were reported at 60 colleges, with 23 of the campuses experiencing multiple problems. The previous year, 57 campuses reported 95 incidents, with 11 of them reporting more than one.

Politically related anti-Semitism, which occurred largely during the Persian Gulf War in the first two months of 1991, also multiplied.

Eighty anti-Semitic incidents in 14 states were linked by their perpetrators to the war for several months, beginning with the start of Operation Desert Storm on Jan. 16.

At least 20 Jewish organizations received mail and phone threats. They included swastikas and statements such as "Death to Jews," "All Jews will burn and die in hell" and "Keep checking for those letter bombs."

The ADL attributes the overall surge in anti-Semitic acts to "the erosion of longstanding barriers against the expression of anti-Semitism."

"In the worlds of politics, culture and education, Jew-baiting, anti-Semitic scapegoating and conspiracy accusations have become not only more common, but more casually tolerated and rationalized. Such ideas, and the words that express them, have consequences," the ADL report says.

"The vastly increased level of harassment and assault incidents in recent years may signal a change in the tactics of many individuals wishing to express anti-Jewish hostility," it warns.

"It would appear that there is a new willingness by those inclined toward anti-Semitism to engage in direct, provocative confrontation with

Jews, a kind of 'in-your-face' intimidation, reflective of that erosion of the taboo against such open bigotry," the report states.

Nowhere is this erosion "reflected more clearly or disturbingly than in the proliferation of bigotry and violence in the lyrics of some of the best-selling popular music of the day," the report says.

One positive sign in 1991 was a significant decrease in Skinhead-related anti-Semitic acts, attributed by ADL to "effective law enforcement action at the federal, state and local levels."

**New York Led The Country In Vandalism**

There were 62 Skinhead-perpetrated acts of anti-Semitism reported in 16 states in 1991, almost half the number reported in 1989, when 116 were recorded in 24 states. In 1990, 87 Skinhead incidents took place in 21 states.

Of the 1991 Skinhead episodes, 36 were acts of vandalism, including an arson of a Jewish-owned business, and 26 were harassment and threats directed at individuals and organizations.

Four Skinheads in Pennsylvania and Connecticut were arrested in connection with two of the incidents.

On a state-by-state basis, New York led the country in vandalism. The state experienced 254 acts of vandalism, up 68 from 1990.

California followed, with 124 incidents, and New Jersey came in third, with 102. Both were decreases by five from the previous year.

Next were Massachusetts, which reported 68 incidents, the same as in 1990; Pennsylvania, with 49, which was up five; Florida, with 43, down 22; Maryland, with 41, down 15; Illinois, with 27, down six; Texas, with 24, up 19; Connecticut, with 21, up five; Michigan, with 20, up four; Colorado, with 17, down 18; and Ohio, with 17, down six.

**Three Days Of Rioting**

The most notable anti-Semitic incidents in 1991 included:

\* Three days of rioting in Crown Heights, Aug. 19-21. More than 100 incidents of personal assault, harassment and property damage were reported, including 23 cases in which Jews suffered serious bodily injury.

\* A firebombing, four arsons and four attempted arsons at three synagogues in the Los Angeles area between January and April.

\* A spate of vandalism, harassment and violence directed against congregants at two Orthodox synagogues in Boca Raton, Fla., between May 15 and the end of July. The incidents included smoke bomb attacks, drive-by shootings, BB gun shootings, as well as verbal assault.

\* The desecration of two synagogues in Dayton, Ohio, in November, on the 53rd anniversary of Kristallnacht. They were spray-painted with swastikas and the word "Jude."

\* A violent intimidation campaign by Skinheads against a Jewish-owned store in Knoxville, Tenn. In one incident, Skinheads hurled a rock, decorated with a swastika, through the window of the store. A note attached to the rock said, "Don't let Jew bastards run the country." A Molotov cocktail was also thrown into the store, and anti-Semitic graffiti were painted on the front door.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:  
IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS,  
DIPLOMACY MAY NOT BE WHAT IT SEEMS**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- If diplomacy is an area where nothing is quite what it seems to be, Middle East diplomacy is a prime example.

The two days of multilateral discussions of Middle East regional issues last week in Moscow seem to have left barely a ripple on the surface of international affairs.

Media interest was minimal, compared to the massive coverage of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid back in October or even the two rounds of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks that followed in Washington in December and January.

But the news media are not always the best judges of significance. In fact, many astute observers see the Moscow conference as the major milestone so far of the Middle East peace process.

Granted that without the Madrid conference, peace talks between Israel and its immediate neighbors would not have materialized.

Granted, too, that without the bilateral talks Israel held separately with Syria, Lebanon and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the question of regional cooperation would be hardly relevant.

Still, the moment at which the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and a dozen other conservative Arab states entered the conference hall in Moscow alongside the Israeli delegation was a watershed in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The last time Zionism attempted to reach an accord with the Saudi kingdom was in the era of Chaim Weizman and the Emir Feisal. An old photograph of the two of them has long seemed to project a lesson in missed opportunities.

**Exchanging Small Talk**

Now, for the first time since those bygone days, representatives of the two sides were photographed together in Moscow.

Their speeches from the rostrum were predictably at cross-purposes. The Arab ministers dwelt on the Israeli settlements and "occupation," the Israelis on development and cooperation.

But in the corridors, far from prying camera lenses, delegates from Israel, Oman, Qatar and other previously hostile places actually exchanged small-talk.

That may not seem like much in this epoch of collapsing "evil empires." But for the Arab-Israeli conflict, it is a very great deal indeed.

When, the next day, the same Saudis, Omanis, Qataris and other Arabs made a point of attending the sessions of the various working groups with Israel, seasoned observers on the Israeli side saw a psychological barrier of monumental proportions crumbling before their eyes.

Plainly, the conservative Arab states were honoring the pledges they made to the Bush administration in the dark days of the Persian Gulf War. Nevertheless, they acted in Moscow in a way that compromised forever their decades-long boycott of "the Zionist entity."

Although their ministers still gaggled on the word "Israel" in their speeches, they did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organization. And, to a man, they vowed their commitment to a peaceable resolution of the conflict.

No one in Washington is naive about Middle East peacemaking. But policy-makers there and in other world capitals believe the prospect of regional cooperation, funded by the world's wealth

thy nations, can in time soften resistance and speed progress in the bilateral negotiations.

The multilateral conference in Moscow was not without snags.

Syria, Algeria and Yemen did not attend.

The Palestinians boycotted the event when the enlarged delegation they sent, in violation of ground rules agreed to by all sides before the Madrid conference, was refused accreditation by the Russian hosts, backed by the United States.

They had hoped for support from the world media in their bid to seat diaspora Palestinian representatives at the multilateral conference and working groups.

But they found their public relations task much harder than in Madrid, where thousands of journalists hung on every word uttered by Palestinian leaders Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi.

**Dramatic Media Fare**

The two returned to Jerusalem on Monday, claiming a success of sorts. The United States and Russia pledged to support the presence of diaspora Palestinians in the working groups on refugees and on economic development when they reconvene this spring. But Israel says it is unalterably opposed to their inclusion.

Multilateral negotiations, by nature, are drawn out and boring from the media standpoint.

Bilateral talks, by contrast, make for more dramatic media fare. But there, too, the suggestion is that things are not as they seem.

The Syrian and Israeli delegates were barely civil to each other at the bilateral talks in Madrid and Washington. But if a banner headline Tuesday in the Histadrut newspaper Davar is correct, the bilateral meetings are a charade to keep the public in the dark.

The Davar story claimed that Syria and Israel are engaged in secret diplomacy over an interim settlement involving a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The newspaper's veteran New York correspondent, Samuel Segev, cited "reliable U.S. diplomatic sources" for his information.

In the same edition, a strategic expert at King's College in London was quoted as saying that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Syrian President Hafez Assad were "like Siamese twins" in terms of their coinciding interests.

**Unremitting Recalcitrance**

The expert predicted back-channel negotiation between them, proceeding separately from, though simultaneously with, the ongoing bilateral negotiations.

If, on the other hand, the atmosphere at the bilateral talks is true indicator, no breakthrough is in the offing. The Syrians, after nearly 30 hours of meetings, still refuse to return the Israelis' courteous "Good mornings," according to Israeli negotiator Yigal Carmon, an adviser on terrorism to Shamir.

Of course, the polite Israelis may be deliberately courting rebuffs for their negative impact on the Syrians' image.

Similarly, Syria's demonstrative absence from the opening of the multilateral talks in Moscow appear to point to still-unremitting recalcitrance on the part of Damascus.

But Segev's story pointed out that the original Israeli-Egyptian negotiations were conducted in secret, by the late Moshe Dayan and Ha'an Tohamy in Morocco, with no public indication of the historic breakthrough evident.

## BAKER VOICES ECONOMIC CONCERNS ABOUT LOAN GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Before the United States approves guarantees for any or all of the \$10 billion in loans requested by Israel, Washington will have to "consider the likelihood of repayment," Secretary of State James Baker told Congress on Thursday.

Baker made the comment before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, after Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) pointed out to Israel's "excellent record of repayment" on its past U.S. debts.

In one of a series of apparent barbs at Israel, Baker said that argument is correct only "generally speaking, because we appropriate the money up here with which to repay ourselves."

The secretary, who is scheduled to discuss the loan guarantee issue Friday with Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval, also told the lawmakers he expects the next round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks to take place in Washington before the end of the month.

The U.S. guarantees are needed to help Israel borrow \$10 billion from private banks over the next five years. The money would be used for immigrant absorption. Without the U.S. guarantees, Israel would be charged a higher interest rate and be subject to less favorable repayment terms.

An Israeli Embassy official said U.S. economic concerns about approving the guarantees are "fair and square, and expected when one deals with such requests" in the range of \$10 billion.

### Seeking A 'Delayed Freeze'

But the official dismissed as "unfair" Baker's assessment of how Israel repays its debts to the United States. The official pointed out that current U.S. appropriations for debt repayment cover loans that went to Israel's "non-productive military sector" rather than its civilian economy.

Despite the rhetoric on Capitol Hill, economic concerns are not likely to be the major stumbling block to securing the loan guarantees. Expected U.S. conditions on Israeli settlement activity are likely to cause far more friction.

The embassy official said the United States is seeking a "delayed freeze" on settlements, allowing Israel to "grandfather in" settlements under construction, rather than asking for an immediate freeze, which would include stopping all current construction.

But both Israel and the American Jewish leadership have argued that such conditions are political and should not be linked to the humanitarian issue of immigrant resettlement.

Pressed on this subject by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), Baker repeated his objection to having the loan money used directly or indirectly to further the settlements, adding that the administration feels this way not to placate the Arabs but because it is consistent with U.S. policy.

"If you want us to come forward here with significant additional assistance for Israel over and above the very substantial amounts of \$3 to \$4 billion that we grant every year anyway," Baker said, "then please don't ask us to do it under circumstances that would contravene the long-established policy of the United States of America. Please respect our policy views."

The secretary was referring to the \$3 billion annual U.S. grant in economic and military aid to Israel, plus the roughly \$1 billion more in miscellaneous perks.

The Israeli Embassy official disputed Baker's math, saying the Jewish state receives "not a dime above" the \$3 billion.

Baker also argued that as much as he has complained about the Israeli settlements, he has pressed the Arab states, with equal vigor, to end their economic boycott of Israel. He cited his proposal last year that the Arabs end their boycott in exchange for an Israeli settlement freeze.

"We got endorsement of that from a number of Arab governments," Baker said, citing Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

But "Israel turned it down flat; it said it's not acceptable," he said. "I don't know whether that's still a possibility or not, but it's something that we have suggested."

The Israeli official said it was wrong to equate the two issues. Just as President Bush demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait before there be any negotiations, the Arabs should first end their state of war with Israel as exhibited by the boycott, the official argued.

Meanwhile, Baker said he was unaware of language in the State Department's proposed 1993 budget seeking to eliminate two provisions of a law enacted last year. One prohibits U.S. government contracts with foreign firms complying with the Arab boycott; the other bans the issuance of passports for travel to "Israel only."

The Israeli official said he was surprised by Baker's remarks, since his deputy, Lawrence Eagleburger, sent a letter to Congress last year that raised "points of objection" to the law.

Meanwhile, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), a longtime opponent of foreign aid, has now signed on to legislation authorizing the loan guarantees without linkage to the settlement issue. He is the 73rd senator to co-sponsor the bill, which was introduced last fall by Sens. Robert Kasten (R-Wis.) and Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii).

## TANKS INTERCEPTED BY GERMANY MAY STILL FIND WAY TO SYRIA

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A cargo of 16 Soviet-model T-72 tanks bound for Syria may still get there, even though the German freighter carrying them was stopped by a German navy frigate in the Mediterranean and ordered back to its Polish port of embarkation.

The ship, Gotewind, made an unscheduled stop at Cartagena, Spain, where the Czechoslovak-made tanks were transhipped Tuesday to another vessel, the Nils, apparently bound for their original destination, Latakia, Syria.

The German government made much of the interception last week and of its threat to prosecute the ship's owners for violating export regulations and transporting arms without a license.

But Bonn seems to have succumbed to pressure from Damascus and Prague.

Czechoslovakia, strapped for cash, is believed to have sold 300 T-72 tanks to the Syrians, a transaction disapproved by President Vaclav Havel, who vowed it would be the last.

The tanks were manufactured in the Slovak portion of the Czechoslovak federation, where high unemployment feeds separatist sentiments.

The German government, which last week boasted of stopping the Gotewind with its "illegal" cargo, now says there was no legal basis to interfere with the Czechoslovak-Syrian transaction. A spokesman insisted, however, that German ships would not be allowed to carry the arms.

**DISSOLUTION OF THE 12TH KNESSET GOES ALMOST UNNOTICED IN ISRAEL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- The 12th Knesset, in office since 1988, was almost lethargic when it voted Tuesday to dissolve itself to make way for early elections set for June 23.

All 45 members present raised their hands in support of the motion. No one voted against it.

Although the termination of a national legislative body is an event of some historic import, fewer than half of the Knesset's 120 members, not a single Cabinet member among them, bothered to attend the session.

The vote was indeed a formality. As leaders of the rival blocs congratulated each other afterward, all were aware that the present Likud-led coalition government had run its course.

Deprived of a Knesset majority last month by the defections of its far-right partners, the government had little choice but to seek a new mandate from the voters.

But in the four months until elections, the two major parties will have to put their own houses in order.

Labor is bruised by the continuing abrasive rivalry between incumbent Chairman Shimon Peres and No. 2 man Yitzhak Rabin. Both men, well into their 60s, face a possible insurgency by a younger generation of aspiring leaders.

In Likud, Yitzhak Shamir has already been challenged by super-hawk Ariel Sharon, whose views are further to the right than the feisty 76-year-old prime minister's.

There is also a fight brewing for the No. 2 spot on Likud's election list, between Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who wants Levy's job back.

Labor, meanwhile, has been sobered by the departure of Ezer Weizman, one of its most innovative legislators, who this week announced his retirement from public life.

A former Likud defense minister who helped draft the Camp David accords, Weizman decided long ago that Likud was not truly interested in peace and has said so publicly.

But as a Laborite for the last dozen years, he also concluded that the Labor Party was too weak to achieve peace.

Widely respected for his candor, Weizman made clear that he thinks Labor has little chance to win the next election.

According to Gideon Samet, a columnist for the daily Ha'aretz, Weizman realizes that "whatever will be, only more so: the continued rule of a strengthened right-wing government being pushed to the deadlock of war."

The only politicians who believed they had cause to celebrate this week were the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and the Center-Shinui Movement.

With 10 Knesset seats among them, they agreed to form a single, left-of-center "peace bloc," in hope of increasing their parliamentary strength to 15 seats in the upcoming elections.

That would make them a powerful balancing force between the two major parties.

Whether their electoral hopes materialize is as questionable as the durability of their alliance. It took much soul-searching on the part of the veteran socialist Mapam to join with the two much younger parties, which are dedicated to laissez-faire economics no less than to civil liberties.

**SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH REACHES OUT TO JEWISH COMMUNITY**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- The Serbian Orthodox Church, anxious to make amends for a grossly anti-Semitic article in the most recent issue of its magazine "Pravoslavlje" (Orthodoxy), may cleanse its religious textbooks of provocatively anti-Semitic references.

The church synod has apologized for publishing a piece titled "Jews are Crucifying Christ Again" in last month's edition of the Patriarchate's publication and has announced the dismissal of its editor in chief.

The article maintained that the intolerance of outsiders displayed by certain ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim quarter is endemic to Israelis and that Jews generally are anti-Christian.

Patriarch Pavle, head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, invited the president of the Belgrade Jewish community, Jasa Almuli, and some of his associates to a conference, at which the patriarch expressed the church's deepest regrets over the article and assured his guests that the synod is not anti-Semitic.

The conference also produced an agreement to establish a joint committee to review the religious education texts about to be introduced in Serbia in order to eliminate material likely to arouse intolerance and anti-Semitism.

The patriarch also expressed the synod's willingness to establish a branch of the International Council of Christians and Jews in Serbia. It is active in 38 countries.

Almuli, speaking for the Jewish community, said the church's attitude removed any obstacle to continued ecumenical discourse.

**MORE JEWS EXPECTED IN ISRAEL THAN THE DIASPORA IN 10 YEARS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- More Jews will be living in Israel than in the Diaspora 18 years from now, according to Hebrew University demographer Sergio DellaPergola.

It will not be due to a new upsurge of aliyah but because the Jewish birthrate in Israel is higher than in the Diaspora, DellaPergola said.

In any event, the world Jewish population is declining. It numbered 11 million after World War II, increased to 13 million in the 1960s, but has fallen steadily thereafter.

There are an estimated 12.8 million Jews in the world today, but that will probably be down to 12 million by the year 2010, DellaPergola said.

Of that number, 6.5 million Jews will live in Israel and 5.5 million in the rest of the world, compared to the present ratio of 4.1 million in Israel to 8.7 million in the Diaspora.

DellaPergola blames the overall decline of the Jewish population on the high rate of intermarriage, estimated at 45 to 50 percent in the United States, and the declining Jewish birthrate.

It is 1.5 children per couple in the Diaspora and 2.7 per couple in Israel.

The demographer believes parity between Jews and Arabs living in Israel and the administered territories is inevitable. But the influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union has pushed back the date when it will be achieved.

Parity had been expected by 2015. But the 400,000 Jews arriving in the past three years have pushed the date back to 2019.