

**NEW ADMINISTRATION URGED TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN MIDEAST PEACE TALKS****By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Two Jewish activists close to the brokerage of the 1978 Camp David accords are urging the incoming Clinton administration to take a vigorous role in the current peace process and calling on American Jews to give it the slack needed to do so.

At the time of the historic agreement, which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Edward Sanders was a senior adviser to then President Jimmy Carter on the Middle East, and Theodore Mann was chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

This week they told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency they feared the promise of the current peace talks would slip away if Bill Clinton failed to seize the initiative because of other priorities and out of reluctance to take the required political risks.

They warned that the consequences for Israel's security and safety would be grave.

"We have no reason to believe (Clinton officials) will not push the peace process, actively or vigorously," said Sanders, "but we want to encourage them to, even if constructive friction develops between the parties."

Mann said he was concerned the Clinton administration would look back on the experiences of Presidents Carter and Bush and conclude that when an administration gets too involved, it runs the risk of alienating Israel's defenders in the United States.

Both Carter and Bush paid for their Middle East policies in their re-election efforts with a sharp drop in support among Jews, who felt they had pressured Israel too hard for concessions.

Clinton garnered at least 80 percent of the Jewish vote and could be reluctant to risk eroding such key support, Sanders and Mann pointed out.

**Jews Should Give Clinton 'Some Space'**

In fact, Carter orchestrated, through the force of his personal prestige, an unprecedented peace agreement that greatly enhanced Israel's security, and Bush brought the parties to Madrid for face-to-face talks, both historic accomplishments, stressed Sanders.

The agreement at Camp David "never would have happened" without Carter "walking back and forth carrying the yellow pad" between then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, said Sanders, who was at Camp David at the time.

"Clinton can put pressure on both (Arab and Israeli) parties without losing Jewish support, provided nothing is said to undermine Israel's security," said Mann. "I believe he can pull it off."

"We are also anxious that the Jewish community of America give the Clinton administration some space," he added.

Sanders and Mann are now the co-chairs of Project Nishma, a group dedicated to promoting the Middle East peace process and protecting Israel's security.

The organization is small but has cultivated

close relationships with highly placed members of Israel's Labor Party. It is beginning to assume a higher profile in the constellation of U.S. Jewish groups now that a Labor government is in power.

Nishma recently sponsored the U.S. visits of Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, Environment Minister Ora Namir, and Efraim Sneh, a prominent member of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The two co-chairs said the organization's primary mission in the next four months is to make sure that with everything else on Clinton's foreign policy plate, including Somalia, the crisis in the former Yugoslav republics and instability in the former Soviet Union, the Middle East peace process assumes the highest priority possible.

The big danger is that "with conflicting demands and pressures, the administration could support the peace process but never seize the initiative," said Tom Smerling, Project Nishma's executive director.

In this scenario, "the process could stagnate and eventually collapse," he said. And when that happens, "Israelis fear you start a countdown to war."

**'Must Never Try To Impose Solutions'**

Since the election, Clinton and his team have repeatedly pledged to ensure the continuity of the peace process. But the peace talks have slowed to a crawl as the parties wait to hear about the players and strategies the incoming administration will put into place regarding Middle East policy.

Bush gave a slight boost to the talks this week when he announced he would meet with the delegations before the current round ends Dec. 17.

But the outgoing administration has refused recent requests from the Palestinian delegation to aggressively prod Israel to move beyond its current proposals and spur the negotiations for an interim self-governing authority in the territories.

The Israelis have rejected the kind of intervention requested by the Palestinians as a violation of the ground rules of the talks. The dispute signals the delicacy of the U.S. assumption of a more muscular mediating role.

"The U.S. must never try to impose solutions or violate the principle of face-to-face talks," said Smerling.

But Project Nishma believes the U.S. function should not be limited to the offer of diplomatic good offices, especially now that the groundwork for the talks has been laid and the parties are at the table engaged in substantive dialogue.

Both Israel and the Arabs will want pressure from the outside they can use as political cover for the concessions resisted by their own constituencies, said Mann.

He and Sanders said Clinton could avoid the problems that come with activist mediation by putting people trusted by the Jews in policy roles in the White House, by maintaining warm relations with Israeli leaders and by consistent reassurance of the U.S. commitment to Israel's security.

Sanders said it is already clear that Clinton is surrounded by people who "have in their guts a concern with Israel's security," so "Jews should feel comfortable."

### ANTI-ISRAEL VOTE ON NUCLEAR ARMS WINS LESS U.N. SUPPORT THAN IN PAST

By Malka Rabinowitz

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- A softening in the traditional anti-Israel vote in the U.N. General Assembly was registered in the adoption Wednesday evening of a resolution voicing "alarm" over "Israeli production and development of nuclear weapons."

Adoption of the resolution, which also expresses concern over "cooperation between Israel and South Africa in the area of nuclear armament," has become an annual ritual, but the number of countries supporting it dropped to 64, from 76 last year.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Yaacobi, termed the reduction in support "a significant improvement" and attributed it to policies adopted by Israel's Labor government.

"It is a result of a new political situation that has been created in the wake of the peace talks, and in the change in relations between the United Nations and Israel," he said.

The United States, Israel and Romania voted against the resolution. Twelve countries that supported the resolution last year abstained this time.

Israel has never publicly acknowledged having a nuclear weapons capability, though it is known to conduct nuclear research at a facility in the Negev town of Dimona.

The government's official position is that the Jewish state will not be the first nation to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

### 10 ARABS WOUNDED IN TERRITORIES, BUT VIOLENCE LESS THAN WAS FEARED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- At least 10 Palestinians were reported injured Thursday in violence in the administered territories related to the fifth anniversary of the intifada.

Some of the injured were school students, hurt in a clash with Israeli troops in Jenin. Three Gazans were reported hurt by rubber bullets. And one man was shot and lightly injured but managed to flee an incident at a-Ram, near Jerusalem.

On Wednesday, a border police unit shot and killed a young Palestinian stone-thrower in the village of Silat el-Harthiya, near Jenin. Other Israel Defense Force units in Jericho and Nablus were attacked with Molotov cocktails, and a soldier was injured in a rock-throwing incident near Ramallah.

But overall, army sources characterized the two-day period as relatively quiet.

They emphasized that the entire Gaza Strip had been closed off from Israel proper and would remain so for several more days.

The refugee camps within the strip are under curfew. The IDF reinforced its presence throughout the territories in anticipation of an anniversary-related escalation of violence.

On the whole, Israeli officials seemed to feel the violence was less intense and widespread than had been feared.

Still, the deaths of three soldiers in Gaza at the beginning of the week overshadowed any such relative relief.

That fatal ambush of the three reservists has plunged the country into a new round of self-questioning over the future of the territories, and especially of the Gaza Strip.

### B'NAI B'RITH URGES END TO CARNAGE IN PHONE CALL WITH YUGOSLAV LEADER

By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- The president of B'nai B'rith International urged Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic in a telephone call this week to do all he could to end the "tragic carnage" in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

B'nai B'rith's Kent Schiner made the 45-minute call Thursday as part of what he has called the special obligation of the Jewish people after the Holocaust to protest the "horror that has become Bosnia."

Panic responded by pledging his efforts to make peace in the war-torn region and saying he was a "man of tolerance" who, like most Serbs, "prayed" for an end to the killing.

At the same time, he claimed events in Bosnia were beyond his control. He said a worldwide appeal must be made to end the conflict, in which hundreds of thousands have lost their lives and millions have been driven from their homes in the name of "ethnic cleansing."

Panic also expressed solidarity with Jews, noting "Serbs and Jews marched in the same line to the concentration camps" during World War II.

The prime minister this week won a Serbian Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for his run for president in the Dec. 20 elections.

The race pits him against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the extreme nationalist many view as the catalyst for the violent dissolution of the former Yugoslavia.

Panic is a moderate who left his home in the United States about a year ago to try to bring peace to his war-torn native Yugoslavia.

The B'nai B'rith conversation came the day after Schiner called on President Bush and President-elect Bill Clinton to hold a Camp David summit the week of Christmas to end the conflict.

Schiner said such an unusual collaboration would be "an extraordinary action to meet an extraordinary crisis."

### Reawakens 'Most Agonizing Memories'

"What we are witnessing today in Bosnia reawakens the most agonizing memories of World War II," Schiner wrote in a letter to Bush.

"Those memories impose on the Jewish people a solemn obligation to speak out, with passion and pertinacity against the horror that has become Bosnia, a horror that only a political settlement can end," he wrote.

Schiner called the situation in Bosnia a "tragedy which, if allowed to continue, will consume many thousands more innocent lives."

B'nai B'rith has called for months for an end to the Bosnian conflict "by all means necessary, including international military intervention."

In his phone conversation with Schiner, Panic rejected the idea of military intervention.

On Wednesday, B'nai B'rith organized a meeting on ethnic cleansing at the United Nations, which featured speeches by the ambassadors of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

The event was held on the 44th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

At the meeting, the Bosnian ambassador, Muhamed Sacirbey, paid tribute to the Jewish community for its efforts to end the atrocities in his country, according to Harris Schoenberg, B'nai B'rith's director of U.N. affairs.

**RABIN ASKS MAJOR TO PRESS THE E.C. TO COMBAT RISING RACISM IN EUROPE**

By Bernard Josephs  
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told British leaders this week he is determined to achieve peace in the Middle East and do battle against resurgent racism in Europe.

During a meeting at No. 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister John Major, who accepted an invitation to visit Israel next spring, Rabin pressed his host to raise the issue of mounting neo-Nazi violence and anti-Semitism with the European Community.

Major is currently president of the E.C., which is holding a weekend summit in Edinburgh.

The Israeli prime minister also issued a grim warning on the dangers posed by the Iranians as they pursue a nuclear capability.

Rabin's three-day visit to London was hailed as an outstanding success by both Israeli and British officials. The warmth of the welcome reflected British approval of his government's more flexible approach to the peace process, they said.

Rabin and Major met for more than an hour Wednesday for talks in which the racist threat in Europe and the Middle East peace talks were high on the agenda.

Economic issues also figured largely in the discussion, with Rabin calling for a speedy renegotiation of trading ties with the E.C., in order to close Israel's \$5 billion deficit with the 12-nation community.

A likely bonus for Israeli manufacturers could result from Major's statement that, although Britain will maintain its arms embargo against Jerusalem, introduced during the war in Lebanon, there is no political obstacle to London purchasing Israeli-manufactured weapons.

Rafael, the Israeli armament development authority, is hoping to clinch a \$1 billion deal to provide the Royal Air Force with its Popeye air-to-ground missile.

**'Terrible Beast Of Racism'**

There was broad agreement on the Middle East peace talks although the two sides remained far apart on the status of Jerusalem and recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Nor was there any suggestion that Rabin had persuaded his opposite number to legislate against -- rather than simply condemn -- cooperation with the Arab economic boycott against Israel.

Emerging from Downing Street, Rabin said he had found an understanding for Israel's problems during the talks. And a spokesman for Major said the meeting had been "very warm and friendly."

Earlier, Rabin told 1,000 Joint Israel Appeal leaders here that he is determined to pursue peace because the alternative is more risky.

"We have two choices," he told his audience at the JIA's annual dinner, "to live in peace with security or to live by the sword and let wars, hostility and terror continue."

On European racism, the prime minister pledged that Israel would press European governments to tackle "the rising of the terrible beast of racism and anti-Semitism."

Never again, he said, could the world allow a repetition of what happened before and during World War II.

The prime minister's concern was reflected

in a call by a major Jewish group for European leaders to take determined action to combat racism and anti-Semitism, particularly in Germany.

On the eve of the Edinburgh summit, the European Jewish Congress asked the leaders of the 12 E.C. member states to "react very firmly" to "the wave of intolerance threatening the democratic future of Europe."

**GERMANY BANS ANOTHER NAZI GROUP, IN DRIVE TO COMBAT RACIAL VIOLENCE**

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- In yet another sign of an emerging tough attitude against right-wing extremists, the German government on Thursday banned the Deutsche Alternative, a neo-Nazi group active mainly in the state of Brandenburg.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters said the ban is needed because the group has participated in violent attacks and promoted anti-Semitism and hatred against foreigners.

Early Thursday morning, hundreds of police officers staged raids on more than 40 homes nationwide. The center of police action against the group was Cottbus, an eastern German town near the Polish border in which the group's leader, Frank Hubner, lives.

Hubner was taken into temporary custody and his apartment was searched for weapons and propaganda material.

The authorities said that large quantities of light arms were confiscated, as well as pamphlets agitating against foreigners and Jews.

This followed an unprecedented move taken Wednesday by the German Cabinet to seek to have two neo-Nazi activists, Thomas Dienel and Heinz Reisz, stripped of their basic civil rights.

Also Wednesday, 24 houses and apartments of members of another Neo-Nazi group were searched as part of the crackdown.

Authorities said their eventual aim is to ban that group, the Deutsche Kammeradschaftsbund Wilhelmshaven, which has been operating in the northwestern port city of Wilhelmshaven.

There, too, large quantities of light weapons and propaganda material were confiscated.

In keeping with this, Interior Minister Seiters said Thursday that his ministry was studying the possibility of banning further neo-Nazi groups. However, he did not name them.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, also speaking Thursday, described the neo-Nazi upsurge in the country as "dramatic" and promised harsh measures against the vandals.

During a debate in the Bundestag, the lower house of Parliament, he said democracy in Germany is strong enough to face the challenge and crack down on the extremists.

A leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, Oskar Lafontaine, said that one main reason for the relative success of the extremists in recruiting youths is the country's enormous social problems.

Some 5,000 people, many of them state employees and police, demonstrated Thursday in Dusseldorf against the neo-Nazi violence. They carried banners saying it is wrong to blame the police for the recent attacks against foreigners.

In Frankfurt, a court sentenced a 24-year-old neo-Nazi to eight years in prison for the attempted murder of an asylum-seeker.

And in Karlsruhe, two men were arrested as suspects in supplying arms to a paramilitary neo-Nazi group called Werwolf Jagdeinheit.

**CANADIAN CHARGED WITH WAR CRIMES WAS ONCE HIRED BY CIA, SAYS GROUP**  
By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Radislav Grujic, a Canadian resident who was arrested Tuesday on charges of war crimes, was hired by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency after the war for its clandestine Operation Paperclip, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Sol Littman, director of the Canadian office of the Los Angeles-based center, said he gave this information to the Deschenes Commission in 1986.

The commission, established to investigate war criminals in Canada, gave the information to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It took six years for the Canadian government to arrest Grujic, Littman pointed out.

Other war criminals brought to the United States for secret anti-Communist activities included Klaus Barbie and Arthur Rudolph.

The Wiesenthal Center informed Canada that in the early 1950s, the Yugoslav government had requested Grujic's extradition to face war crimes charges.

Grujic, 81, who lives in Windsor, Ontario, was charged with 10 counts of premeditated murder and one count each of conspiracy to murder and kidnap.

His indictment says that as a senior official of a special section of the Belgrade police in wartime Serbia from June 22, 1941 to Oct. 1, 1944, he conspired with civil authorities and the German occupying forces in the arrest and interrogation of suspected communists.

As a result of Grujic's activities, his victims were deported to Germany and elsewhere for forced labor. Ten people are alleged to have been shot in Belgrade on May 25, 1943.

Littman said he received this information from the Yugoslav Department to Combat Terrorism seven years ago, when he was in Belgrade.

**Appeals In Finta Case Accepted**

According to the information, Grujic offered his services to the CIA and "was hired by the same unit that handled the infamous Gestapo chief, Klaus Barbie," Littman said.

Grujic worked for the Americans in Austria and Italy. When he was no longer useful, he was provide with false papers and smuggled out of Italy through the "rat line," which was organized by Croatian priests, other members of the Catholic Church and the Red Cross. From the port of Genoa, Grujic made his way to Canada.

In Ottawa, meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Canada on Thursday accepted an appeal by Imre Finta, who is challenging the constitutionality of Canada's war crimes legislation.

Finta, who was acquitted in 1990 of eight counts of war crimes committed in Hungary, is appealing the 1987 amendment to the criminal code, on grounds that it is retroactive and based on crimes committed outside the country.

Also on Thursday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal of Finta's acquittal filed by the Justice Department. The Justice Department cited 36 errors in law made by the trial judge in the Finta case, Archie Campbell.

Finta was accused of the forcible confinement of 8,617 Jews in the ghetto in Szegeed in southern Hungary.

The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld Finta's acquittal in April. He was acquitted May 1990.

**JACKSON URGES BLACKS AND JEWS 'TO TURN PAIN INTO PARTNERSHIP'**  
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Addressing a Jewish audience here, the Rev. Jesse Jackson congratulated blacks and Jews this week for "sending (President) Bush back to private life."

And while acknowledging differences between blacks and Jews, he urged a sympathetic crowd on Wednesday to "turn pain into partnership, not polarization."

Obviously eager to heal past rifts, which have been exacerbated by bloody confrontations between blacks and Hasidim in Brooklyn's Crown Heights section, Jackson cited both the joint battles of the civil rights movement and the need for future projects to alleviate poverty in America's explosive inner cities.

Jackson's appearance was sponsored by the Jewish Urban Affairs Center of the American Jewish Congress.

It followed a conference two weeks ago in which 18 Jewish organizations explored ways of getting their members involved in the needs of the inner city, in light of the Los Angeles riots last April.

The African American leader and past presidential candidate gave a spirited defense of his pro-Jewish stands in response to a questioner's comment that while many Jews liked his message, they mistrusted the messenger.

Likening black-Jewish relations to a baseball game, in which errors were committed by both teams during earlier innings, Jackson emphasized some of his solid "hits."

These included marching with Jews against neo-Nazis in Skokie, Ill., confronting former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on emigration of Jews, protesting President Reagan's visit to the Bitburg military cemetery in Germany, his praise for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the Democratic National Convention and his endorsement of Zionism as a national liberation movement.

**'I Am Your Friend'**

"If you look at the final boxscore," he concluded, "I am your friend."

Earlier this week, Jackson appeared at a black-Jewish rally in Louisville, Ky., to protest anti-Semitic and racist remarks allegedly made by Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team.

He was to appear Saturday at a board meeting of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Palm Beach, Fla.

In the speech here, he linked his protestations of friendship with a subtle warning on the cost of rejection.

"When you go to Watts to help rebuild urban Los Angeles, if you're met with a series of charges as opposed to open arms, you're going to go home," Jackson said. "We want to build bridges, not bomb bridges."

Jackson urged a renewed black-Jewish alliance in home construction, health care and legal services in urban ghettos.

"We must never underestimate our (common) power to make change," he said, "and we must never underestimate our vulnerability."

Jackson repeatedly cited the documentary "Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts during World War II," which stresses the role of African American soldiers in the liberation of the Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps.