

**ANTI-JEWISH FEELINGS STRONGER
IN REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER USSR**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish feeling in the republics of the former Soviet Union has increased over the past 18 months, according to a survey sponsored by the American Jewish Committee.

The findings of the survey on attitudes toward Jews, other groups and the Middle East conflict were made public Thursday simultaneously in Moscow and New York.

Conducted in March and April by the Russian Center for Public Opinion and Market Research, the survey found attitudes toward Jews vary dramatically from one republic to another.

In Ukraine and Moldova, attitudes toward Jews were found to have improved significantly since the AJCommittee conducted a similar survey in October 1990. But in the Moslem republics of Central Asia, attitudes toward Jews have become a great deal more negative since the 1990 poll.

For the survey, pollsters conducted face-to-face interviews with 3,965 respondents in the three Baltic nations -- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania -- and in seven of the 11 nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The results have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 to 5 percentage points.

Respondents in the three Moslem republics surveyed -- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan -- held the most anti-Jewish views.

Forty-two percent of Azerbaijanis surveyed said they agree, completely or in part, with the statement that "now and in the past Jews have had too much influence on world events."

At the other end of the spectrum, 12 percent of Moldovans surveyed agreed with that statement.

Jews 'Seen As Demonic'

When asked if "Jews must answer for killing Christ," 30 percent of those in Uzbekistan agreed, compared to 6 percent of Estonians.

Since a majority of Uzbeks are Moslem, they probably agreed that Jews must answer for killing Christ not for theological reasons, but because "this is another way to ascribe negative qualities to Jews," said David Harris, executive vice president of AJCommittee.

"If one adopts a world vision in which Jews are seen as demonic, one easily attaches as many negative traits as possible," he said.

Nearly half of the respondents in Uzbekistan said that if Jews leave for other countries, they should not be allowed to return. By contrast, only 17 percent of Lithuanians felt this way.

A 56 percent majority of Uzbeks said they would react negatively if Jewish parties or social-political organizations functioned in their republic, and 47 percent of respondents in Kazakhstan felt similarly. The smallest negative response, 19 percent, was registered in Estonia.

Respondents in the Moslem republics were also most negative about having a Jew as an immediate superior at work. Forty-six percent of respondents in Uzbekistan and 41 percent in Kazakhstan said they would not like to have a

Jewish supervisor, while 72 percent of those polled in Moldova said they would have nothing against being supervised by a Jew.

More than one-quarter of Uzbeks said that all Jews should be deported to Birobidjan, the autonomous region that Josef Stalin designated for Jews in the remote, far-eastern part of the former Soviet Union. Only 6 percent of Moldovans and 7 percent of Estonians agreed.

Negative Attitudes In Belarus

Predictably, perhaps, a high level of support for Arab nations and the Palestinians was discovered in the Moslem republics.

But in nine of the 10 states surveyed -- all but Estonia -- respondents expressed more sympathy for Arabs than for Israel.

"What's happening in the Islamic republics is a more politicized anti-Semitism," said Harris.

"As they assert their independence and seek to establish their own national identity as sovereign nations, to the extent that religious fundamentalism and anti-Western ideology become appealing, they will also take on the trappings of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment," he said.

"In 1990, the attitudinal problems were not nearly as acute," he pointed out.

Particularly negative attitudes were also found in Belarus, formerly known as Byelorussia or White Russia.

More than half of Belarusians (54 percent) agreed that "Jews greatly overstate their misfortunes, sufferings and sacrifices."

Belarusians again, more than respondents in any other republic, agreed that "Jews are mainly responsible for the disasters of the Revolution and the mass repressions of the Soviet era."

While 25 percent of those in Belarus supported that statement, only 2 percent of Estonians did so.

Fifteen percent of Belarusians say that Jews have too much influence. And when asked if there are specific peoples whose behavior provokes violence, 11 percent of respondents in Belarus cited Jews. In both cases, the responses were more negative than in any other republic.

It is not yet clear why people in Belarus, which shares borders with Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, have such negative opinions of Jews.

"We are still trying to understand the phenomenon there," said Harris.

**SENATE CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT
TO BACK AN UNDIVIDED JERUSALEM**By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA) -- The Senate this week passed a resolution calling on the Bush administration to honor the 25th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, winning praise from Jewish organizations.

The non-binding measure, introduced by Sens. Bob Packwood, (R-Ore.), and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, (D-N.Y.), asked the administration to pledge its support for the principle that the city should remain undivided.

Only a few weeks ago, President Bush told Jerusalem's mayor, Teddy Kollek, "Jerusalem must

never again be a divided city (but) its final status should be decided by negotiations."

The measure passed on Wednesday also condemned the recent adoption of two resolutions by the United Nations Security Council, with U.S. endorsement, which designated Jerusalem as occupied Palestinian territory.

The U.N. resolutions "raised understandable concern in Israel that Jerusalem might one day be redivided and access to religious sites in Jerusalem denied," the Senate measure said.

"Such concerns inhibit and complicate the search for a lasting peace in the Middle East," it said.

Letter On Resolution 194

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations hailed the resolution, which also has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

"The Senate resolution is a clear and cogent call on the administration to publicly declare its recognition that Jerusalem must never again be divided and that it is not 'occupied Palestinian territory,'" said Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the conference.

"U.S. endorsement of such language in U.N. resolutions disservices the cause of peace, encourages Arab dreams of regaining Jerusalem, raises understandable fears in Israel and undermines confidence in our country's Middle East policy," Cardin said.

The Senate action on Jerusalem comes just weeks after the State Department unnerved Israel and pro-Israel Americans when its spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, declared U.S. support for U.N. Resolution 194. That resolution, passed during Israel's 1948 War of Independence, calls for the repatriation of Palestinians to Israel and for the internationalization of Jerusalem.

State Department officials later backtracked, saying the issues should be resolved through direct negotiations by the parties involved.

That equivocation did not satisfy Sens. Joseph Lieberman, (D-Conn.), and Slade Gorton, (R-Wash.) They are circulating a letter about it to their Senate colleagues which they plan to send to Secretary of State James Baker within the next 10 days, said a senior Lieberman staffer.

The letter calls on the administration "to clear up the misperceptions" generated by the remarks "by stating forthrightly the rejection of both controversial provisions," said the staffer, who refused to release the letter.

ACTIVISTS ASK ISRAEL HIGH COURT TO ALLOW JERUSALEM PEACE MARCH

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) -- A group of Israeli and foreign peace activists have asked the High Court of Justice for a declaration allowing them to conduct a peace march across Jerusalem into the Old City.

They claimed the Jerusalem district police command originally approved the march but later revoked its permit.

More than 100 members of the group, most of them foreign visitors, were detained Sunday for disobeying police orders to disperse after they were barred from marching into the West Bank.

They said after release from jail Tuesday that they were still determined to march through the West Bank despite warnings to desist from illegal activities.

The group, which includes nationals of some 20 countries, was brought to Israel by the Hadash Communist Party, allegedly with funds provided by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

They joined about 200 Israeli peace advocates who submitted the petition to the High Court on Wednesday.

The activists aroused the ire of Israeli right-wingers who demanded their expulsion. But Israeli officials decided against that for fear of international repercussions.

The Interior Ministry announced nevertheless that it would advance the expiration date of the visas of anyone who disobeyed the law. Staying in Israel beyond the term of their visas would subject them to automatic expulsion.

INQUIRY INTO PLO CHIEF'S MURDER SEEMS TO POINT TO ABU NIDAL GANG

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, June 11 (JTA) -- The investigation into the murder of a top Palestinian security official here early Monday seems to point to the notorious Abu Nidal group as the culprit, French police sources say.

They do not altogether rule out the possibility that Israel's secret service, Mossad, was involved. But they believe it is more likely that 44-year-old Atef Bseisu, the Palestine Liberation Organization's deputy security chief, was eliminated because he had a personal score to settle with Abu Nidal.

The police are taking very seriously a letter received Tuesday by a French news wire service in Tunis. It said the Abu Nidal group, known formally as the Fatah Revolutionary Council, had killed "the traitor Bseisu because he had given European secret services precise information on the whereabouts of various Palestinian organizations and their leaders," which fell into the hands of Mossad.

An Abu Nidal spokesman in Beirut later denied knowledge of the killing. But the police here tend to believe the letter is genuine.

Sources close to the French secret service say it is common knowledge that Bseisu was about to take reprisals against the Abu Nidal group, which was responsible for the assassination of the PLO's No. 2 man, Saleh Khalaf, known as Abu Iyyad, in Tunis in 1991.

Abu Nidal has been a bitter foe of PLO chief Yasir Arafat, and his hit men have murdered several PLO officials in European capitals over the years.

On the other hand, rumors have floated that Abu Nidal has a relationship with Mossad, which targeted Bseisu as one of the planners of the massacre of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich in 1972.

French sources dismissed as "ridiculous" allegations that the French secret service passed information to Mossad about Bseisu. "Why on earth would we have had him killed here in Paris?" one source asked, adding, "We had very good relations with him."

Bseisu was in fact in Paris for a meeting with French security officials, which he did not live to keep.

As for Abu Nidal, the French are said to have had an understanding with him since the mid-1980s that France was off-limits for his assassinations. Bseisu's murder may have signaled an end to the unwritten agreement, which the French authorities deny exists.

SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK LEADER SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Violence is "endemic" to South Africa and blame for it can be no more neatly apportioned than can blame for violence in Israel and Lebanon, Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi told Jewish organizational leaders this week.

Buthelezi was deflecting charges that the Inkatha Freedom Party he heads bears responsibility for much of the bitter violence which has killed thousands of blacks in South Africa's impoverished townships.

The accusation was driven home by two dozen protesters marching outside the offices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, bearing placards saying "Stop the Killing" and "Apartheid Mercenary."

Buthelezi, who recently visited Israel, told the American Jewish leaders that his country and Israel both need economic growth to fulfill their people's needs and aspirations.

"Now that Israel has lifted sanctions against South Africa, relations between our two countries have taken a new direction -- that of increased cooperation. The Inkatha Freedom Party is looking to extend this cooperation to Jewish communities around the world," Buthelezi said.

The Inkatha Freedom Party claims 2 million members and the right to be seen as a major force -- along with the African National Congress and the reform-minded white minority government of F.W. de Klerk -- in the constitutional process to design a new, non-racial South Africa.

The leader of South Africa's 6 million-member Zulu community, Buthelezi has long been a controversial figure among anti-apartheid activists for his opposition to international sanctions against his country, a position at odds with that of the ANC.

Unlike ANC leader Nelson Mandela, Buthelezi already wields political power -- harshly, charge critics -- as chief minister of the legislative assembly of KwaZulu, the Zulu homeland.

Meeting Seen As Endorsement

Buthelezi told the 45 Jewish organizational leaders at Tuesday's meeting that "it takes two to tango," referring to the ANC.

Many observers, however, say the violence among blacks reflects collusion between the South African security forces and Inkatha aimed at disabling the ANC.

Buthelezi equated criticism of his group to that directed at Israel for Middle East violence.

"Who is responsible for violence in Israel or Lebanon? You know people blame Israel for the violence," he said.

"You know about violence," he continued. "There is retaliatory violence, then there is feud violence; there is pre-emptive violence as well. It is not orchestrated by me. I have not sat down to plot the death of any individual."

He accused the ANC of refusing to disarm and maintaining caches of weapons, and described the deaths of many Inkatha supporters at the hands of the ANC.

His Jewish audience appeared to receive Buthelezi's arguments with respectful skepticism. The racially mixed group of demonstrators outside, however, accused the Jewish organizational leaders of having endorsed Buthelezi.

"By sponsoring Buthelezi, the conference

loses its thin credibility on this issue (of South Africa) and once again demonstrates how totally out of touch it is with the sentiments of most American Jews on critical social issues," charged a statement issued by New Jewish Agenda and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the conference, said Buthelezi had asked to speak before the group. Expressing amazement at how the issue had been blown out of proportion, Hoenlein said activists had called to complain that the conference had underwritten Buthelezi's trip.

'Nothing For Us To Feel Guilty About'

In fact, said Hoenlein, not only was that false, but Buthelezi's itinerary for his weeklong U.S. visit included meetings with the Black Congressional Caucus and an appearance on Michael Jackson's radio show.

In the past, representatives of the Conference of Presidents' constituent organizations have met with Mandela, and invitations have been extended to other ANC leaders.

"There's nothing for us to feel guilty about," said Kenneth Jacobson, director of international affairs for the Anti-Defamation League. "He's a man with a point of view, and that should be heard."

In his remarks, Buthelezi emphasized his party's free-market approach, which contrasts to the communism advocated for decades by the rival ANC.

"Poverty will always be the greatest enemy of democracy," he said, calling for renewed investment in South Africa, "now suffering from sanctions and years of centralism."

In a gesture typical of political figures speaking at the Conference of Presidents podium, Buthelezi opened his address by praising Israel and lauding last year's victory over Iraq.

But his most sharply targeted political point, however, may have been in the subsequent discussion of political violence. Political violence, he said, had been introduced as an ideology by the ANC and the Organization of African Unity.

"I am not a friend of (Libyan leader Moammar) Gadhafi or (Palestine Liberation Organization leader) Yasir Arafat," he said. "All these are friends of the ANC."

GERMAN DELEGATION TO VISIT ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, June 11 (JTA) -- A visit to Israel by a parliamentary delegation from the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, which had been in doubt, will take place in September as scheduled, the chairperson of the legislative body told reporters this week.

The problems which had surrounded the visit have been resolved, said Ute Erdsiek-Rave.

The Israeli Embassy in Bonn had informed the Parliament, which meets in the port city of Kiel, that members of the extreme right-wing German People's Union (DVU) would not be welcome in Israel. After several days of hesitation and embarrassing talk of canceling the trip, the DVU members dropped out of the delegation.

The DVU is headed by publisher Gerhard Frey, widely regarded as a neo-Nazi and Holocaust denier who has campaigned for years against the "Auschwitz lies."

It polled 6.3 percent of the vote in the April 5 regional elections, to become the third-largest party in the north German state.

EVANGELICALS GATHER, VOICE CONCERN ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, June 11 (JTA) -- President Bush may well brush off the fact that his policies toward Israel have lost him whatever support he had among Jewish voters. But the same issue could also cost him votes among this country's 50 million evangelical Christians.

"We have supported the president strongly in the past, but there has been a tremendous disillusion about his policy on Israel," said Ed Steele, an influential producer of religious television programs.

"If we don't bring about a change in this policy, our nation could step out from under the protection of God," he said, adding: "This has happened to past empires, which were judged by God, from the Babylonians to the British."

Steele, one of the founders earlier this year of the Christian Evangelical Zionist Congress of America, participated in a recent two-day conference here, billed as the first annual Congress of Evangelical and Jewish Leaders.

"Israel must not give up one inch of land," said Steele, echoing the militant line of other evangelicals, who base their conviction on a literal acceptance of God's promise to the Jews and on their vision of future events leading up to the second coming of Christ.

Their pro-Israel sentiments are reinforced by their fear of Islamic fundamentalists, whom they view as a common enemy.

"The jihad (holy war) mentality wants to destroy both Jews and evangelicals," said David Lewis, a co-convenor of the meeting and chairman of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel.

The Israeli government has frequently shown its appreciation for the support of evangelicals, and did so at the conference by dispatching Ari Granot, recently named counselor for church affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

See As 'Low-Grade Intellectuals'

Granot said that one of his tasks is to translate the evangelicals' love for Israel into practical terms. Observing that many evangelical meetings close with a prayer for the Jewish state, Granot said, "We will start with prayers and go on from there."

At the conference, one of the key objectives, in addition to rallying support for Israel, was to clear away long-held stereotypes and honestly confront areas of profound disagreement.

"The Jewish community has a monolithic view of us as Bible-thumpers and low-grade intellectuals," said Lewis of the Christian Leadership Conference.

Rabbi A. James Rudin, interreligious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, concurred that long-held images and misconceptions are only now starting to disappear.

"Jews have often perceived evangelicals as 'rednecks,' 'crackers' and 'Elmer Gantry,' (while) evangelicals have pictured Jews as 'Christ-killers,' 'scribes and Pharisees' and 'Shylocks,'" said Rudin.

Jewish apprehension is rooted in the evangelicals' efforts to convert Jews to Christianity, an enterprise that lies at the heart of their faith.

While many mainline churches have abandoned their "mission to the Jews," the theologically conservative and evangelical Southern Bap-

tist Convention, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Assemblies of God still maintain special departments with strategies to convert Jews.

Even as philo-Semitic a leader as Lewis, a pastor of the Assemblies of God who has visited Israel 51 times, said that he could not take an active role to change his denomination's mission.

"To do so would destroy my credibility," he said. "Missionaries have been our heroes."

But what evangelicals and Jews can do in meetings such as this, he added, is "to define each other, to learn what is hurtful to the other."

'Dormant' Missionary Impulse

The evangelical proselytizing mission is, in fact, less vigorous in practice than in theology, according to the Rev. Isaac Rottenberg of the Reformed Church in America, who is the son of a Holocaust victim and a Christian mother.

"The evangelical church is in its essence a missionary church, and we must confess our missionary mandate to all people," he said.

In practice, however, "the missionary impulse is dormant," Rottenberg explained. "Because Israel is so important to us, we are saying, in effect, 'Let God take care of it.'"

To close out the conference, three evangelical musicians led a songfest, which somehow combined their vision of America and Israel as the secular and spiritual promised lands.

Accompanied by slides of majestic vistas, they sang "This Land is My Land," substituting the words "from the Mount of Olives to Yosemite Valley" to show that Israel and the United States were part of the same land.

With fervor, they also sang the hymn: "We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God."

Co-sponsors of the conference were the Los Angeles Jewish Community Relations Council, David Lewis Ministries and the American Jewish Committee.

ISRAELI COURT SAYS ALZHEIMER PATIENT DOESN'T HAVE TO HAVE LIFE-SUPPORT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) -- In a decision widely welcomed by the medical profession, a Tel Aviv District Court judge Wednesday affirmed the wishes of an Alzheimer disease victim not to be linked to a life-support system.

Judge Moshe Talgat ruled that Miriam Zadok, who is in the terminal stages of the disease at a nursing home, should receive only "normal" medical treatment to relieve pain and discomfort.

He ruled out the use of mechanical means to keep her alive.

The judge acted in compliance with the patient's wishes, expressed in a tape-recording made two years ago, and in consultation with her physician, Dr. Ya'acov Assaf.

The doctor described Zadok as virtually comatose and without capacity to help herself and said he was already treating her along the lines ordered by the court. He said the small nursing home did not possess mechanical life-support systems.

Therefore, the doctor said, he would continue to administer intermittent oxygen to help his patient breathe. Continuous oxygen was barred by the court.

Zadok is being fed intravenously to prevent starvation and dehydration.