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**GERMANY, CLAIMS CONFERENCE AGREE  
TO INDEMNIFY REMAINING SURVIVORS**  
By Laina Blum-Cogan

NEW YORK, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The German government and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany recently signed a historic agreement that requires Germany to pay reparations to those Holocaust survivors who were, until now, unable to receive those funds.

Thousands of victims of Nazism who lived after the war in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe never received indemnification because they were unable to file applications by the 1965 deadline stipulated in the 1952 reparations agreement, said Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference.

Some 90,000 of those Eastern Europeans who made it to the West after that deadline received small one-time payments, amounting to about 5 marks for each day they were confined.

"Now that their governments are free, they are free to request what others have received in terms of compensation," Miller explained.

The new accord, signed the last week of October, provides for an additional one-time payment, as well as continuing hardship payments to Jews imprisoned by the Nazis in concentration camps or ghettos or who lived in hiding, Miller said.

The payments will be made to those held more than six months in concentration camps, in ghettos for at least 18 months and those who lived in hiding for at least 18 months.

"This historic agreement with the German government will make it possible for some of the most severely persecuted victims of Nazism -- almost all of them elderly and needy -- to live out their days in dignity and relative financial security," he said.

The new accord will also place at the disposal of the Claims Conference 30 million marks (approximately \$19 million) for grants to institutions and organizations that provide social care to elderly Jewish Nazi victims.

**A 'Continuing Responsibility'**

Miller said he was "satisfied" with the terms of the accord.

"We applaud the Claims Conference on their efforts," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

"We're not talking about charity here," he continued. The agreement "sends a reminder about the continuing responsibility of the German nation to the Jewish and other victims of the Nazi Holocaust," which is especially poignant in light of the recent episodes of xenophobia and anti-Semitism in Germany.

The new agreement follows "extensive and difficult" negotiations that began 16 months ago in Bonn at a meeting between Miller and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

It also comes 40 years after West Germany first agreed to pay indemnification to Jewish victims of Nazism under a compact signed by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Nahum Goldmann, then the Claims Conference president.

There are currently 160,000 survivors receiv-

ing monthly pensions provided under the original 1952 reparations agreements. They reside mainly in the Americas, Israel and Western Europe.

To date, the Federal Republic of Germany has paid out roughly \$50 billion in compensation to Holocaust survivors.

Prior to Germany's reunification, "difficult and protracted negotiations were undertaken by the Claims Conference with the East German regime," recalled Akiva Lewinsky, vice president of the Claims Conference and chairman of its negotiating team.

"Regrettably, those talks ended in failure because the Communist regime never accepted its historic moral responsibility to the survivors of Nazi persecution," he said.

The new compensation accord was reached under Article 2 of the implementation agreement to the German Unification Treaty reuniting East and West Germany.

In that article, the German government agreed to negotiate with the Claims Conference for hardship payments to Nazi victims who had previously received no compensation or only minimal indemnification.

The Claims Conference will issue a call next month for applications from Jewish Holocaust survivors for benefits under the new agreement.

**LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS MAR RALLY  
IN BERLIN AGAINST RACIST VIOLENCE**  
By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Left-wing extremists marred an unusually large German demonstration against racist violence Sunday by throwing stones and eggs at President Richard von Weizsacker, forcing him to interrupt his speech.

Weizsacker resumed his speech after a 15-minute pause, during which police charged into the crowd to push back a handful of militants hurling projectiles at the podium.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl was among the 300,000 Germans gathered at the Brandenburg Gate to express opposition to neo-Nazi violence against foreigners and anti-Semitic vandalism.

The president called on Germany to defend democracy. "We should never forget that the Weimar Republic failed not because there were too many Nazis but because there were too few democrats," he said.

The rally was held one day before the anniversary of both the 1938 Kristallnacht Nazi pogrom and the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

"Those who claim to use violence in the name of German interests misuse the name of our nation," said Weizsacker. Striking a note of optimism, he said: "We have no reason for fear: The Germany of today is not the Weimar Republic."

Kohl said the rioters sought to damage the image of Germany, "but this will not succeed."

A leader of the Jewish community indirectly called for the resignation of two German leaders who declined to take part in the demonstration.

Michael Friedmann of the Council of Jewish Communities in Germany was referring to Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Bavarian Prime Minister Max Streibl, who stayed away from the rally, in which all major German parties took part.

# JEWISH ATTACK AGAINST SKINHEADS RAISES LEVEL OF TENSION IN ROME

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Tension remained high in the Italian capital over the weekend after dozens of young Jews staged an attack on the headquarters of a skinhead group in retaliation for anti-Semitic incidents.

Roman Catholic church officials issued statements strongly condemning anti-Semitism, and anti-racism demonstrations were scheduled for Monday in cities throughout Italy.

Police called in at least six Jewish youths for questioning Saturday as security remained tight around the main synagogue and other Jewish buildings, offices and shops for fear of skinhead retaliation timed to coincide with the anniversary Monday of the 1938 Nazi Kristallnacht pogrom against Jews.

Security measures also were taken around the skinhead group's office.

A 26-foot-long banner bearing the slogan "Death to Jews; You will never win; Long live Christ the King" was found near the Rome exit of a superhighway Saturday, and two right-wing extremists in Naples were detained while handing out anti-Semitic leaflets.

Police received anonymous phone calls threatening to attack Jewish meeting places, the newspaper La Stampa reported.

Police and Jewish community leaders condemned acts of violence, called for calm and urged that the actions of extremists not be overly exaggerated.

But some members of the Jewish community applauded the raid on the skinhead headquarters Thursday night as a necessary act of self-defense. And even Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, said she understood the motivation behind the attack.

"I know that in a democratic state, citizens must not, or should not, take upon themselves the problem of carrying out justice," she said.

"But these boys reached a level of exasperation which, in a certain sense, explains the decision they took," she said.

## Skinhead Confessed To Vandalism

Asked whether the state could do more to combat violence, she said, "Yes, the state must apply its laws. There are precise laws against the formation of the fascist party, against hooligan activities, against the apology for genocide. Let these laws be applied."

The cycle of violence and tension began on the morning of Nov. 2, when it was discovered that big yellow Stars of David bearing the slogan "Out with the Zionists from Italy" had been affixed to the shutters of more than two dozen Jewish-owned stores, most of them in one district of the city where many Jews live.

It was also revealed that a Jewish cemetery in northern Italy had been vandalized a week or so earlier.

Police in Rome questioned and then released a member of a far-right skinhead organization, the Political Movement of the West, who confessed to putting up some of the anti-Semitic signs after police found some during a search of his home.

Last Thursday evening, several dozen young Jews armed with crowbars rushed to the headquarters of the Political Movement of the West, located in a working-class district of Rome, and

severely damaged the premises, touching off a street brawl in which several people were hurt.

The Jews brought back a trophy -- a Political Movement banner bearing the group's swastika-like symbol. Fearing reprisals, hundreds of Jews maintained an all-night vigil outside the main synagogue. Security there was beefed up.

## Catholic Leaders Voice Solidarity

In a show of official support for the Jewish community and an attempt to calm the situation, Italian police chief Vincenzo Parisi and other top police officials met at the synagogue with Rome's chief rabbi Elie Toaff. They urged that the situation not be overdramatized.

"Exaggerating the actions of the extremist groups gives them more importance than they have," Toaff told a news conference. "The Italian people has never been anti-Semitic."

The leaders of Italy's main trade union organizations met with Zevi to express their solidarity with Italy's 30,000 Jews.

Roman Catholic leaders, too, issued messages expressing solidarity with the Jewish community.

"The attacks against Jews are attacks against the civilization of our country," said Cardinal Camillo Ruini, president of the Italian Bishops Conference. "They offend God and man."

The official Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano wrote: "No pseudo-historical revisionism can exist that can cancel out the memory and testimony of millions of innocent people killed in Nazi extermination camps in World War II."

## DEMOCRATIC OFFICIAL IN ISRAEL; NEW ENVOY EXPECTED IN JANUARY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- As Middle East peace talks enter a delicate transition phase, a highly placed figure in the Democratic establishment is holding private talks here this week with top Israeli leaders.

Stuart Eizenstat, domestic affairs adviser in the Carter administration and among those said to be close to President-elect Bill Clinton, has meetings scheduled with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He will undoubtedly report to Clinton on his talks here.

Meanwhile, Rabin and Peres have decided to have their designated new ambassador to Washington in place when the Clinton administration takes office.

Itamar Rabinovich will take up his post at the embassy immediately after the inauguration of the new president in January. The timing marks a change from a statement made to an interviewer last week by the present envoy, Zalman Shoval, that he expected to stay until the spring.

Rabinovich is again leading the Israeli team in the bilateral peace talks with Syria, which resume Monday in Washington. He is to continue to fulfill this function even after assuming his new diplomatic assignment.

## SONIA PERES LEAVES HOSPITAL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Sonia Peres, the wife of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, was discharged Sunday from Hadassah Medical Center-Hebrew University Hospital in Jerusalem after recovering from a heart attack two weeks ago.

Her illness forced Peres to cut short an official visit to Spain. Since returning, he has spent long hours by her bedside.

## IN ZAGREB, JEWISH REFUGEES WORRY ABOUT COMMUNITY LEFT IN SARAJEVO

By Michele Chablin

ZAGREB, Croatia, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Sondra Raguz, 22, is one of the lucky ones.

Five months ago, she and her mother fled war-racked Sarajevo with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Today, having found refuge in the peaceful capital of Croatia, their thoughts are with the loved ones they left behind.

This weekend, for the first time in a year, the refugees were able to establish radio contact with the 200 to 500 Jews believed to remain in the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The feat was accomplished after a team of experts from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee flew to Sarajevo as part of a U.N. relief operation and erected a radio transmitter, under heavy sniper fire.

Radio contact was established with the Jewish community center in Zagreb, and loved ones here were patched through by telephone to family members in Sarajevo.

The head of the Jewish community there, Ivica Ceresnjes, even managed to speak, via a telephone hookup, to the JDC's executive vice president, Michael Schneider, in New York.

But highlighting the precarious situation that all residents of the Bosnian capital face, the broadcast was cut short when the community received word of an imminent bombardment.

While the restored communications are undoubtedly of some comfort to the Jewish refugees here, they remain deeply concerned about the fate of the community in Sarajevo, particularly as winter sends temperatures plunging.

"The Zagreb Jewish community has been wonderful to us, but we are still worried sick about my father and brother," said Raguz, sitting in the Zagreb Jewish Community Center.

### 'Situation Is Getting Desperate'

"My mother takes sedatives to help her sleep. My father is caught in the Serb-occupied part of the city, and my brother, who is serving in the Bosnian army, is in an even more dangerous situation.

"There is no heat in Sarajevo, and all the windows have been bombed out," she continued, her eyes wide with fear. "How are they going to survive this winter?"

This concern is shared by Iso Papo, 70, who escaped from Sarajevo in early September. "The temperature there is below freezing, and there are no windows left to keep out the cold. There is no coal, no oil, no wood to burn."

Papo recalled that city residents began gathering firewood in August. "People stripped the forests of every tree and branch, and now they are pulling up the wood from their floors," he said.

"They are burning everything they can get their hands on, including books and furniture. The situation is getting desperate."

While the JDC and other relief organizations are trying to alleviate the situation, getting food, medicine and supplies through military roadblocks has been a difficult and dangerous affair.

The JDC has purchased 120,000 sq. feet of Israeli-made plastic sheeting designed to replace shattered windows and keep out the cold. The sheeting, which was shipped from Israel, will be distributed on a non-sectarian basis.

## IDF HOLDS INFILTRATORS FROM JORDAN WHO CROSSED RIVER WITH AXES, KNIVES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Israeli forces detained two men who crossed the Jordan River armed with axes and knives, apparently intent on attacking Israeli civilians.

Troop reinforcements tracked down the infiltrators early Friday morning after a routine army patrol found a break in the border fence near Moshav Argaman, in the Jordan Valley, about five miles north of the Damiya bridge.

The two men, ages 21 and 23, were also carrying a set of wire cutters and copies of the Koran. The identity of the group that sent them was still to be established.

Meanwhile, Israeli planes flew northward to attack bases of the Islamic fundamentalist terrorist Hezbollah, near Ein A-Tine, at the southern end of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

The planes returned safely to base after hitting all their targets, the Israel Defense Force spokesman said.

The area experienced heightened tension at the end of last month after a Hezbollah roadside bomb killed five Israeli soldiers in the southern Lebanon security zone and a Katyusha missile fired by the terror organization killed a 14-year-old boy in the town of Kiryat Shmona.

## 'CRAZY EDDIE' TRIES SUICIDE TO AVOID PAYING THE PIPERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Eddie Antar, well-known in the Greater New York area as "Crazy Eddie," the electronics discounter, tried to commit suicide in the hospital ward of Ayalon Prison, in Ramla.

Antar has been awaiting a court hearing on a U.S. government request to extradite him to the United States in order to stand trial for fraud.

In 1990, a U.S. court ordered him to return \$52 million he had allegedly obtained by defrauding customers and illegally transferred to Bank Leumi in Israel. Instead of handing over the cash, he fled to Israel, where he changed his identity and address several times.

Antar was declared to be a fugitive from justice by the U.S. authorities. Interpol, the international police information network, asked the Israeli police to help search for him.

He was finally tracked down last June in Yavneh, where he was living under the false identity of David Cohen of Brazil, and in possession of a number of false passports and documents.

In August, Israeli Justice Minister David Libai recommended that Antar be extradited to the United States.

Antar, who is 45 or 46 years old, was already in the prison's hospital ward. His wife, Debbie, and his lawyers were seeking his release on bail on the grounds that prison was seriously affecting his physical and mental health.

On Friday morning, Antar was found unconscious in his hospital bed, having swallowed a bottle of pills. He was transferred to the nearby Assaf Harofeh government hospital.

His lawyers appealed to the Jerusalem District Court to have him released home on bail.

But Judge Vardimus Zailer rejected the request and instead appointed a psychiatrist to examine him.

## INCREASE IN VISA REQUESTS INDICATES EMIGRATION FROM EX-USSR ON THE RISE

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The emigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union has increased in the last two months due to political instability here and fading hopes for the eventual stabilization of the economy, according to an Israeli Embassy official here who is responsible for emigration matters.

Around 6,000 Israeli immigrant visas were issued in September and October, said Alexander Libin, the embassy official, up from an average of a little more than 4,000 a month during the summer months.

The number of visas issued is an indicator of immigration trends, because prospective immigrants usually arrive in Israel three or four months after getting the visa.

Libin attributed the increase to regional political instability in the non-Slavic areas of the former union, such as Tajikistan, Georgia and the Ossetia region of the northern Caucasus in Russia.

In Tajikistan, for example, several hundred Jews have left in recent weeks by direct flights to Israel to escape clan warfare there.

At the same time, said Libin, "people in Russia itself are less hopeful about the future" in light of continued inflation and economic uncertainty.

Added uncertainty surrounds the fate of economic reform, which may be slowed or stopped altogether by conservative forces in the Russian parliament, whose Congress of People's Deputies is set to meet next month in Moscow.

"Other factors are also at work," said Libin. "The process of privatizing apartments has been proceeding in a number of Russian cities, and that can play a role in peoples' decisions to emigrate," he said. Once privatized, apartments can be sold to raise money for immigration to Israel.

### New Consulates Helping

In the larger cities in the European part of the former union, such as Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kiev, apartments are commonly sold for U.S. dollars. A two- or three-room apartment in central Moscow can fetch from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

Sellers bound for Israel frequently request that the purchase price be paid to trusted relatives or friends already in Israel, so that Russian restrictions on the export of currency are avoided.

"We've also opened a number of new consulates around the union, so it's easier to get an Israeli visa," said Libin, citing another factor in the emigration surge.

Prospective immigrants in places like Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, no longer need to travel to Moscow to apply for a visa because there are now Israeli consulates in those cities.

Travel inside the former union has become extremely expensive by local standards and uncertain because of shortages of airplane fuel and parts. A round-trip ticket from Tashkent to Moscow, for example, costs 6,000 rubles (\$15), about the average monthly wage in the former Soviet Union.

Despite the increase, immigration levels are still far below those of 1990 and the first half of 1991. The main influence on immigration, Libin said, is still concern over finding jobs and housing in Israel.

## HEBREW UNIVERSITY HELPS LAUNCH UNIQUE BUSINESS SCHOOL IN MOSCOW

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW (JTA) -- Russia's first Western-style post-graduate business school opened here recently as a joint project of Moscow State University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The New Economic School got off the ground Oct. 28, thanks to an \$800,000 grant from the Soros Foundation, headed by the Hungarian-born American Jewish financier George Soros.

"I was never a very good economics student," Soros said at the New Economic School's opening, attended by Hebrew University Professors Don Patinkin and Gur Ofer, as well as Russia's minister of science, higher education and technology policy, Boris Saltykov.

Patinkin regretted the absence of Yoram Ben-Porath, the late president of the Hebrew University, who died recently in an automobile accident in Israel and who was a key organizer of the school.

Patinkin also noted the irony that academics from Israel, which, he said, still had much to do to privatize its own economy, would instruct Russians in the ways of free enterprise.

The school will offer a master's degree program in economics, mathematics and English to graduates of Russian universities. The course will take two and a half years to complete.

Tuition for the first semester is 5,000 rubles (about \$12, just under an average month's wages), with subsequent charges to be determined in accordance with Russia's inflation, which by one estimate is running at 14,000 percent per year.

Soros made it clear that he does "not intend to support (the school) indefinitely," and recommended that the Russians include the school's financial requirements in Russia's aid requests from the World Bank.

In fact, even Soros' initial grant may not be used if the Russians can replace it with World Bank aid, which Saltykov indicated he would seek.

### **REWARD POSTED FOR EL AL 'BLACK BOX'**

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The Netherlands is offering a \$6,000 reward for the return of the cockpit voice recorder of the El Al Boeing jet which crashed here last month.

Authorities believe it may have been picked up by a souvenir hunter, together with other fragments of the cargo jet, at the site of the Oct. 4 crash in the Bijlmermeer district.

The voice recorder could not have been completely destroyed by fire, according to the Dutch government's aviation authority. It may contain vital information on the last minutes before the crash.

A voice recorder similar to the one being sought has been shown repeatedly on Dutch television. The reward was announced Friday by the director of the government aviation authority, Hendrik Wolleswinkel.

It may take up to nine months before a final report is issued on the causes of the crash, which killed 43 people and destroyed or damaged 160 apartments.

But an unexpectedly large amount of data has been retrieved from the recovered flight data recorder, which was positioned next to the still-missing cockpit recorder, Wolleswinkel said.