

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 50****BUSH WELCOMES JORDANIAN KING TO U.S.
AND PAYS RESPECTS AT ISRAELI EMBASSY**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- President Bush welcomed his old friend King Hussein back into the White House on Thursday and indicated that he has forgiven the Jordanian monarch for failing to back the U.S. effort to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

"I am just delighted to see his majesty again," Bush said after Hussein arrived in the Oval Office.

"For years, we've had strong relations with Jordan. We know there are difficulties," the president said, adding: "He is my friend, and I welcome him back here."

The two leaders last met at Bush's summer home in Maine shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. At the time, Bush expressed disappointment that Hussein would not support the U.S. effort in the Persian Gulf.

On Thursday, the two met for an hour and then had lunch at the White House.

Afterward, Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and aides drove several miles uptown to the Israeli Embassy, where Bush and the others signed a condolence book for former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who died Monday.

Upon the their return to the White House, Scowcroft was scheduled to brief reporters on the Hussein meeting.

But instead, the White House issued a statement in which it said that "the two leaders agreed on the importance of full Iraqi compliance with all (U.N.) Security Council resolutions."

"King Hussein said that Jordan would continue to do its part," the statement said.

Bush Pledges To Help Jordan

Hussein had been suspected of helping Iraq evade the Security Council-imposed sanctions allowing goods for Iraq to come through Jordanian ports.

But when, at a photo opportunity, a reporter asked Hussein which side he was on, Bush interjected with his warm words for the king.

The White House statement also said there was considerable discussion of the peace process. Earlier, Bush said that "Jordan has taken a very courageous and forthright position on the peace talks, recognizing we should talk peace."

Israeli sources have said that the talks with Jordan have shown the most progress of any of the separate negotiations Israel is carrying out with its three Arab neighbors and the Palestinians.

"The president stressed the importance of all parties continuing to participate in the Madrid process," the White House statement said.

"The two agreed to consult closely, both about ways to solve remaining procedural issues affecting both the bilateral and multilateral talks, and how best to advance the peace process more generally."

"The president told the king that the United States would continue to do what it could to help Jordan, both directly and via international financial institutions," the White House statement said.

**REPORT THAT ISRAEL IS SELLING PATRIOTS
TO CHINA CALLED ATTEMPT TO SOW DISCORD**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- Reports that Israel provided China with Patriot missiles or technology are a "provocation designed to poison relations between the United States and Israel," a leading American Jewish group has charged.

The reports appear to be "a deliberate attempt to sow discord between Washington and Jerusalem at a time when decisions are about to be made on the issue of Israel's request for loan guarantees," the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said in a statement Thursday.

The strongly worded statement was signed by Shoshana Cardin, the conference's chairman, and Malcolm Hoenlein, its executive director. They and others have been lobbying the Bush administration to approve guarantees for \$10 billion in loans Israel is seeking to help absorb up to 1 million immigrants.

The Senate Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations is expected to consider proposed loan guarantee legislation on Tuesday. But while the senators have reached tentative agreement on a bill, they have not yet won backing from the administration.

The Conference of Presidents statement came after the Israeli Defense Ministry vehemently denied a report Thursday in the Washington Times that senior administration officials were examining the possibility that Israel had transferred Patriot technology to China. The report also was picked up by television networks.

'Totally False And Baseless'

"Israel has not transferred any Patriot missile or technologies of the missile to China," Danny Naveh, media adviser to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens, said in a statement released by the Israeli Embassy here.

"Those are totally false and baseless reports," said the statement, which, unlike some denials, was unequivocal.

Bush administration officials would not confirm or deny that an investigation is in progress, insisting that they never comment on intelligence matters.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater noted the Israeli denial when asked about the reports.

"There certainly have been contacts and consultations between the countries -- between us and Israel," Fitzwater said. "That would take place on a normal basis. And there's intelligence information and conclusions that we have."

But it was not clear that he was talking specifically about information relating to the Patriots.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams and his State Department counterpart, Richard Boucher, had no comment at all. But while stressing that he was not referring to the Times story, Boucher pointed out that the Arms Export Control Act requires any country receiving U.S. arms or military services to agree not to transfer technology to a third country without U.S. permission.

Israel has two Patriot batteries, each con-

taining five launchers and 64 missiles. The Patriots were used during the Persian Gulf War to shoot down incoming Scud missiles from Iraq.

Since China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in June 1990, there have been reports that Israel has become a "back door" supplier of Western technology to the Communist country. Although China established diplomatic relations with Israel only in January, Arens visited China last year.

At the same time, China is considered the leading arms supplier to the Third World, including Arab countries such as Syria.

Arens To Meet With Cheney

The Conference of Presidents statement said "it makes no sense whatever that Israel would supply anti-Scud missiles or missile technology to China, the same country that is selling Scuds to Israel's enemies, including Syria."

Rather than supplying U.S. secrets to other countries, "Israel has shared great amounts of intelligence information with our country, to America's benefit," Cardin and Hoenlein said.

The newspaper report also came after a North Korean ship entered the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas on Monday. The ship had been watched by U.S. naval forces because of the suspicion it carried Scud-C missiles or related equipment destined for Syria.

The Navy said the North Korean ship eluded it, but pro-Israel supporters here said they believe the Navy lost the ship on orders from above.

The charge that Israel is supplying China is likely to come up Monday morning when Arens meets here with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Arens, who arrived in New York on Thursday, is in the United States on a private visit and will be in New York and Los Angeles before coming to Washington.

On Monday, he is scheduled to address the United Jewish Appeal's National Young Leadership Conference here. On Tuesday, Arens will meet with members of Congress and visit a U.S. Armed Forces base.

SYRIAN ARMS PURCHASES MENACE PEACE, ISRAEL COMPLAINS TO AMERICAN OFFICIAL **By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, March 12 (JTA) -- Syria's expanding arms purchases threaten peace and stability in the Middle East, Israel told the United States on Thursday.

The blunt warning was conveyed by Foreign Minister David Levy to John Bolton, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organizations, who is visiting Jerusalem.

Alluding to Syria's reported progress in developing chemical weapons while receiving \$2 billion a year in Western economic support, Levy charged that the country is "following the path of Iraq."

He pointedly ordered his message to Bolton released to the news media.

It was delivered against the background of reports that a North Korean cargo ship which evaded U.S. Navy surveillance was discharging a cargo of Korean-made Scud-C missiles and related equipment destined for Syria at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

Syrian President Hafez Assad denied that Korean ships were bringing missiles to Syria. "Everything you have heard is untrue," Assad

declared after being sworn in Thursday in Damascus to his fourth seven-year term as president.

Israel's concern over Syria's rapid arms buildup is also expected to be stressed by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who arrived in Washington for talks with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and other administration officials.

Levy said Syria's arms policy seemed dangerously incongruent with its participation in peace talks with Israel. He told Bolton that Syria's warning that the absence of progress in the talks could lead to war was a form of "political terror" not conducive to a negotiating atmosphere.

TV BRINGS NEWS OF SYRIAN JEWS TO RELATIVES, FRIENDS IN ISRAEL **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- Through the magic of electronics, Israelis of Syrian origin welcomed relatives and friends whom they had not seen in more than 40 years into their living rooms last week.

The segment on Israel Television's primetime evening news broadcast March 4 showed glimpses of a handful of the 4,500 Jews who live in Damascus, Aleppo and Kamishli.

Footage for the Israeli television program reportedly came from a German television camera crew working with Syrian government assistance.

The broadcast triggered intense responses, especially among Israelis who recognized their kin -- a brother, an uncle, a cousin -- all grown so much older than remembered.

"Many people telephoned me and spoke emotionally about people they have not seen in 45 years," Mickey Fainch, secretary of the Association of Syrian Jews, told the Israeli daily Ma'ariv.

"We got chills as we watched our relatives and friends who live in Syria," he said.

Many in the television audience recorded the program on their VCRs and watched the tape over and over again.

"It's shocking, it's painful. I watch it again and again and cry with my whole family," said a man of Syrian origin who withheld his name.

"Perhaps in these pictures are our own brothers, our own flesh and blood, whom we don't recognize because they have changed over the years," he said.

Viewers familiar with the synagogue in the Jewish neighborhood of Damascus said it had not changed at all, Fainch reported. "Many of us prayed there and had our weddings and Bar Mitzvahs there," he said.

The broadcast included interviews with Rabbi Avraham Hamra, small-business owners, the neighborhood butcher, a merchant, a 90-year-old man and Rosette Matar, a hospital worker.

All attested to an improved attitude toward the Jewish community by the Syrian regime.

They said there has been a lessening of restrictions on traveling abroad for medical purposes or for meetings with relatives. Matar said she was permitted to go to Switzerland for an operation.

At the elementary school, Jewish children were shown during morning inspection, reciting the slogan of the ruling Ba'ath Party: "One Arab nation with an eternal mission -- unity, liberty and socialism."

A Bar Mitzvah ceremony at the synagogue was shown, conducted in Hebrew. According to the broadcast, Jewish schoolchildren are given Bible lessons in Hebrew.

SWITZERLAND TO ADOPT U.N. CONVENTION PROHIBITING RACISM, HOLOCAUST DENIAL

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 12 (JTA) -- The Swiss government announced this week that it will adopt the provisions of the U.N. Convention Against Racism which, among other things, will prohibit denial of the Holocaust on Swiss soil.

The Swiss Jewish community has long been lobbying for such action. Groups of Holocaust revisionists from France, who face penalties under French law, have been holding meetings and news conferences in Geneva, Lausanne and other Swiss cities.

Hereafter, their activity will be outlawed in Switzerland.

Claire Luchetta, secretary-general of the Swiss chapter of LICRA, the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, expressed the organization's satisfaction with the decision.

The Convention Against Racism was adopted in 1965 and has been ratified by 129 countries. Switzerland is not a member of the United Nations.

But the government is seriously concerned over the increased manifestations of racism, especially since the economic recession last year.

As is the case in other European countries, the chief targets are foreigners, especially dark-complexioned and non-white people.

More than 70 attacks on foreigners were reported during 1991. Asylum-seekers have been harassed and one of their hostels was set on fire, in which several Turks and Tamils died.

The new law will also forbid public places to refuse service to anyone because of their race or religion.

Black people are often turned away from hotels and restaurants in small villages. Some hotels in mountain resort towns refuse to accommodate groups of religious Jews.

AUSTRIAN JEWS HAVE RESERVATIONS OVER NEW LAW ON NEO-NAZI CRIMES

By Marta Halpert

VIENNA, March 12 (JTA) -- The Jewish community is almost alone in expressing reservations over recent legislation intended to make easier the punishment of neo-Nazi offenders.

The amendments to existing laws, which swept through Parliament with considerable fanfare last month, are expected to achieve that end by reducing the severity of the penalties mandated for various kinds of neo-Nazi activity.

The minimum sentence for denying that gas chambers existed at Auschwitz can be as low as one-year imprisonment under the new law. Previously, that kind of Holocaust denial was punishable by up to five years. But convictions were rare.

The rationale behind the amendments is that stiff penalties are useless if juries shrink from imposing them. Sentences of 20 years to life were mandatory for attempting to reactivate Nazi ideology. But juries would rather free defendants than subject them to a life term.

Now the penalty for establishing, organizing or supporting a Nazi organization is 10 to 20 years. Sentences for less serious activity has been reduced to a range of one to 10 years, where previously it was five to 10.

But the objections raised by Paul Grosz, president of the Austrian Jewish community, and

Simon Wiesenthal, head of the War Crimes Documentation Center in Vienna, are not to the reduced level of punishment.

Their complaint is that the laws are unclear with respect to neo-Nazi offenses "in public."

Grosz pointed out that "most of the poisonous talk and verbal influence happens in smaller circles."

"No instrument was created to shield the youngsters in school, at the beer gardens or in smaller groups," he observed.

Of all the parties in Parliament, only the opposition Green-Alternative had the same complaint.

During the debate, the Greens favored changes in the law but criticized the amendments for not being specific enough.

Behind the changes was a genuine concern for Austria's image at a time when neo-Nazi activity has become more violent and widespread, but few offenders go to jail.

The Social Democrats and Christian Conservatives, the two major parties which govern in coalition, had sufficient votes between them to pass the amendments when they were voted on in Parliament on Feb. 26.

But the smaller factions jumped on the bandwagon, including the rightist Freedom Party, which usually exploits xenophobic and anti-Semitic sentiments in the country.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Rudolph Scholten tried to assure doubters that existing laws provide adequate protection for students against neo-Nazi propaganda.

LE PEN, RISING IN FRENCH POPULARITY, WINS SLANDER SUIT AGAINST OPPONENT

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, March 12 (JTA) -- Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front won a slander suit Thursday that is likely to boost its stature two weeks before regional elections here.

A Marseille court ordered industrialist Bernard Tapie to pay 1,500 francs (about \$300) to each of three National Front members who complained of verbal abuse.

Tapie, whose Socialist-backed candidates are battling Le Pen in southern France, had declared publicly in January that those who voted for Le Pen were "bastards."

Moreover, Tapie, who is owner of both the Adidas sporting goods chain and the Marseille soccer team, also called Le Pen "a reincarnated Nazi" who would use any means to obtain power if he does not win an election legitimately.

About 30 members of the National front sued Tapie for damages. All but three of the cases were dismissed on technicalities.

Tapie's candidates are running on the so-called Energy South ticket, against Le Pen's National Front candidates in Lyon and the region called Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur.

There have been predictions that the National Front could capture 15.5 percent of the vote, even, some say, more than 20 percent of the vote in Lyon, France's second-largest city, and 30 percent in Provence-Alpes.

It is expected to be Le Pen's best performance to date.

The ruling Socialist Party, at the nadir of popularity, is not expected to poll more than 18 percent. The moderate right-wing opposition is conceded 33 percent and the Communists 8 percent.

1 PALESTINIAN DEAD, MANY ARRESTED, AS SECURITY FORCES RAID TERROR NEST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 12 (JTA) -- One Palestinian terrorist was killed and a score of others arrested Wednesday when Israeli security forces raided a terrorist hideout in the West Bank town of Jenin.

The dead man had been trying to escape, armed, when he was shot.

The raid was part of a larger search operation that continued on Thursday.

The man killed was identified as Khaled Mohammed Fahmawi, 19, described as one of the leaders of a Black Panther terrorist squad who was high on the "most wanted" list.

Israeli authorities say Jenin has become a hotbed of Palestinian terrorism. The raids were staged in response to the murders of several Israelis in the town and its vicinity by unknown gunmen in recent months.

The latest killing of an Israeli occurred on Feb. 24. The victim was a security guard shot to death by a masked man while he guarded an oil tank truck in Jenin.

The town was placed under curfew Wednesday while security forces conducted their search.

When they broke into Fahmawi's hideout, he tried to escape through a window brandishing a pistol, security sources said. Soldiers fired twice, wounding the suspect, who died later.

BID TO REPEAL DRAFT EXEMPTION SPARKS AN UPROAR IN THE KNESSET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- Uproar rocked the Knesset on Wednesday as the opposition Labor Party and its allies attempted once again to repeal the longstanding exemption of yeshiva students from compulsory military service.

Temper exploded as haredi, or ultra-Orthodox, Knesset members screamed invectives at the opposition. Yair Levy of Shas and Moshe Gafni of Degel HaTorah were evicted from the chamber for abusive behavior.

But the outcome was preordained. Likud kept faith with its haredi coalition partners, even though the present government will cease to exist after the June 23 elections.

Likud invoked party discipline to defeat eight opposition bills intended to put some 22,000 yeshiva students into uniform like all other able-bodied Israeli youths.

Many Labor members were absent, campaigning for their party's second round of primary elections later this month.

Deputy Defense Minister Ovadia Eli defended draft deferments for yeshiva students, saying they are anchored in the "status quo" that has governed relations between the state and the religious community since Israel was founded.

Eli embarrassed some Laborites by reminding them that his was the same reply delivered in the Knesset two years ago by Yitzhak Rabin, who was defense minister at the time and is now the party leader.

Nevertheless, Michael Bar-Zohar of Labor objected. "That doesn't represent us," he declared.

Turning to the haredi benches, Bar-Zohar demanded, "What are we asking of you, for God's sake? To serve your country! To be like us! For that we get called Nazis and anti-Semites?"

ISRAEL'S DISASTROUS WINTER HOWLS OUT WITH FIERCE WIND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- Israel's worst winter of the century is bowing out with a final punch that has knocked down power lines and caused severe wind and flood damage all over the country this week, especially in the north.

Instead of the rain, snow and hail that struck in a succession of storms beginning in December, Israel has been battered since Tuesday by the Sharkiya, a cold, dry easterly wind that attains hurricane force.

The Sharkiya usually lasts from two to 10 days.

The most serious damage was suffered by Tiberias and other communities on the shores of Lake Kinneret, where 60-mph winds whipped up 6-foot waves.

They swept into lakeside restaurants and cafes and flooded the scenic road that parallels the shore.

They also produced at least one fish story.

Mulla Amsalem, a sixth-generation resident of Tiberias who owns a hacienda-style hotel and restaurant on Lake Kinneret, claimed the waves crashed into his hostelry carrying fish with them.

"We didn't even have to go to the market to buy fresh fish for our menu. They delivered themselves to our kitchen floor," Amsalem said.

Another suspiciously tall story originated with a Tiberias fisherman who said he was once a deep-water merchant seaman and claimed he saw 30-foot waves on the harp-shaped lake -- a height only seldom reached on the North Atlantic.

ISRAEL-CHINA AIRLINE PLANS ON TRACK, BUT JUNE 1 STARTUP CALLED PREMATURE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- El Al is confident that its projected service to China will do well. But reports that direct flights from Tel Aviv to Beijing will start on June 1 are "premature," the airline said Thursday.

Agreements in principle have been reached with China Air, the Chinese air carrier, and with the Chinese Civil Aviation Authority, but "many details still have to be worked out" in the course of ongoing negotiations, El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said.

They include security arrangements for Israeli aircraft and passengers at Beijing airport and maintenance facilities in China.

"We have a delegation leaving for Beijing next week to handle operational problems, and a Chinese delegation is due in Israel some time next month," Kleiman said.

China and Israel agreed on Jan. 24 to establish full diplomatic relations, which opened the way for aviation agreements.

Kleiman said the service to Beijing would begin with a weekly charter flight operated by an El Al Boeing 767 plane. Weekly flights to Tel Aviv by China Air would follow at a date still undecided.

"We believe there will be a considerable demand for such flights," Kleiman said, noting that Israelis are adventurous tourists, always seeking new, exotic places to visit.

The route from Tel Aviv to Beijing will take the El Al planes over the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Flight time will be only 10 hours.