

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 45****PROPOSED LOAN CONDITIONS ON ISRAEL NOT APPLIED TO OTHERS, JEWS CHARGE****By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) -- Flexing its muscle in a battle to win \$10 billion in U.S.-guaranteed loans for Israel, a powerful Jewish umbrella group accused the Bush administration Thursday of proposing conditions on the Jewish state that are not applied to other countries seeking similar assistance.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said Secretary of State James Baker had "misstated the history of U.S. loan guarantees to foreign lands" when he told lawmakers Tuesday "the United States conditions its economic and military assistance to countries when we give them that assistance."

According to Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, "only in the case of Israel has the administration insisted on demanding a political requirement as the price of its approval" for such aid.

She said that last year, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen had received a total of \$3 billion in credits through the Export-Import Bank and that "none of these loan guarantees were tied to political conditions."

And during the past five years, she said, the United States has "unconditionally guaranteed more than \$12 billion in loans to Arab countries, irrespective of the policies of the governments involved."

At a Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing Thursday, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) pressed Baker on why the United States had placed no political conditions on that \$12 billion in loans.

"Senator, I don't know, because I don't know what guarantees you're talking about," the secretary of state replied. "I'll be glad if you give me the list of guarantees; then I'll send you an answer for the record," he added.

Meeting With Baker Aide

But it was Baker's testimony to a congressional panel last week that set off the sharp reaction from the Conference of Presidents, which represents 48 major American Jewish groups.

Baker announced that the Bush administration would only be willing to guarantee \$10 billion in loans for Israel if it agreed to halt all construction in the administered territories.

The United States would be willing to guarantee less than that amount, he said, if Israel stopped all new construction and only completed building projects already begun.

Israel plans to use the loans to help absorb up to 1 million immigrants expected to arrive by 1995. While the Bush administration has committed itself in principle to assisting in this humanitarian cause, Baker basically told lawmakers the amount of loans Israel gets depends on the amount of money it spends on West Bank settlements.

The Conference of Presidents held a closed-door meeting Thursday with one of Baker's chief aides to express dissatisfaction with that stance and with hints this week that the secretary might even toughen it with new conditions.

The meeting with Dennis Ross, director of

the State Department's policy planning staff, was described as a friendly but intense exchange.

The Jewish leaders were said to have expressed concern about the administration's willingness to reach an agreement on the loan guarantees and the implications that would have on both U.S.-Israeli relations and the Middle East peace talks.

Key members of the Senate subcommittee that controls foreign appropriations have been meeting throughout the week with Baker to try to reach agreement on a loan guarantees package. They want to achieve a deal soon so that the guarantees can be included in the foreign aid bill that Congress must adopt by March 31.

Two Sides Still Far Apart

But on Thursday, Sen. Robert Kasten (R-Wis.), the ranking Republican on the subcommittee, told reporters that the two sides are still far apart.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the subcommittee chairman, has proposed that Congress approve the guarantees now and give the Bush administration the discretion to work out the timing and terms under which they will be released.

Kasten, who favors extending the guarantees to Israel with no strings attached, is reportedly willing to give the administration that discretion but only after the first installment of guarantees for \$2 billion is released. Israel has asked that the \$10 billion in guarantees be spread over five years.

But Baker is said to be hanging tough on retaining full discretion.

Leahy and Kasten were hoping to bridge their differences with Baker before he departs this weekend for a meeting in Belgium of the North Atlantic Council.

That way, Leahy can convene his subcommittee next week to begin moving the foreign aid bill through the legislative cycle.

Kasten told reporters he expects the bill to reach the Senate floor in such a way that it can ultimately be sent to Bush by the March 31 deadline.

While Kasten was making that comment on the street outside a Senate office building, Baker suddenly appeared in front of him and gave the startled senator a big bear hug.

Kasten smiled and said they would be talking to each other soon.

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL WON'T SUBMIT SETTLEMENTS ISSUE TO WORLD COURT**By Tamar Levy**

GENEVA, March 5 (JTA) -- Israel won a rare victory in the U.N. Human Rights Commission this week when the panel decided not to submit the issue of Israeli settlements in disputed territory to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The commission, meeting here for the past six weeks, decided to postpone indefinitely a draft resolution presented in August 1991. The matter was not put to a vote, but the chairman of the commission read out a consensus declaration to that effect.

The resolution would have referred the

question of Israeli settlements to the 15-justice bench established in The Hague to hear disputes between nations.

Under international law, the disputants are required to accept the court's verdict. But there is no enforcement means besides moral pressure.

Some countries, including the United States, have used The Hague court selectively. When the case of the U.S. covert war against Nicaragua was brought before the court, the Reagan administration rejected its jurisdiction.

Nevertheless, Israel was pleased by the deferral. The matter will never arise again, Rafael Walden, deputy head of the Israeli Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

DUTCH CHRISTIANS FUND SETTLEMENT

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 5 (JTA) -- A Protestant evangelical group here created an uproar this week by announcing it is financing a temporary settlement for Jewish immigrants on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem, on what some believe is "occupied territory."

The organization, Christians for Israel, said it hopes to raise \$5 million to establish a settlement of caravans that would house immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia for about two years.

The site is between the Talpoyot and Gilo neighborhoods, bordering on the Arab village of Beit Safafa.

Group spokesman Peter Hovestadt denied the area is occupied territory. The group's television station broadcast an interview with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who corroborated the denial.

But Dutch television correspondent Eddo Rosenthal claimed last Saturday night that the settlement was indeed on occupied land, and other journalists made similar statements.

Jacob Kohnstamm, a center-left member of Parliament, submitted questions on the subject to Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek. Inasmuch as van den Broek is abroad, his reply was not expected for several days.

ZOA 'ADOPTS' WEST BANK COMMUNITY

By Larry Udelson

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America has "adopted" the West Bank community of Ariel, highlighting its support for the Israeli government's settlement policy and its opposition to the Bush administration's push for a settlement freeze.

In a resolution passed Sunday in Washington, the ZOA's National Executive Committee urged support of Ariel, a town of 10,000 in central Samaria, including business investment and the purchasing of housing.

The ZOA described its move as "consistent with its position that all Jews have a right to live, settle and to build communities without restriction in the historic land of Israel."

As one way to implement the resolution, the organization, which claims 120,000 members, is considering holding a conference in Ariel sometimes this spring, said Paul Flacks, ZOA executive vice president.

He said the proposed conference would discuss with Israelis the problem of hasbara, or how to present Israel's case to the American public.

ISRAELI JUDGE DENIES POLICE REQUEST TO HOLD ARAB SUSPECTS INCOMMUNICADO

By Gil Sedan

AFULA, Israel, March 5 (JTA) -- An Israeli magistrate declined Thursday to allow police to hold four Arab murder suspects incommunicado for two weeks while they continue their investigation into the savage killings of three sleeping Israel Defense Force recruits at a training camp last month.

The police made clear they want to prevent the suspects from consulting with lawyers until they complete their investigation, including a check for prior records of security offenses.

Their request was based on the Emergency Regulations of the British Mandate, retained by Israel, which allows security prisoners to be held up to 15 days at a time without benefit of counsel or formal charges filed against them.

The suspects have demanded consultation with their lawyers.

The magistrate, however, issued a one-day remand for two of them, Sa'id Jabarin, 40, and Yihya Agbariya, 25.

He said he would decide in 24 hours whether to grant or reject the police request.

Jabarin, the father of nine children who lives in Umm el-Fahm, Israel's largest Arab town, was jailed in the past for security crimes and freed in the 1989 prisoner exchange.

He appears to be the toughest and most savvy of the suspects, exuding confidence and leadership.

The country was electrified by the police announcement Wednesday that the four were in custody, had confessed and re-enacted the crime committed during the night of Feb. 15.

Many were stunned by disclosure that they were Arab citizens of Israel, allegedly active in the Islamic fundamentalist movement, but legally entitled to the protection of Israeli law.

Two of the suspects are from Umm el-Fahm, in north-central Israel, and two from Musheirifa village, in the Wadi Ara region, near Afula.

An angry Jewish mob of about 100 gathered outside the Afula courthouse chanting "Death to the Arabs."

As two of the suspects were brought in, the mob surged to attack them physically but was blocked by police. One policeman was struck in the head by a blow aimed at his prisoner.

The police have arrested three other Israeli Arabs believed to have been accessories to the crime. One is a woman, Zuheira Agbariya, wife of a murder suspect.

ISRAELI SOLDIER DIES IN TERRORIST HUNT

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- A search for terrorists in the Gaza Strip cost the life of an Israeli soldier Thursday. One terrorist was killed, another wounded and seven were captured in the skirmish, the Israel Defense Force announced.

The dead soldier was identified as Cpl. Baruch Ben-Shimon, 20, of Safed.

The IDF said a patrol searching for wanted terrorists came under fire when it entered a building in Bani Suheila, east of Khan Yunis. The burst was fatal to Ben-Shimon, but his killer died by return fire, which wounded a second terrorist.

Seven more suspects were taken into custody. The IDF said the gang was suspected of the recent murders of several local Arabs who allegedly cooperated with the Israeli authorities.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
ALL OF ISRAEL'S POLITICAL PARTIES
IN A RACE TO COURT IMMIGRANT VOTE
By Michele Chabin**

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- With Knesset elections little more than three months away, Israel's political parties have begun an all-out campaign to win the hearts -- and votes -- of new immigrants.

Pollsters estimate that immigrants from the republics of the former Soviet Union could decide up to eight or nine Knesset seats, assuming that the olim translate their numbers into votes on June 23.

Getting these votes is crucial, say members of every political party, because even one seat could change the Knesset's volatile balance of power.

The established parties are competing not only against one another, but also against the newly formed immigrant party, the National Movement for Democracy and Aliyah. While forecasts vary, in at least one election poll conducted in January, 31 percent of the new immigrants surveyed indicated they would support an immigrant party.

But whether they are established or new to the political scene, each party has had to start with fundamentals: locating the new immigrants.

"Russian olim tend to move around a great deal in the first year or two," said Yisrael Medad, an aide to Knesset member Geula Cohen of the pro-settlement Tehiya party.

"While they may begin life here in an absorption center or hotel, they ultimately move to a new neighborhood, or even a new city. Consequently, the demographics of many neighborhoods are in a state of flux, making it difficult to identify potential voters," Medad explained.

Each party has assigned at least a few staff people and volunteers to the task of finding the olim and reaching out to them.

"Through surveys, we've learned that many new Russian immigrants live up north, in places like Carmiel and Haifa, and we focus our energies accordingly," said David Markish, a member of the Labor Party's Department of Russian Immigration.

Explaining 'Political Map Of Israel'

Among Labor's more ambitious outreach programs is a series of two-day seminars for immigrants.

One weekend last month, for example, party staffers and Knesset members visited a Jerusalem hotel housing Russian immigrants in order to acquaint the newcomers with Labor's policies and politicians. The weekend included a meeting with Labor Knesset member Uzi Baram, various lectures and a field trip around Jerusalem.

Field trips for immigrants are also on Likud's agenda. "We take them to Judea and Samaria to show them the territories' importance to the security of the State of Israel," said party spokesman Gil Samsonov.

In its immigrant outreach program, the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement "tries to explain the political map of Israel without the use of propaganda," said Lessia Stein, who works in the party's immigrant department.

At the moment, the CRM is placing a great deal of emphasis on educating olim about their human rights, she said, "because they usually

don't recognize that they're entitled to these rights.

"We have always helped olim and are continuing to do so," she said. "For example, we have three lawyers who assist immigrants, and if some immigrant organization is working for a good cause -- such as building affordable housing -- we try to help them."

The one common denominator among the parties is their use of media campaigns. Every day, readers of Israel's Russian-language newspapers and listeners of the Russian-language radio broadcasts are bombarded with advertisements from every conceivable party.

Usually, the ads address immigrants' concerns about jobs and apartment mortgages, as well as the parties' stand on the territories issue or the Palestinians.

In addition, diligent staffers spend a great deal of time disseminating positive stories about their parties' activities, in the hope that the media will turn this "hasbara" into a feature story.

In an interesting twist, at least one party is trying to attract voters even before they step foot in Israel. The Labor Party, for one, maintains contacts with journalists in the formerly Soviet republics, and the party's ads often appear in newspapers over there.

As to how much impact all this effort will have on the voting patterns of new immigrants remains to be seen. But if the opinion of one Jerusalem ulpan class is any indication, the parties may be in for a long haul.

All the olim, most of whom are academics in their 20s and 30s, nodded in agreement as 22-year-old Yuri summed up the political posturing: "Any way you slice it, it's all a bunch of propaganda."

**DANES SAY SOMETHING IS ROTTEN
IN ASYLUM OFFER TO PALESTINIANS
By Eli Kohen**

COPENHAGEN, March 5 (JTA) -- Citizens of Denmark are protesting that something is rotten as their legislature approves asylum for 460 Palestinian refugees in Denmark.

The Folketing, or Danish parliament, decided last week that the refugees, who have lived here for the past 18 months under the protection of the Danish Church, should not be returned to Lebanon, the country from which they came.

The same consideration has not been given other refugee groups, Romanians, for example, whose applications for asylum were rejected.

The parliament's decision was contrary to the wishes of Justice Minister Hans Engel, who said he rejected "special treatment" of any group.

It drew sharp criticism from Foreign Minister Uffe Elleman-Jensen and was opposed by most of the political parties, the news media and public opinion.

They were upset by the disclosure from official sources that about 120 of the Palestinians, ostensibly seeking a haven from persecution, freely visited Lebanon or Syria last year to get married or attend family reunions.

Elleman-Jensen remarked on television that if the Palestinians were able to travel to and from those countries without problems, evidently they were not in danger.

"Something is rotten and we have to examine this activity," the minister said.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO THWART LE PEN'S NATIONAL FRONT

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, March 5 (JTA) -- The governing Socialist Party, resigned to stunning defeats in the regional elections two weeks away, has launched an all-out campaign to block advances by the extreme right-wing National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen, a party many Frenchmen consider anti-democratic and anti-Semitic.

The latest polls show the Socialists getting a meager 18 percent of the vote for local and regional council members while the National Front would receive 15.5 percent, a major improvement over its past performances.

The Socialist campaign, led by Prime Minister Edith Cresson, is aimed at diverting as many votes as possible away from Le Pen.

But the traditional right-wing Gaullist opposition, led by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, will not gain much from Socialist losses, the polls say.

The chief beneficiaries may well be the National Front and two environmentalist parties.

The appeal Le Pen's xenophobic, nativist, blatantly racist messages have for large numbers of voters is rooted in deteriorating social and economic conditions in France.

Unemployment has spread to over 10 percent of the labor force, with younger workers hardest hit. It is the highest jobless rate in two years, which the government seems helpless to reverse.

At the same time, illegal immigration from North African and black African countries continues to be an issue that French governments, past and present, avoid confronting.

It fell into the lap of Le Pen, who has gotten considerable mileage from his slogan: "3 million unemployed, 3 million immigrants."

Crime is a related problem that allows Le Pen to play on the fears of voters. For decades, immigrants have been parked in "dormitory suburbs" far from city centers, without proper schools and with limited job opportunities.

The lower middle classes have long since fled from those areas.

Rhetoric Reminiscent Of Vichy Regime

Since the onset of the recession, crime has skyrocketed, ranging from petty thefts to serious assaults. The drab suburbs have become off-limits, even for the police.

Finally, there is the issue of corruption. The mainstream French political parties have been unable to keep pace with the soaring costs of campaigning. An illegal solution has been to have bogus companies pay kickbacks to the parties at taxpayer expense.

Both the Socialists and the traditional right have been exposed by the press. Le Pen has leaped into the fray to denounce their "crimes and misdemeanors."

In tones reminiscent of the Vichy regime, the National Front campaigns for job preference for French citizens, a total halt to immigration, expulsion of all illegal immigrants and a "review" of the status of immigrants granted French citizenship since 1974.

Although such programs are contrary to French law and tradition, they have drawn tens of thousands of voters to support Le Pen.

But the Socialists, apparently unable to come up with a coherent, constructive campaign to

counter the National Front's rising popularity, have resorted to crude tactics that have been counterproductive.

National Front election rallies in the provinces are banned on grounds they are "liable to provoke public disorder." Planes bringing National Front leaders to certain cities have been prevented from landing by "anti-fascist" demonstrators staging sit-ins on the runways.

In Lyon, right-wing Mayor Michel Noir denied the National Front use of a public hall. The mayor said he preferred to "lose an election rather than his soul," meaning he would rather see a Socialist elected than compromise with the National Front.

But these tactics have only served to make martyrs of Le Pen and his associates and give them much greater public exposure than they might have had otherwise.

NEW ZEALAND PANEL FINDS BIAS USED AGAINST SABBATH OBSERVERS

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, March 5 (JTA) -- The New Zealand Human Rights Commission has upheld a discrimination complaint by two Jewish students against Victoria University in Wellington, which imposed extra fees on students who refused to take examinations on Saturdays.

The commission ordered the university to cease the practice and refund such fees paid since mid-1991, when the complaint was lodged.

"Students who wish to remain loyal to their faith should not have been placed in so invidious a position," a spokesman for the Wellington Regional Jewish Council said.

The students, residents of Wellington, the New Zealand capital, complained that the policy was "inherently discriminatory," stressful and conflicted "sharply with both the letter and spirit of the human rights legislation."

They maintained it was culturally insensitive to observant Jews and others, such as Seventh Day Adventists, who observe their Sabbath on Saturday.

The Human Rights Commission's ruling was hailed by the Jewish community for establishing the principle that all university students have a right to expect alternative examination arrangements if scheduled examinations conflict with their religious convictions.

VAN GOGH KIN FINED FOR SLURS

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 1 (JTA) -- A distant relation of the 19th century Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh was fined the equivalent of \$1,000 by an Amsterdam court last week for making anti-Semitic slurs.

Theo van Gogh, a filmmaker, columnist and satirical author, was sued for making offensive remarks about a Dutch Jewish writer, Leon de Winter. He also told sick jokes about Anne Frank and concentration camps.

But in court he said he would stick to his brand of humor in the interests of free speech. He joked about aliens seeking asylum in Holland and called the public prosecutor an "ass."

The Dutch Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism has meanwhile sued van Gogh and other publishers of the Joop Klepzeiker Agenda, which carried two anti-Semitic cartoons by the French cartoonist Vuillemin.