

**LEGAL BATTLES OVER EXPULSIONS  
ARE NOT OVER YET FOR JERUSALEM**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Israel is coming under domestic legal pressure to modify its standoff with Lebanon over responsibility for over 400 Moslem fundamentalist deportees stranded in southern Lebanon between military checkpoints of the two sides.

Petitions to Israel's High Court of Justice mounted as a special United Nations envoy wound up an evidently fruitless shuttle between Jerusalem and Beirut.

On Wednesday, U.N. Undersecretary-General James Jonah returned to Jerusalem empty-handed from Lebanon.

The Beirut government had rejected an Israeli offer to allow the Red Cross one-time access to the deportees through Israeli-controlled territory if Lebanon would then allow relief aid through its own lines.

In a second meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Jonah suggested the deportees now be sent to a third country. But Rabin said no other country would accept them.

Jonah reportedly told Israeli Arab leaders Wednesday that, barring a show of greater flexibility on the part of Israel, he would report to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that his mission had failed. Jonah was due to meet Boutros-Ghali in Ethiopia.

Meanwhile, Israel's High Court was due Thursday to review a slew of appeals dealing with the Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists expelled to Lebanon on Dec. 17, following terrorist killings of five Israeli servicemen.

The latest application asks the court to order Rabin to open direct negotiations with the deportees in return for the release of Israeli air force navigator Ron Arad, who was downed over Lebanon in 1986, and other missing Israeli soldiers.

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Attorney Naftali Gur-Arye argued that international pressure over the deportees created an extraordinary opportunity for moving forward on the missing Israelis, who are believed to be held by Moslem fundamentalists.

His application is the most recent of a series under review by the High Court. One of them would compel Israel to allow Red Cross officials to travel through the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon to bring aid to the deportees.

Another seeks to have ailing deportees hospitalized at Marjayoun, inside the Israeli buffer zone.

Although the government has so far won all rounds in court concerning the deportations, the justices have still not issued a final ruling on the legality of the move. And newly reported details about the government's decision-making process may have an impact on the case.

Justice Minister David Libai, who abstained in the Dec. 16 Cabinet vote authorizing the large-scale deportation, said he had, in effect, been presented with a fait accompli.

Libai told the Knesset Law Committee this

week he was given only 10 minutes notice before the Cabinet was convened to decide on the legality of the expulsion measure.

News reports said Rabin also did not consult with the head of the Shin Bet domestic security service before recommending the deportations.

Meanwhile, Lebanon has called for an Arab summit meeting to develop a joint Arab position on the deportations. Arab foreign ministers have scheduled an emergency session on the issue for Jan. 11.

**ARAFAT SHARPLY CONDEMNS EXPULSIONS,  
BUT SIGNALS SUPPORT FOR PEACE TALKS**  
By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Yasir Arafat is giving strong indications that he backs continued peace talks with Israel, despite its deportation of 415 Moslem fundamentalists to Lebanon.

The Palestine Liberation Organization leader told reporters here Wednesday he is still committed to peace, and he called on Palestinians in the administered territories to develop contacts with peace-oriented Israelis in the Labor and Meretz parties of the coalition government.

Arafat condemned the Israeli expulsions as "an ethnic act and a war crime." But he also spoke out against such acts as the kidnapping and brutal murder of Israeli border policeman Nissim Toledano by activists of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Nevertheless, Arafat said the slaying did not justify the massive deportation to Lebanon of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, which occurred a few days after the incident.

Observers said his remarks appeared to signal continuing differences between the PLO and Hamas, which have long been rivals for Palestinian support in the territories but have recently shown unity in public over the deportation issue.

Hamas opposed the peace talks even before the Israeli expulsions. It would like the PLO to pull out of the negotiations, but so far Arafat has stopped short of slamming the door on the talks.

The Tunis-based PLO leader, who calls the shots for Palestinians negotiating directly with Israel, spoke after separate meetings here with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Boutros-Ghali told reporters he was still awaiting a third and final report from his special envoy to the Middle East, U.N. Undersecretary-General James Jonah, before taking any further action on the deportees issue.

He suggested that one solution might be for Israel to allow the 415 deportees to return and imprison them, pending charges and trial.

Dumas said he suggested to Boutros-Ghali that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon look after the 415 deportees, pending a long-term solution. He said the U.N. secretary-general promised to look into that option.

At the United Nations in New York, meanwhile, Security Council members held informal consultations Wednesday on issuing a statement condemning Israel for failing to abide by a Dec. 18 resolution insisting that the deportees be returned. The consultations were expected to continue late into the evening.

## JERUSALEM URGED TO KEEP IN MIND CLINTON'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- An influential think tank here is cautioning the Israeli government to bear in mind the "extreme sensitivity" on human rights issues likely to be shown by the Clinton administration and to guide its policies in the administered territories accordingly.

Failure to understand American thinking helped mar relations between the Bush administration and the Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir, says a report issued by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

If Israel's Labor government wishes to avoid similar pitfalls in links with the incoming Clinton team, it must gain understanding of the principles guiding American foreign policy, say the authors of the report, headed by Jaffee Center's director, Aharon Yariv, a former army chief of intelligence.

The report, titled "After the American Elections: Anticipating Changes in the Israel-U.S. Relationship," also urges the government to consider a nuclear freeze within stringent parameters and to develop a new rationale for Israel's strategic relationship with Washington.

If the United States insists on a nuclear freeze, Israel should insist that its deterrent capability not "degenerate" in the context of the balance of power in the region, say the report's authors.

But, first, Jerusalem should encourage the Clinton administration to appreciate the regional imbalance that forces Israel to insist on retaining its qualitative edge "also in its nuclear dimension."

With the end of the Cold War, Israel should look to the American-brokered peace process as the primary rationale for its strategic relationship with the United States, the analysts say.

## VIETNAMESE TEAM VISITS ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Israel is moving slowly toward establishing diplomatic relations with Vietnam, according to official sources in Jerusalem.

A Vietnamese trade mission, currently visiting Israel, met Sunday with the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Hadass, and both sides voiced the hope that diplomatic relations would soon be established.

The Vietnamese said there was no reason for any obstacles to remain in the way of their country's developing ties with Israel on the commercial and cultural and planes.

After years of isolation, Vietnam is now trying to broaden its relations with nations throughout the world.

The current visit follows a similar trip by an Israeli trade delegation to Vietnam last March.

## TOURISM TO ISRAEL HITS RECORD HIGH

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Tourism to Israel reached a record high of 1.75 million visitors in 1992, according to Ministry of Tourism figures released Monday.

This was a 60 percent increase over the previous year.

But 1991 was an exceptionally low tourism year because of the Persian Gulf War.

The visitors spent some \$2 billion -- a healthy and welcome invisible export.

## BONES OF JERUSALEM DEAD RATTLE EVEN THE HAREDIM OF NEW YORK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The battle over ancient burial caves in northern Jerusalem has now reached Israeli Cabinet level and overflowed to the streets of New York.

The brouhaha continued Wednesday as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was trying to find a way to build a much-needed highway in Jerusalem while satisfying fervently Orthodox Jews, or haredim, over the disposition of 2,000-year-old bones that were found buried in caves along its route.

In New York, an estimated 20,000 haredim stood in pouring rain outside the Israeli Consulate on Wednesday afternoon to condemn an Israeli government that "desecrates our holy gravesites."

They heard speeches denouncing Israel from Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum, rabbi of the anti-Zionist Satmar Hasidic sect, among others.

"Let our sages rest in peace," read placards carried by the demonstrators, whose march across Manhattan's busy 42nd Street, from Fifth Avenue to Second Avenue, caused massive traffic backups.

Motorists watched more in curiosity than impatience as the demonstrators, mostly men in long black coats, filed by carrying coffins shrouded in black.

In Jerusalem, the High Court of Justice banned work at the disputed site pending hearings Sunday on an application filed by Athra Kadisha, the society for preserving Jewish burial sites.

Athra Kadisha wants the court to order the city and the Israeli Antiquities Authority to show cause why work should not be halted at the site.

The Antiquities Authority is interested in the ossuaries in which the bones were found, which contain vital information about Jewish burial practices at the time of the Second Temple.

## Rabin Trying For Compromise

Archaeologists, haredim and municipal authorities all have their own agenda for the ancient bones.

Archaeologists had been called in to carry out a legally mandated rescue dig after road workers stumbled on the Second Temple period burial caves.

Prime Minister Rabin has had to bear in mind the sensibilities of one of his two coalition partners, the fervently Orthodox Shas party, as the debate over the bones intensified. He appointed a ministerial committee to seek a compromise to the deadlock.

But his intervention triggered an angry response from Mayor Teddy Kollek, who said there is no solution for the residents of the city's northern suburbs other than to build the road as planned.

Well-placed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Rabin's intervention came at the behest of Shas spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The revered rabbi, although hospitalized with pneumonia, telephoned the premier and urged him to act after an estimated 40,000 haredim demonstrated at the site on Monday.

They were led by the Hasidic rebbe of Ger, Pinchas Menachem Alter, as well as a noted religious legal authority, Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach.

(Contributing to this report was JTA student intern Lainie Blum-Cogan in New York.)

## 1992 WAS A BLEAK YEAR FOR ALIYAH, THOUGH IT ENDED ON BRIGHTER NOTE

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- 1992 has not been a banner year for aliyah, though it is ending on a positive note.

Immigration to Israel rose 20 percent during the second half of the year, bringing the year's total number of new immigrants to 75,000, including about 63,500 from the states that formerly comprised the Soviet Union.

But even with the surge this fall, immigration was down by more than half from 1991, when 176,100 people made aliyah, according to figures provided by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Immigration from the Soviet successor states fared even worse. The 1992 total from the region was less than half the 1991 total of 147,839 and just a third of the 1990 total of 185,227.

All told, some 475,000 individuals have come on aliyah since the autumn of 1989, when the Soviet Union began to permit Jews to emigrate in much greater numbers than ever before.

While aliyah is only a fraction of what it was two years ago, the immigration rate is again on the upswing. Approximately 7,000 olim arrived in December, among them 6,300 immigrants from Russia and the other ex-Soviet republics. Less than half that number arrived last May, the worst month of this year for aliyah.

"Despite our predictions that aliyah would be way down in 1992, the numbers were still a bit disappointing," Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz admitted in an end-of-the-year interview.

But he added, "We expect the total to reach 110,000 in 1993."

Dinitz said the Jewish Agency still expects that as many as 1 million more Jews, representing about 60 percent of the remaining Jewish population in the ex-Soviet republics, will make aliyah in the coming years.

Dinitz, who also chairs the World Zionist Organization, said the aliyah rate from the republics is determined by three factors: conditions in the republics themselves, the availability of alternate destinations and conditions for new immigrants in Israel.

"As of today, there are no signs of economic or political improvement" in the republics, he said. "If anything, there are growing signs of intolerance against foreigners, and Jews fall under that category."

### Increases In Aliyah From West

As for alternate destinations, "most countries aren't opening their doors to Jews in large numbers," he said.

As for conditions for immigrants in Israel, "the new government has not made any revolutionary changes," Dinitz admitted, but he said that "the trend is in the right direction."

"There is a great feeling of anticipation among the Jews still in the former Soviet Union. They believe that things will improve, especially when it comes to employment opportunities."

Outreach, said Dinitz, is the key to increased immigration. "We will work toward easing the process of aliyah," he said. "This could mean anything from more direct flights from outlying areas to improved vocational training for prospective olim."

Dinitz said the Jewish Agency also plans to double its educational activities in the ex-Soviet republics during the next year.

While the Jewish Agency has placed a great deal of emphasis on Jews in the Soviet successor states, aliyah emissaries are active in Western countries as well, Dinitz said.

Aliyah from the United States and France rose 30 percent each, while the rate from Britain increased 20 percent.

"While the figures are encouraging," Dinitz said, "I wouldn't get overly excited."

He noted that the aliyah totals were still only 1,300 from France and 2,600 from the United States, where "people are feeling threatened by anti-Semitism and the discouraging economy."

Although the Jewish Agency chairman said he does not expect a significant increase in aliyah from the West in the foreseeable future, he did call on parents to send young people to Israel for the summer or a semester.

"Many of these young people lack a Jewish identity, and time spent in Israel can combat that," he said. "Israel has so much to give them, and they have so much to give the country."

### CHANGES IN RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP PROVOKE LITTLE WORRY AMONG JEWS

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW (JTA) -- The recent changes in the makeup of the Russian government have provoked little worry among the country's Jewish population and are just as unlikely to have an adverse impact on the current friendly state of relations with Israel.

For once again, wild predictions of coups and upheavals in the wake of December's session of the Congress of People's Deputies proved unfounded.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin was forced to sacrifice reform-oriented Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar in favor of technocrat Viktor Chernomyrdin. But the rest of the Cabinet remained largely intact.

In the key area of foreign policy, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev survived, suggesting that Russia's pro-Western policies and new-found friendship with Israel will remain unchanged.

The other key foreign policy post, that of minister of foreign economic relations, changed hands. But the new minister, Sergei Glazov, was a deputy to the outgoing Pyotr Aven, who reportedly picked his aide to succeed him.

Both men are regarded as pro-Western reformers. The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry is responsible, among other things, for Russian arms sales to foreign countries, and therefore has important implications for Russia's Middle East policy.

Domestically, few Jews here expressed anxiety about a rightward turn in Russian society as a result of the change in prime ministers, although some worried about whether the pace of reform would slow down under Chernomyrdin.

Many will be watching to see whether Chernomyrdin is his own man, independent of both Yeltsin and the conservative parliament that voted him into power by a large margin.

In the past three years, emigration of Jews from the republics of the former Soviet Union has been linked to concern over the fate of reform here. But so far, the change in government players has not precipitated a rush among Jews to apply for visas to Israel.

The Israeli Embassy here reported no significant increase in the number of immigrant visas issued after the change.

**MARSHALL WEINBERG ELECTED  
PRESIDENT OF THE JTA BOARD**

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Marshall Weinberg has been elected president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, succeeding Julius Berman, who served as JTA president since 1989.

The announcement was made by William Lee Frost, chairman of the JTA nominating committee, at the annual meeting of JTA's board of directors. JTA is the international agency that functions as the central news gathering and disseminating organization of world Jewry.

Weinberg, of New York, is an account executive with the New York Stock Exchange firm of Gruntal and Co. He studied philosophy at the University of Michigan and Harvard University and received a master's degree in business administration from Columbia University.

A longtime director, officer and member of the JTA executive committee, Weinberg is an honorary vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, a member of the executive committees of both the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and UJA-Federation of Greater New York. He is also a member of the Visiting Committee in Literature, Science and Arts of the University of Michigan.

He was chairman of the Young Leadership Division of New York UJA in 1963 and was a vice president and chairman of its budget and finance committee. He was a national vice president of UJA and was chairman of its national speakers bureau.

Weinberg, along with his brothers James and Edward, represent the third generation of Weinberg Jewish communal activism.

His father, the late Dr. Harold Weinberg, was a founder of UJA and his grandfather, Zvi Masliansky, was an early Zionist thinker and teacher.

**A Need To Increase Resources**

In comments to the JTA board of directors after his election, Weinberg described JTA as an agency that faithfully, objectively and professionally covers the entire Jewish community and is owned by no one element within the community.

He detailed the vast changes in both the structure and demography of organized Jewry that have created new demands and challenges for JTA as the only international Jewish news agency.

"I would like to help JTA increase its resources to meet two very pressing problems," Weinberg said in a recent interview.

"The first is the need to expand our worldwide coverage. Secondly, I think it's important that JTA address the huge changes in the Jewish community through fresh, original, investigative journalism that reaches beyond the standard and pat answers."

Weinberg praised Julius Berman, the outgoing president, and committed himself to continue the tradition of excellence at JTA. He noted the continued involvement of JTA past presidents Robert Arnov, Martin Fox, William Frost, William Landau and Eleazar Lipsky.

Elected along with Weinberg were Julius Berman, board chairman; Robert Arnov, chairman of the executive committee; Bennett Aaron, Raymond Epstein, Nat Kameny, Leonard Kesten, Ben Zion Leuchter, Melvin Swig and Bernice Tannenbaum as vice presidents; Philip Ritzenberg, treasurer; Henry Everett, treasurer; and Mark Seal, executive vice president.

**PAMYAT FILES A LIBEL SUIT  
AGAINST MOSCOW JEWISH PAPER**

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The ultranationalist Pamyat movement has filed a libel suit in a Moscow court against the Jewish Gazette, Russia's leading Jewish newspaper, for describing a Pamyat publication as anti-Semitic.

Dimitry Vasiliev, head of Pamyat's leading faction, is claiming 20 million rubles (\$50,000) from the Gazette because it included the Pamyat publication on a list of publications its editor considers anti-Semitic.

Pamyat waited more than 18 months to file the lawsuit, said Tancred Golenpolsky, the Gazette's editor, because the group hoped that the political upheaval surrounding the recent Russian Congress of People's Deputies would create a more favorable climate for its action.

Vasiliev could not be reached for comment.

Golenpolsky said he included Pamyat, also the name of the group's publication, because it printed the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a notorious 19th-century fabrication about a Jewish conspiracy aimed at world domination.

The Jewish Gazette is being defended by two well-known Moscow lawyers, Genrik Reznik and David Axelband, both Jewish.

Reznik is the same lawyer who helped a former Soviet Jew, Professor Herman Branover of Israel, win a libel suit against Pamyat in July for misrepresenting his autobiography.

Accusations against Branover were printed in another Pamyat newspaper, Nash Sovremenyik.

In October, members of Pamyat were arrested for breaking into the offices of a Moscow newspaper, Moskovski Komsomol, and demanding that its editor turn over names of the paper's journalists who wrote "anti-patriotic" articles.

Vasiliev was not among those who broke into the paper's office but reportedly said it should be prosecuted for advocating "prostitution, homosexuality and Zionism."

Pamyat's libel suit against the Jewish Gazette will be heard in Moscow's Chermushkinsky People's Court on Jan. 26.

**ISRAEL GETTING NEW ECONOMIC DAILY**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Beginning in February, Israel will get a new economic daily, modeled on the Financial Times of London.

The Hebrew-language tabloid, to be called the Telegraph, is owned by a holding company that is primarily backed by a U.S. investors group, according to Matti Golan, who has been named editor in chief. The overseas investors are represented in Israel by Avi Tiomkin.

Another backer is the Dovrat Shrem company whose chairman, Aharon Dovrat, will serve as chairman of the newspaper's board.

"Our target audience is anyone interested in economics, not just businessmen," said Golan, a former economics correspondent for the daily Ha'aretz and the economic weekly Globes.

The new publication, to be printed, like its British model, on pink paper, will concentrate on economic news and analysis "with a sprinkling of articles in related fields, such as social-economics," he said.

**REMINDER: The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published Friday, Jan. 1.**