



ISRAELI LEADERS ARE CONFIDENT  
CLINTON WILL BACK PEACE TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says he is confident President-elect Bill Clinton will back the Middle East peace process launched last year by the Bush administration.

During a meeting in Washington last August, the Arkansas governor assured Rabin of continued support for Israel and said he would honor the loan guarantees promised to Israel by President Bush, Rabin told reporters.

The prime minister said he asked Clinton whether his focus on domestic issues would bring about a reduced American commitment to international affairs.

"He replied that it was the other way around: The stronger the U.S. is from within, the stronger it will be on the outside."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Clinton would pursue the peace process because a stable Middle East is in the U.S. interest. But he cautioned that Israel too must vigorously pursue peace.

"If the United States feels that Israel is not interested in peace, we shall lose its respect," Peres told Israel Television.

Jordan Filling Leadership Vacuum

Meanwhile, the coordinator of government affairs in the administered territories has complained the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks has no influence in the territories.

Maj. Gen. Danny Rothschild said the delegates do not represent the urban inhabitants of the territories and that even Faisal Husseini, the most prominent personality in the Palestinian community, exerts little influence there.

He said Jordan, which cut its official links with the territories in the mid-1980s, is now re-

JEWS ELECTED TO THE 103rd CONGRESS

Senate

- Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)\*
- Russell Feingold (D-Wis.)\*
- Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)\*
- Herbert Kohl (D-Wis.)
- Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)
- Carl Levin (D-Mich.)
- Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.)
- Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio)
- Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)
- Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.)

- Sam Gajdenson (D-Conn.)
- Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.)
- Dan Glickman (D-Kan.)
- Willis Gradison (R-Ohio)
- Dan Hamburg (D-Calif.)\*
- Jane Harman (D-Calif.)\*
- Herbert Klein (D-N.J.)\*
- Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)
- Sander Levin (D-Mich.)
- David Levy (R-N.Y.)\*
- Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
- Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky (D-Pa.)\*
- Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.)\*
- Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)
- Lynn Schenk (D-Calif.)\*
- Steven Schiff (R-N.M.)
- Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)
- Norman Sisisky (D-Va.)
- Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)
- Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)
- Sidney Yates (D-Ill.)
- Richard Zimmer (R-N.J.)

\*first time in office

House of Representatives

- Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)
- Anthony Beilenson (D-Calif.)
- Howard Berman (D-Calif.)
- Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.)
- Sam Coppersmith (D-Aris.)\*
- Peter Deutch (D-Fla.)\*
- Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)
- Bob Filner (D-Calif.)\*
- Eric Fingerhut (D-Ohio)\*
- Barney Frank (D-Mass.)
- Martin Frost (D-Texas)

newing ties there and moving to fill the vacuum left by the Palestinian leadership.

Rothschild outlined his analysis to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Wednesday, five days before the bilateral peace talks were scheduled to resume in Washington.

He also said the Moslem fundamentalist Hamas movement is growing in strength with the help of liberal funding from Saudi Arabia and Iran, which it is channelling to Palestinians in the territories in the form of aid and student grants.

ONE IN 10 ISRAELIS LIVES IN POVERTY,  
ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT FIGURES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- One in 10 Israelis lives below the poverty level and half of them are children, according to newly released government statistics.

Among recent immigrants, the poverty rate soars to a record 34 percent, the National Insurance Institute says in a just-published survey of 1991 figures involved in social security programs.

Poverty-level incomes were the lot of 562,000 Israelis in 1991, a 4 percent rise over 1990. Of this number, 234,000 were children.

But the rise was lower than the year before, when poverty level incomes registered a 14.6 percent increase over 1989.

Government allocations warded off an increase to as much as 20 percent in the number of those living below the poverty line. A fourfold rise occurred in this category over the past decade, making the rate in Israel the highest among Western countries. Officials at the insurance agency voiced hopes this week that the Treasury would resume payment of allowances for first and second children in a family.

The allowances were withdrawn by the previous government, leaving allocations only for families with three or more children.

In other economic news, the government's \$40 billion state budget for 1993 passed its first reading in the Knesset on Monday by a comfortable 55-43 majority, with one abstention.

The government was pleasantly surprised by the supporting vote of Shmuel Halpert in the opposition United Torah Judaism, a fervently Orthodox party widely rumored to be an eventual candidate for partnership in the governing coalition.

Knesset Member Dan Tichon of the opposition Likud bloc charged that the vote resulted from a promise given by the Treasury to allocate \$20 million for yeshivot associated with United Torah Judaism. The charge was denied by the Treasury.

The Arab parties were a disappointment for the government. Although they generally vote with the coalition, the Hadash Communists and the Arab Democratic Party voted against the budget, in protest over its failure to allocate \$28 million for development in the Arab sector.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat promised the sums, including allocations for building 300 new classrooms in Arab schools, would be added at a later stage of the budget process.

Although the Knesset devoted all of Wednes-

day to consideration of the budget, attention was focused on the Tel Aviv stock exchange, where a sharp drop of 3.75 percent was registered in share values.

Analysts attributed it to profit-taking following a record rise of 80 percent in the market since the beginning of the year. On Thursday, share prices began to climb back up.

Monitoring of the market came as the government this week drastically devalued the shekel to stand at 2.6 per U.S. dollar, a record high for the dollar.

Analysts said the new rate reflects a strengthening dollar in the world market and increased demand for foreign currency after the issuing of trust funds that include foreign investment.

Experts believe the slow but consistent devaluation of the shekel will continue. They say the government no longer fears devaluation will trigger renewed inflation in view of the economic slowdown and the fact that price hikes are lagging behind the devaluation rate.

### **RUSSIANS SURPASS MOROCCANS AS LARGEST IMMIGRANT GROUP** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Russians have now surpassed Moroccans as the largest immigrant group in Israel, according to new population statistics.

Their ranks have swelled over the last two years of mass immigration from the former Soviet Union, bringing the number of Russian immigrants in this country since late 1979 to 650,000.

There are some 500,000 Israelis of Moroccan origin.

Coming up behind them are Polish Jews, with a community of 275,000; Romanians, at 266,000; Iraqis, at 260,000; and Yemenites, at 100,000.

Israel had 5,058,800 inhabitants at the end of 1991, of whom 18 percent were non-Jewish, the just-published official statistical annual says.

A sharp drop in immigration has halved the estimated population increase this year, to 2.5 percent.

But over a three-year period, the country registered a 14 percent increase in population, and with it a rise in the number of elderly. About 460,000 Israelis are now age 65 or older.

The statistics indicate Israelis are marrying later and divorcing sooner.

Couples wed in 1991 were two years older on average than those marrying in previous years. At the same time, divorce rates among couples married 10 years or more rose from 8 to 10 percent.

A low birthrate among Russian immigrants has pushed down the national fertility average, the survey found.

Comparing birth rates within Israel, the survey found Jewish women had an average 2.6 children in 1991, compared to 4.7 children for Moslem women.

Although the non-Jewish population accounts for only 18 percent of the total, 28 percent of all children born in Israel in 1991 were not Jewish.

In at least one age category, the statistics dispelled a widely held belief about the preponderance of single women over men in Israel.

Unmarried men age 30 to 40 outnumbered unmarried women 48,900 to 42,600, the survey found. Past the age of 40, however, the trend begins to reverse.

### **SYRIA PRODUCING CHEMICAL WEAPONS, GERMAN ARMS CONTROL EXPERT REPORTS** By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Syria is producing chemical weapons and developing an advanced version of the Scud missile, according to a German arms control expert.

Wilhelm Dietl, a specialist in weapons sales, said Syria, aided by China and North Korea, is producing over 100 tons annually in chemical weapons and is working on an advanced Scud.

The report was given at an arms-control conference held at the Jewish community center here.

At the same time, Germany's commitment to Israel remains strong, an official of the German Ministry of Economics said.

Joachim Jahnke said Bonn had declined a request from Iran to complete construction of a nuclear reactor near the town of Bashir. It had also turned down requests from Teheran for pesticides that could be used for military purposes, he said.

A representative of the Anti-Defamation League in Germany, addressing the three-day conference, called on stricter government control over the export of weapons of mass destruction.

Participants called on Germany to tighten control over export of "dual-use" technology to deter exploitation of civilian equipment for military purposes.

Dual-use technology is that which can be used for peaceable industrial use as well as for military purposes. It can therefore be classified for a common industrial use and pass customs restrictions.

The participants to the conference urged Bonn to take a more active role in strengthening an international accord aimed at the destruction of chemical weapons. Seventy nations are currently signatory to the agreement.

Speakers voiced concern that as Europe prepares to drop customs barriers in January, difficulties would increase in monitoring German arms exports.

An optimistic forecast came from Thomas Stock of the Swedish International Peace Research Center, who said Iraq's chemical weapons stockpile would be destroyed before the summer of 1993.

### **5 SOLDIERS KILLED DURING TRAINING** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Five soldiers of the Israel Defense Force were killed and six others wounded in an accident during a training exercise in the Negev early Thursday morning.

All were members of an elite unit taking part in the exercise. Two of the wounded were reported Thursday evening to be in serious condition at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. Four sustained medium injuries, while one soldier was released to go home after receiving first aid.

The incident occurred when a missile was launched, apparently by accident, for reasons not yet clear. It fell among the group of soldiers.

The wounded were treated immediately by an army doctor who was present.

The IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, ordered an immediate halt to the use of live ammunition during training exercises throughout the IDF, pending a re-examination of standing regulations.

**DEMJANJUK MAY STAGE FAST TO PROTEST COURT'S DELAY**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk, who is appealing his death sentence for war crimes at the Treblinka concentration camp, is reportedly considering a hunger strike to protest the High Court of Justice's long delay in coming to a decision.

Members of Demjanjuk's family reported his intention and said they are planning public demonstrations outside Israeli diplomatic representations worldwide as part of the protest.

Demjanjuk's Israeli lawyer, meanwhile, has appealed to the High Court to speed up its months-long consideration of the appeal.

Demjanjuk, who has been held in solitary confinement since being extradited to Israel six years ago, has consistently claimed that he is a victim of mistaken identity.

His defense lawyer presented evidence from the former Soviet Union that the so-called "Ivan the Terrible" at the Treblinka gas chambers was a man named Ivan Marchenko. He has also cited evidence that places Demjanjuk as a guard at another death camp, Sobibor.

The prosecution has noted that Marchenko was the maiden name of Demjanjuk's mother.

Demjanjuk, a 72-year-old former Cleveland area autoworker, was extradited to Israel in 1986 after being stripped of his U.S. citizenship. He was convicted in 1988 by an Israeli court of taking part in war crimes and was sentenced to hang.

**DUTCH COURT TELLS BELGIAN PUBLISHER TO STOP SPREADING HOLOCAUST DENIALS**

By Ruben Vis

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- A Dutch court has ordered a Belgian publisher to stop disseminating pamphlets in the Netherlands alleging the Holocaust never took place.

The court said the fact of the Nazi slaughter of the Jews required no further proof, and ordered Siegfried Verbeke to cease distributing the hate literature or pay a \$17,000 fine for each pamphlet sent out.

Verbeke challenged his opponents to prove that 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust after being sued by four human rights groups: B'nai B'rith, the Center for Information and Documentation on Israel, the Anne Frank Foundation and the National Bureau on Combatting Racism.

It is believed to be the first cross-border suit, enabled by a European Community regulation permitting a resident of one E.C. member state to sue a resident of another.

Verbeke said he would appeal the sentence to cease distribution of material published by his Belgium-based Society for Free Historical Research.

Thousands of copies of his pamphlets, titled "American Expert Destroys the Gas-Chamber Legend" and "The Six Million Holocaust," have been mailed to Dutch citizens.

The pamphlets claim that the Jews have perpetrated the Holocaust as a hoax in order to reap continual financial benefits. They also claim the Anne Frank diary is a falsification.

Ronnie Naftaniel, the director of the Center for Information, said Belgium should take the next step to prevent the spread of material denying the Holocaust took place.

**POLL SHOWS GERMAN JEWS ARE FEARFUL**

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- A substantial number of Jews in Germany feel threatened by rising racism and anti-Semitism, according to a recent public opinion survey.

About half believe right-wing extremism poses a serious threat to German democracy, a view shared by only 10 percent of non-Jewish Germans. And some 75 percent said they believe the German government is ineffective in combating neo-Nazism.

The survey covered a broad sampling of Germany's 40,000 Jews, according to Cologne University sociologists Alphons Silberman and Herbert Sallen.

Many Jews said their fears over the surge in anti-foreigner violence and anti-Semitism in Germany stemmed from what had happened to friends and relatives rather than personal experience.

**KAHANE'S WIDOW SUES HOTEL OVER MURDER**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane's widow has filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court against the midtown Manhattan hotel where her husband was gunned down two years ago.

Libby Kahane charged in court papers that the Marriott East Side Hotel was "careless" and "negligent" because it did not provide "adequate security or protection" for her husband.

Her attorney, Allan Rothenberg, said that the hotel should have provided metal detectors and armed guards to protect Kahane, the radical founder of the Jewish Defense League and former member of Knesset.

Roger Conner of Marriott's communications department said the hotel's legal department is reviewing the suit and had no comment.

Meir Kahane was murdered precisely two years ago, on Nov. 5, 1990, as he concluded making a speech in the hotel.

El Sayyid Nosair, an Egyptian immigrant, was acquitted of the murder but is presently serving up to 22 years in prison for his conviction on assault and weapons possession in connection with the violence.

**HEBREW SONG FILLS TCHAIKOVSKY HALL**

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The prestigious Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in central Moscow was filled with the sound of Hebrew on Tuesday evening, in an event that was extraordinary precisely because it has become ordinary here.

Outside the hall on Mayakovsky Square, Muscovites shuffled by in the evening rush hour, no one looking askance at the posters announcing a concert by the Men's Choir of Moscow's Choral Synagogue, something that would have been unthinkable only a short time ago.

"Things that were repressed for so long are now being reborn," said the choir's musical director, Mikhail Turetsky, introducing the program, titled "Shabbat Prayer."

The 18-member choir, which sings regularly at Moscow's largest synagogue, has existed for just under three years, with support from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. It has performed in the United States, Israel, Britain and France.

### BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

#### **HILLEL FOUNDATIONS LOOKING FOR FUNDS TO INCREASE RESPONSE TO ASSIMILATION** By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Richard Joel is losing patience with the task forces and commissions looking for solutions to the problems of assimilation.

The international director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations already has one in place: the international network of campus Hillels, devoted to creating and maintaining Jewish life on campus.

And he feels the Jewish community is underfunding and under-utilizing this vital resource.

Hillel's \$17 million overall budget, including activities on more than 100 campuses and Joel's headquarters in Washington, means that barely more than \$40 is spent each year for each of the 400,000 Jewish college students Hillel is mandated to serve.

While the issues related to intermarriage and identity grouped under the rubric "Jewish continuity" have leaped to the top of the Jewish communal agenda since the release of the 1990 National Jewish Population Study, Hillel funding has so far shown no such leap.

Like other Jewish agencies, Hillel has suffered from the current recession and the fund-raising campaign to resettle Jews from the former Soviet Union, which have reduced its income from Jewish federations.

#### Deep Cutbacks From B'nai B'rith

What has brought Hillel's funding problems to the fore, however, has been deep cuts from its parent organization, which is suffering serious, and some fear irreversible, financial difficulties. In the past two years, B'nai B'rith has cut back its funding of Hillel by \$1.1 million, nearly a third, to roughly \$2.6 million.

This has translated into across-the-board cuts to campuses across the country, and the closing of Hillel houses at some smaller schools.

Across the country, Hillels have laid off program staff. And Hillel directors are putting their energies into fund raising, at the expense of promoting Jewish outreach to students.

All this at a time when Hillel professionals are reporting an upsurge of student interest in their programs -- perhaps, the professionals say, because of a renewed search for spirituality that has swept the nation or perhaps because of an increased interest in Israel.

This new interest only adds to the need for increased funding.

"My concern is that the community not perceive its challenge as saying how do we make up B'nai B'rith money," he said. "If we set our sights on ensuring we are as poorly funded as we have been, we might as well close up shop.

"To continue to do triage work on campus, with much too little support, is absolutely criminal when the community has identified the campus as necessary," Joel said.

Joel, a former assistant district attorney in the Bronx and dean of Yeshiva University's Cardozo Law School, is starting to take his case to the community.

"I wouldn't say it is now or never," said Joel. "But this year, and this (General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations), is a watershed in terms of refocusing on the community's responsibilities."

Joel was referring to the central gathering

of the Jewish communal and organizational world, which takes place next week in New York.

Immediately following the assembly, the CJF will hold the first meeting of its national task force on the campus.

Norbert Fruehauf, the CJF official staffing the task force, explains its purpose as working with "federations and the national agencies serving college students to provide expanded programing on campus, additional resources and more planning.

"It also aims to involve students in their respective communities, and have federations engage in more planning with the university campuses and to set up some sort of an approved system for resource allocation in the country."

Joel is pleased by the creation of the task force, but impatient.

"One of the issues from my end is how do you provoke this community into not processing everything to death? I think the task force is an effort to not just paper over the problem, but I'm really chomping at the bit," he said.

#### Goal Of Doubling Hillel's Budget

Joel talks of doubling Hillel's budget, perhaps over a five-year period. He is stepping up Hillel fund raising, which marks a departure from the organization's tradition of relying on, and not competing with, B'nai B'rith.

"Hillel may separate from B'nai B'rith, even lose all that funding, in the next year, rather than go down with the ship," one Hillel director said on condition of anonymity.

Currently, the B'nai B'rith contribution is down to one-seventh of Hillel's budget. The new Hillel logo identifies the organization as "The Foundation of the Campus Jewish Community" but does not mention B'nai B'rith.

At the same time, if Joel is to succeed, federation funding, which currently is nearly half of the Hillel budget, must increase.

Joel says it is a necessary investment. "If the community is concerned about continuity and identity, it knows that Hillel has the credibility," he said.

"Clearly we could do more with enhanced staff and funding," said Rabbi Paul Saiger, Hillel director at the University of Rochester in upstate New York.

"There may well be 50 percent of the students who, by the time they hit college, really will not be affected by Jewish approaches. But the other 50 will, and in no place where you have one or two people trying to deal with a thousand, 3,000 students, can you do the job that has to be done," he said.

#### Federation Is Hesitant

At the largest American federation, Jeffrey Solomon is hesitant to accept Hillel's claims at face value. Solomon, the chief operating officer for program services at UJA-Federation of New York, notes that Hillel has become an increasing priority and taken an increasing proportion of his federation's allocations.

But he cautions that "one has to do significantly more research before one draws any conclusion on the subject. We don't know continuity will be enhanced. We believe it, but we need a lot more research."

As Joel put it, "the Jewish community has to decide if they want to make the campus a place where youth can grapple with their Jewishness, or close their eyes to it."