



STATE DEPT. CLEARS ISRAEL ON PATRIOTS, BUT ACCUSES IT OF OTHER ARMS TRANSFERS
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA) -- The Bush administration has cleared Israel of charges that it illegally provided China with U.S. technology from the Patriot anti-missile system, which was used during the Persian Gulf War to deflect Iraqi Scuds.

But at the same time, the State Department's inspector general accused the Jewish state of engaging in "unauthorized transfers" involving other "U.S. items and technology."

The charges appear to be among the strongest criticism ever leveled at Israel regarding its arms dealings with other nations, and they are likely to exacerbate the already severe tensions between Washington and Jerusalem.

Pro-Israel activists had expected the administration to clear Israel on the Patriot matter following the visit last week to Israel of a U.S. inspection team.

The team, led by Sinclair Martel, deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, was sent to Israel after the charges surfaced in The Washington Times and The Wall Street Journal three weeks ago.

Israel categorically denied the charges from the outset, and in Israel, Deputy Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated Thursday that there was "not a speck of truth in the allegations."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Thursday that the U.S. government was giving Israel "a clean bill of health on the Patriot issue."

Lawmaker Urges An Apology

But that was not good enough for one pro-Israel lawmaker.

Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) called on President Bush to apologize to Israel. He also said the Federal Bureau of Investigation should determine who in the U.S. government leaked the charges to the press.

Tutwiler said the Israeli government has not submitted a formal request for an apology. And Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday that it was the anonymous leaker who owed both the U.S. and Israeli governments an apology.

The broader charges on Israeli arms transfers were contained in a report released Wednesday by the State Department's inspector general, Sherman Funk.

Its focus was whether the department's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs had adequately ensured that U.S. military technology provided to Israel and other countries was not being transferred to other countries.

The report charged that the bureau had failed to inform Congress and other State Department officials that it had received information, as early as 1983, that "a major recipient of U.S. military equipment and technology" had engaged in a "systematic and growing pattern of unauthorized transfers."

The 69-page version of the report released to the public did not name Israel directly. But pro-Israel activists said the "major recipient" was clearly a reference to Israel, which was named in

the classified sections of the report released only to members of Congress.

Funk recommended that the State Department determine "to the extent possible, the value of those unauthorized transfers" and "where a legal basis for recoupment exists, obtain payment either directly or through future offsets for the appropriate amounts."

He also urged that any future export license approvals for Israel be contingent on being able to conduct "comprehensive end-use checks."

Available At Hardware Stores

Funk, who is a former president of a synagogue in Bethesda, Md., is independent of the State Department's bureaucracy. But he does not have the authority to order the changes.

Department spokeswoman Tutwiler said Baker would review the report and decide whether to act on Funk's recommendations.

A congressional source familiar with a classified intelligence briefing given Wednesday to members of the House of Representatives said lawmakers felt that Funk did not provide "corroborating evidence" to support allegations of illegal Israeli transfers.

The source said that any unauthorized Israeli sales of U.S. technology appeared to amount to "non-tactical" U.S.-made items, such as "screws, nuts and bolts."

Menachem Maron, a former director general of Israel's Defense Ministry, acknowledged instances where Israel used American "off-the-shelf" electronic components in some of the equipment it designed and produced.

Those components are available at most hardware stores and electronic shops, he said.

But "when we told the Americans of such use and requested export licenses and were refused, we simply replaced the American items with our own local production," he added.

Bruce Williams, a U.S. military attache in Israel from 1975 to 1980, said the jury is still out on the alleged Israeli violations and that "from the point of view of the professional military relationship" between the two countries, "I don't feel that it's going to be a long-term harmful thing. I think it can be resolved."

Williams, a retired colonel who sits on the board of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, questioned why "if this indeed happened as alleged did the State Department choose, if they knew about it, to in effect ignore it?"

'A Cloud Of Innuendo'

He said that if such violations took place as part of a "conscious decision from a policy point of view, this wouldn't be the first time we would have allowed Israel to sell something that we wouldn't sell ourselves."

Williams cited the Israeli sales to Iran of Hawk and TOW missiles during the Reagan administration, in what became known as the Iran-Contra affair.

Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.), a staunchly pro-Israel lawmaker, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "It wouldn't surprise me at all if Israel thought they had the green light from the State Department."

That would explain why Israel "didn't make

any attempt to cover it up when they thought they had approval from the State Department," he said.

Smith said he is "a little hesitant" to say the inspector general's report "is complete hogwash," because Funk is a "very decent man" who has unveiled numerous "messes" in the internal workings of the State Department.

"But I have to question, as I think most people ought to, anything that comes out of the State Department these days with reference to criticism of Israel," he said.

"Given the track record of this administration, you can't be sure that all of what comes out is legitimate and accurate and isn't for political purposes only."

In Israel, Deputy Minister Netanyahu criticized the United States for creating "a cloud of innuendo" over Israel. That cloud "is supposed to jeopardize Israel's credibility and the entire defense establishment's credibility in the eyes of the American government," he charged.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

BROWN GETS CHILLY RECEPTION FROM JEWS AFTER TAPPING JACKSON AS RUNNING MATE

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- Hisses and hecklers greeted Democratic presidential candidate Jerry Brown on Thursday when he defended his choice of Jesse Jackson as a potential running mate during his first address to a Jewish audience here in advance of Tuesday's New York state primary.

Speaking at a forum sponsored by the local Jewish Community Relations Council, Brown said he picked the African-American politician -- who has not yet agreed -- because the nation's "No. 1 priority must be healing the divisions between black and white."

"You insult the Jewish community!" interjected state Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

While Hikind, a Brooklyn Democrat who identifies as a supporter of the late Meir Kahane, was eventually ejected from the room, the hisses from members of the audience indicated he was not the only one who could not forgive Jackson.

Jackson apologized to Jews in 1984 after referring to New York as "Hymietown."

The controversy was resurrected during the particularly bitter 1988 New York primary, when then-Mayor Ed Koch, a supporter of Sen. Albert Gore, said Jews "had to be crazy" to vote for Jackson, who also was running for president.

These remarks were resurrected this week in a boxed, front-page article in Brooklyn's Jewish Press tabloid.

During Brown's tumultuous appearance before the JCRC audience, veteran Zionist leader Charlotte Jacobson tried to clarify that the American Jewish community is "not opposed to a black vice president," but thinks that Jackson is not a wise choice. Her remarks received sustained applause.

But Brown defended his choice of Jackson, saying that the leader of the African-American community needed to be included, representing 25 percent of the voters.

"The Jewish community and the African-American community are the pillars of the Democratic Party," he said. "The party is being ripped apart, the way the country is."

"This rift in the room -- which I could have predicted -- that is the barrier," he said.

The anti-Jackson outbursts dismayed activists in the room supporting the candidacy of Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton. They fear that a flare-up now in black-Jewish tensions could solidify black voters behind Brown -- and cripple Clinton in this crucial primary.

'Entering A Pre-Weimar Situation'

Hikind "just destroyed the coalition," commented David Luchins, an aide to Sen. Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) who is also active in Orthodox Jewish affairs.

Suggesting that the Republicans might be orchestrating dirty tricks, Luchins charged that "CREEP is back, and Hikind carries their water," referring to Richard Nixon's Committee to Re-elect the President, notorious for its Watergate dirty tricks.

Unlike Clinton, who on Tuesday listened patiently as members of a larger JCRC audience lectured him in defense of the Israeli government's settlement policy, Brown hammered his point home to the less-than-receptive audience.

"Look folks, we are facing a potential unraveling of the social fabric," he said.

He said the result of conditions in the black community -- where he said the leading cause of death of children under 4 is AIDS -- is "hatred, bigotry and, yes, rising anti-Semitism. We have got to deal with it."

He called for a commitment to social justice. "We're entering a pre-Weimar situation," he said, referring to the precarious German democratic regime that brought the Nazis to power.

Brown apologized for remarks at an earlier Wall Street appearance, which one questioner criticized as "classic anti-Semitism."

In those remarks, Brown assailed Clinton's financial backing, saying he wanted to "drive the money-changers from the Temple." He then began reading from a list of investment bankers backing Clinton -- and many of the names were Jewish.

"I want to disassociate myself from any implications," he said. "The money comes from people of all backgrounds."

He said he had stopped reading the list when he realized its implication.

Many Uncomfortable With Clinton

Brown also said that his proposed plans to reform the American political system would not hurt the Jewish community's political efforts for Israel, even though it would eliminate the network of political action committees the community has welded in recent years.

Just because the means would be eliminated does not mean the goal would suffer, he said.

Rabbi Israel Miller, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Brown does not have a chance, "certainly not in the organized Jewish community.

"I think the Jesse Jackson issue is an albatross," he said.

But an official at one Jewish organization, who asked not to be identified, said that while she supports Clinton, she believes Brown will get votes in the Jewish community.

"Nobody feels comfortable with Clinton. They're concerned he isn't truly that strongly in favor of Israel," she said. Instead, she said, many members of her Modern Orthodox community plan to vote for Brown, in the hope of sending the choice of Democratic nominee to a brokered convention this summer.

**BAKER DENIES HURTING PEACE TALKS
BY PUTTING PRESSURE ON JERUSALEM**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA) -- Secretary of State James Baker has vehemently denied a charge by Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton that the Bush administration's criticism of Israel is hurting the Middle East peace process.

The peace process itself was constructed "basically on Israel's terms," Baker maintained in an appearance Wednesday night on public television's "MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour."

"No one has walked away from the table," Baker said. "We still have high hopes for a productive result."

The secretary was replying to charges made earlier on the program by Clinton that since the end of the Persian Gulf War, the Bush administration has done nothing but criticize Israel for building settlements in the administered territories.

Clinton, who is governor of Arkansas, praised the administration for bringing about the Arab-Israeli peace talks. But ever since then, he added, "the only public statements we have made have been to condemn Israel, put more pressure on Israel, try to put the screws on Israel."

On the other hand, Clinton said, there was no U.S. criticism of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, Arab non-recognition of Israel and continued militarization in the Middle East.

The Democratic candidate also pointed out that Bush administration has refused to guarantee \$10 billion in loans for Israel unless it ends settlement activity, but has attached no conditions on loan guarantees extended to some 60 other countries, including Iraq.

Clinton Also Opposed to Settlements

Clinton indicated that while he supports the U.S. opposition to Israeli settlements, now that the peace process is under way, this issue should be left for negotiations.

Baker denied that the administration is asking Israel to give up one of its negotiating cards by stopping settlement activity.

"We are saying please refrain from taking unilateral actions that prevent negotiations over the status of the territories," he said.

The secretary rejected Clinton's suggestion that the administration has been taking the side of the Arabs in the negotiations.

"We have told every Arab government," as well as the Palestinians, that "we will not deliver Israel," he said. "We couldn't if we wanted to, and we wouldn't if we could."

Baker maintained that the United States and Israel continue to be strong allies despite their differences over the settlements.

"The fundamentals of our relationship with Israel are just as solid, rock solid, as they have always been," Baker said.

"We are strong allies of Israel because we share values, and that hasn't changed, because we have an unyielding commitment to Israel's security, and that hasn't changed, because we cooperate strategically," Baker said.

He added that he believes the strategic relationship is still important, despite the argument made by some that it has lost its value with the end of the Cold War.

Baker also vehemently denied a charge made by former New York Mayor Ed Koch that he had used an obscenity in referring to American Jews.

**HAVING SELECTED KNESSET SLATE,
LABOR DISCUSSES CABINET POSTS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- Israel's Labor Party, having selected its slate for the June 23 elections, is now trying to show the country that it is prepared to take over the task of governing.

Party leader Yitzhak Rabin plans to announce next week his choices for Cabinet positions, should he become prime minister. He does not intend to introduce a shadow Cabinet at this time, but will name those he considers fit for ministerial posts, Labor sources said.

Rabin is expected to consult first with Shimon Peres and Yisrael Kessar, the Laborites he defeated in the contest for party leadership last month.

Peres won the No. 2 spot on Labor's list in the party primary election Tuesday. Kessar was No. 8. But as secretary-general of the Histadrut labor federation, he wields considerable influence in the party.

While Labor may benefit from the image that it has a government in place, the early announcement of Cabinet selections could touch off an internal struggle which the party has been able to avoid until now, political analysts said.

The campaign is shaping up as a bitter one and will be fought on ideological grounds if Likud has its way.

A preview was offered Thursday by Knesset member Benny Begin, a Likud activist and son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

He charged in a radio interview that the Labor slate was made up of people prepared to hand over parts of "Eretz Yisrael" to the Arabs, to create a Palestinian state.

Rabin A 'Prisoner' Of Doves?

Moshe Katsav, minister of transport in the outgoing Likud government, said the more centrist Rabin has become the "prisoner" of a covey of doves.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he is not interested in "what happened in other parties." He does not think the Labor list is a threat to Likud.

The Cinderella story of the Labor primaries was the unexpected rise of young Avraham Burg to the No. 3 spot on the party's list, up from 21 in Labor's outgoing Knesset delegation.

Burg deferred, however, to older party hands. He said Thursday that he did not expect to be admitted immediately into the leadership circles, nor did he think Rabin should have invited him for high-level consultations in place of Kessar.

Although Orthodox, Burg, son of veteran National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg, is a staunch liberal.

He raised a storm at the Labor Party convention in February by proposing a platform amendment that would have amounted to the separation of state and religion.

Observant members of the Labor Party threatened to defect and the leadership, headed then by Peres, squelched the move.

Although the elder Burg, long retired from active politics, does not share many of his son's views, he is proud of his swift rise.

"I don't remember any previous case of such a dramatic rise to the top in the history of Israel," he said in a telephone conference call from Frankfurt, Germany, where he is visiting.

PARTIES WOOING JEWISH VOTERS AS BRITISH ELECTION APPROACHES

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, April 2 (JTA) -- With Tories and Laborites racing neck-and-neck toward their April 9 election showdown, and the third-party Liberal Democrats in hot pursuit, Britain's 200,000 Jewish voters are being ardently wooed, although none of the parties will admit it.

A spokesman at the Conservatives' Central Office insisted this week that the party is not specifically targeting Jews.

Labor, which has an ethnic minorities unit, claimed its energies are directed at wider targets.

The Liberal Democrats said that as a matter of policy, they do not target any particular community.

But the disclaimers were contradicted by the facts.

In districts where the Jewish vote could make a difference, candidates were busy this week meeting rabbis, addressing synagogue members and vowing undying affection for Israel.

In Westminster North, incumbent Tory Member of Parliament Sir John Wheeler searched out homes with a mezuzah on the doorpost to deposit electioneering leaflets announcing that "John Wheeler says stop anti-Semitism."

His main opponent, Labor's Jennifer Edwards, said she is not targeting Jews so directly but agreed their vote could not be ignored.

Answers Jewish Questionnaires

Edwards said she had taken care to reply to questionnaires sent out by Jewish organizations, had met with Jewish pensioners and took careful note of advice from Labor headquarters about how to deal with such subjects as Israel and shechitah, or kosher slaughter.

But Phil Wardle, manager of Liberal Democrat Justin Wigoder, the only Jewish candidate in the district, admitted the community is an obvious target.

His party lacks the resources to mount a special drive, Wardle said. But it concentrated on the ward where Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks lives, where it has its biggest support.

Hertsmere in Hertfordshire, the constituency with the fastest-growing Jewish population, is the scene of an intense courtship by politicians of all parties.

Labor candidate David Souter said he "enjoyed meeting the leadership of the United Synagogue" in the area, and he was booked to attend a public meeting arranged by the local Reform congregation.

Conservative James Clappison said he is "very conscious" of the growing Jewish community he hopes to inherit from retiring Cecil Parkinson.

His campaign manager, Peggy Lambourne, ignored the Conservatives' diffidence on the subject. "This is the first time we have specifically geared our campaign to take account of the Jewish electorate, which in this area is about 10 percent," she said.

"We are careful not to canvass in Jewish areas on Friday night or Saturday," Lambourne added.

Zerbanoo Gifford, the Liberal Democrat running in the district, complained that her campaign has been damaged by false rumors that she supports the Palestine Liberation Organization.

HUNGARIAN JEWS ARE DISTURBED BY FASCIST, REVISIONIST PAPERS

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, April 2 (JTA) -- Hungarian Jews are increasingly disturbed by the failure to ban two openly fascist newspapers, by Holocaust revisionism in a mainstream daily and the anti-Semitic overtones in recent remarks by a leading member of Parliament.

Zsolt Zetenyi, who represents the governing Hungarian Democratic Forum and chairs the Parliament's Human Rights Committee, complained that victims of Nazism still receive justice because there is no statute of limitations on war crimes but victims of more recent Communist brutality do not because the statute exists.

Zetenyi was interviewed on Hungarian radio shortly after he met with a representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

He questioned whether international law, which is often the basis for bringing Nazi war criminals to justice, takes precedence over national law.

His implication was that international law favors Jews while other Hungarian citizens are not so protected.

"It is not fair that the killer of a Jew shot into the River Danube during the Holocaust can be punished even nowadays, while the killer of a person in 1956 (during the anti-Communist uprising) in Budapest cannot be punished" under Hungarian law, Zetenyi said.

He also seemed to imply that Jews were somehow implicated in Communist crimes because many Jews became Communists after the war in reaction to Nazism.

Wiesenthal Center Delegation Due Soon

Zetenyi mentioned that a delegation from the Wiesenthal Center would visit Budapest soon to investigate justice for Jews in Hungary.

Another parliamentary leader of the governing party, Imre Konya, has defended the publication and sale even in the halls of Parliament of the fascist newspaper Hunnia, which is sold on the streets with a neo-Nazi newspaper, Saint Crown.

Although of limited circulation, both publications are anti-Semitic. Yet no legal action has been taken to ban them.

Meanwhile, the pro-government newspaper Uj Magyarorszag (New Hungary) revised sharply downward the number of Jews who perished in the Holocaust and claimed most were victims of Soviet Communists, not Nazis.

In an article published March 3, the newspaper said 300,000 Jews were killed by the Nazis during World War II.

Altogether, 1.2 million Jews were killed, "not only by the German Nazis but mainly by the Soviets during the war," the newspaper said.

The article referred to a book called "The Great Tragedy," published in Australia by an unknown writer, Viktor Padyanyi, as the source of its claim that the figure of 6 million Jewish dead was an exaggeration.

On Feb. 3, the daily Magyar Nemzet (Hungarian Nation) claimed that forced-labor service in military units during World War II was devised to give Jews a better chance to survive.

The spate of anti-Semitic articles in Budapest was protested by the leadership of the Viennese and Austrian Jewish communities before the Hungarian Jewish leadership condemned them.