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NO. 3

**NEW U.N. ENVOY HEADED FOR MIDEAST
TO HELP RESOLVE DEPORTATION ISSUE**
By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is sending another emissary to the Middle East in connection with Israel's deportation last month of 415 Islamic fundamentalist activists to Lebanon.

The envoy, Chinmaya Gharekhan, was due to arrive in Israel on Thursday evening. Gharekhan retired as India's U.N. representative at the end of December and has been named the U.N. delegate to the multilateral peace talks on Middle East regional issues.

The decision to send Gharekhan to the region follows the failure of U.N. Undersecretary-General James Jonah to resolve any aspects of the situation, including the refusal of both Lebanon and Israel to permit humanitarian aid to the deportees.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali said the failure of Jonah's mission "is attributable primarily to Israel's unwillingness to comply with Resolution 799," which called on the Jewish state to reverse the deportations.

While U.N. missions are seldom welcomed by Israel, diplomatic sources quoted by the Israeli press have put a positive spin on the new special envoy.

They say it reflects the desire of Boutros-Ghali to keep the issue of the deportations off the Security Council's agenda for the time being. The issue had been expected to resurface upon special envoy Jonah's return this week.

Were the Security Council to take up the issue again, following its failure to reverse Israel's action with its "strong" condemnation Dec. 18, it might consider sanctions against the Jewish state, as urged by some non-aligned nations.

Such a move would likely draw an American veto.

For the secretary-general, continued discussion of the deportees distracts the world body's attention from the areas he considers to be of more concern, among them Somalia and the former republics of Yugoslavia.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**FOR FIRST TIME, U.S. JEWISH GROUPS
ARE ON DEFENSIVE WITH RABIN POLICIES**
By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- For the first time since Yitzhak Rabin's Labor government took power last summer, American Jewish groups have found themselves defending an Israeli action that has been criticized around the world.

Israel's expulsion of 415 Moslem fundamentalists to Lebanon may have caused discomfort for some Jewish groups, but there has been little disagreement over the issue among them.

A statement on the deportations drafted Dec. 17 by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations won approval from organizational leaders in a conference call that lasted less than 10 minutes.

That is a change from the days of Yitzhak Shamir's Likud government, when there were

often heated arguments over how far to defend Israeli actions. American Jewish groups might find distasteful.

The Conference of Presidents statement declared: "We believe that all Americans who support the cause of peace in the Middle East and reconciliation between Arab and Jew will understand the reasons for Israel's action."

While that falls short of an outright endorsement of the Israeli move, it is far more supportive of Israel's position than might have been the case had Shamir's government carried out the same deportations, according to several organizational leaders.

"We would have demonstrated some consensus, but not as strong," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "There was a greater level of organized Jewish community support than you've had in recent years."

Said an official of another organization, speaking on condition of anonymity: "If Shamir had done this, there would have been an almost hysterical reaction within certain segments of the community."

Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress, one of the organizations most critical of Shamir's policies, said "it's not a question of which government is in power; it's a question of which objectives."

Given that Rabin's objective is to advance the peace process forward rapidly, the deportations have to be understood as assuring the Israeli public that he will take whatever steps are necessary to assure their security, said Lifton.

Explaining Rather Than Condoning

"If the government was not moving on the peace process, and this move was seen as being the beginning of mass expulsions," leading to transfer of Arabs outside the territories, there would be "no question about the reaction of the Jewish community," Lifton said.

Still, as an organization "that has consistently stood for human rights," the AJCongress has not applauded the deportations as such, neither condemning nor condoning them.

Lifton feels on much firmer grounds explaining the reasons behind Israel's decision, which was made in the aftermath of a string of murders by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

"What Israelis understand is that Hamas is extending Iran's hegemony over the entire region," he said. "It's not just a narrow, localized terrorist group, but part of an overall plan to subvert the countries in the area, financed, supported and trained by Iran, with a view to establishing fundamentalist control over the region."

This explanation of Israel's aims -- while not fully justifying the means as being wise or effective -- was reiterated by most Jewish groups and was pithily summarized by the headline of a subsequent Conference of Presidents statement:

"Shed no tears for these murderers -- sympathize instead with the victims, Jew and Arab alike, of Hamas violence."

Foxman of the ADL explained his group's reluctance to back the Israeli move outright.

"Deportations is a colored word. It brings

back a lot of memories. It's a very difficult concept for the Jewish people," said Foxman, who is a Holocaust survivor.

"When it happens, there's understanding. And I guess the word that's missing is support, and there is support, but nobody's jumping up and down saying, 'I'm glad Rabin did it.'"

Jewish groups "support it as a last resort, in sorrow and in pain," he said.

One who did announce support put it in a similar context.

"I felt of the three choices Israel had, this was the least problematic," explained Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of Reform Judaism's Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Given the choices of doing nothing, or blowing up houses and imposing long jail terms, "this was the middle ground," he said.

U.N. Resolution Criticized

In this, Schindler followed the lead of Cabinet members from Meretz, Labor's dovish coalition partner, which is allied with the Reform movement in the World Zionist Organization.

"I have the utmost confidence in (their) integrity," he said.

The Reform leader admitted to some second thoughts, in light of the furor that erupted after Lebanon refused to accept the deportees.

An official of one Jewish organization that endorsed the consensus position privately called the Israeli move "the damn stupidest thing."

"The Rabin government is what so many of us were hoping for, and now he's done something that would be expected by a Shamir government," the official said, adding: "But the alternative of condemning him and weakening him is worse."

This discomfort with the action may well explain the near gusto with which several organizations, including ADL, the American Jewish Committee and the Rabbinical Council of America, criticized U.S. support for a U.N. Security Council resolution strongly condemning Israel for the deportations.

"What the Security Council failed to acknowledge, with at least tacit support of the United States, was the extraordinary nature of the threat to Israeli society and to the Middle East peace process posed by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and the extraordinary restraint shown by Israel in confronting that threat," AJCommittee leaders wrote in a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

Backing For Fight Against Hamas

One organization that might have been expected to condemn the expulsions was American Friends of Peace Now. In Israel, Peace Now sponsored a rally against the deportations.

But the American body, while issuing a statement from the Israeli parent organization, did not itself take a position.

"Peace Now in Israel," said Mark Rosenblum, political director of the American Friends group, "has totally supported the necessity of fighting Hamas and terrorism. The question is whether Rabin's chosen way of fighting the war was effective."

"We're very much of the view that there isn't much evidence that collective punishment, in general, and deportations is an effective instrument in crushing terrorism," he said.

The Israeli Peace Now position was echoed by the New Jewish Agenda and by Michael Lerner, editor of the left-wing magazine Tikkun.

Lerner held no brief for Hamas. "I hate these people, I don't respect them one inch," he said.

But he differentiated his stand from the Conference of Presidents line.

"They're saying, 'We understand the reason for the Israeli action.' I'm saying the action was stupid because it strengthened Hamas' standing in its struggle" with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"What's going on is a struggle between the PLO, who want a peaceful resolution, who are struggling for negotiations for a demilitarized Palestinian state, against the other guys, who say, 'Forget it, there is nothing we can do in relationship with Israel except to die gloriously in an armed struggle,'" said Lerner.

On the other end of the spectrum, groups that offered outright support of the Israeli move included the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and Americans for a Safe Israel.

B'nai Brith issued a statement expressing its "guarded support" for the expulsions. Less than three hours later, the organization sent out the statement again, but this time the word "guarded" was erased.

But Dan Mariaschin, the organization's director of international affairs, said, "I wouldn't read too much into that."

SKIRMISHES CONTINUE IN SECURITY ZONE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The skirmishes between Hezbollah and Israeli-backed forces in Lebanon continued this week.

Hezbollah guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades and mortar bombs at a South Lebanon Army post in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone on Tuesday. Their barrage was met by gunfire from Israel Defense Force and SLA gunners.

One SLA soldier was reported lightly injured in the attack.

It is believed here that Hezbollah's latest activity is meant to show support for the 415 members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad whom Israel deported to southern Lebanon on Dec. 17.

POLICE HOLD ARAB FOR KNIFING JEW

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli police have detained an Arab laborer on suspicion of knifing a Jewish carpenter at a construction site in Holon, south of Tel Aviv, early this week.

Danny Partosh, 27, was reported out of danger after being attacked from behind Sunday and slashed in the throat and scalp.

Authorities are still searching for the man who murdered a Shin Bet agent in a Jerusalem apartment the same day.

Security forces said they have arrested members of the family and several friends of the man who killed Haim Nahmani, 25, at a "safe house" in the Rehavia quarter on Sunday afternoon.

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Police say the man responsible for the murder was a collaborator who had been supplying information about the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas organization.

14 JEWS ARE AMONG THE NEWCOMERS SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

By Deborah Kalb

States News Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Three new Jewish senators and 11 new Jewish representatives were sworn into the U.S. Congress on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Jews in the Senate to an all-time high of 10.

Two of the three new Jewish senators in the 103rd Congress are Democratic women from California, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. California and Wisconsin will now have two Jewish senators each. Newly elected Sen. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin was sworn in Tuesday, joining his fellow Democrat Herbert Kohl.

Boxer and Feinstein won their seats in highly publicized races marking the "Year of the Woman," which swept two other Democratic women, Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois and Patty Murray of Washington state, into the Senate.

There are also record numbers of women and minorities in the House of Representatives, which has 110 new members, the most in decades. The House will include 33 Jewish members, the same number as in the previous Congress.

Of the 11 new Jewish members, only one, David Levy of New York, is a Republican. There are now five Jewish Republican representatives, 27 Democrats, and one independent, Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Of the 10 Jews now serving in the Senate, only one, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, is a Republican.

California's Boxer, 52, and Feinstein, 59, were already well-known in the political world before entering the Senate. Boxer as a five-term U.S. representative from the San Francisco area and Feinstein as a former mayor of San Francisco and unsuccessful candidate for California governor.

Feingold, 39, had served as a Wisconsin state senator since 1983 and is known as a progressive. He defeated incumbent Sen. Robert Kasten, a conservative Republican who was supported heavily by pro-Israel political action committees. The Jewish vote was deeply split between the two.

Active In Jewish Community

While most senators, as of their swearing-in, did not yet know their committee assignments, most House committee posts have been filled.

New Jewish representatives Eric Fingerhut (D-Ohio) and Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.) have been assigned to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, along with veteran Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), a longtime friend of Israel who had not served on the panel before.

Some say Schumer is well-positioned to take over the leadership of former pro-Israel Reps. Mel Levine (D-Calif.), Larry Smith (D-Fla.) and Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), who are not returning.

Fingerhut, 33, who represents a northeast Ohio district, is a former Ohio state senator and former special assistant to the Cleveland mayor.

Deutsch, 35, whose district is in southern Florida, is a former Florida state representative. He has written for The Jewish Journal, and his first job, according to an aide, was for the local Jewish Family Services.

Another Jewish newcomer is Bob Filner (D-Calif.), a former San Diego city councilman and history professor at San Diego State University.

Filner, 50, has served on San Diego's Jewish

Community Relations Council and on the board of the Anti-Defamation League. He also was executive director for two years of the Lipinsky Institute for Judaic Studies at San Diego State.

"My upbringing and my approach to politics have been affected by my Judaism," Filner said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He added that because he represents a "majority-minority" district, he hopes to be involved in the Jewish community's evolving relationships with the African-American and Hispanic communities.

Three Newcomers From Northeast

Filner is joined by three other new Jewish Democratic representatives from California: Dan Hamburg, Jane Harman and Lynn Schenk. Hamburg, 44, an educator, represents the northern California counties stretching down from the Oregon border.

Schenk, 38, and Harman, 47, both attorneys, represent southern California districts. Harman has previous Washington experience, having worked on Capitol Hill and at the White House and Pentagon during the Carter administration. Schenk served as a San Diego port commissioner and was a White House fellow from 1976-77.

Another newcomer from the West is Sam Coppersmith (D-Ariz.), who represents a Phoenix-area district in what is his first time in elective office. The 37-year-old attorney formerly worked for the mayor of Phoenix and is immediate past president of Planned Parenthood.

Two new Jewish representatives from New York, one from New Jersey and one from Pennsylvania, round out the newcomers.

David Levy, 39, representing a Long Island district, is the lone new Jewish Republican. A former town councilman, he served as legal counsel to the Nassau County Republican Committee.

Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), 45, a longtime New York state assemblyman, represents a Manhattan district, replacing the late Rep. Ted Weiss.

Herbert Klein (D-N.J.), 62, an attorney and former member of the New Jersey Assembly, will serve on the Banking, and Science, Space and Technology committees, and the Congressional Arts Caucus, according to an aide. His district is in northeastern New Jersey.

Marjorie Margolies Mezvinsky (D-Pa.), 50, was elected in a suburban Philadelphia district. A former television reporter, she wrote a book, "They Came to Stay," about how, as a single woman, she adopted children from Korea and Vietnam. Now married, she and her husband, a former congressman, have a family of 11 children.

'92 ALIYAH FROM EX-USSR TOPPED 64,000

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- A total of 64,057 people made aliyah from the republics of the former Soviet Union last year, according to figures released this week by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The number includes 6,745 immigrants who arrived in Israel last month, a slight increase from the November rate of 6,544.

In addition, 4,044 Jews from ex-Soviet republics arrived here in December under the U.S. government's refugee program, a 40 percent increase over the prior month, according to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

That brought Jewish immigration to the United States for the 1992 calendar year to 45,303, according to HIAS figures.

7 SYNAGOGUES DEFAECED IN MONTREAL IN CITY'S WORST WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders have condemned the defacement of seven synagogues this past weekend in what some have called the worst rash of anti-Semitic attacks ever seen in this city.

Unidentified vandals painted red swastikas on all the synagogues and scrawled on one of them "Juden raus" (Jews out), the notorious slogan used by the Gestapo in World War II. All seven incidents, which were spread throughout the city, occurred within a span of 24 hours.

The defacements were the first in Quebec since a Jewish cemetery in the city of Sherbrooke was vandalized in 1991.

"This is the worst act of racism in terms of magnitude and scope ever," said Jonathan Schneiderman, spokesman for B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights here.

The league has been concerned with a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in Montreal over the last two years, ranging from hate mail to assaults, although Quebec has experienced fewer such incidents than several other Canadian provinces.

In Toronto, anti-Semitic slogans were painted onto three synagogues this past summer and a Jewish cemetery was defaced with red swastikas.

Schneiderman and others pointed to a possible connection between the vandalism here and the rise of neo-Nazi violence in Europe.

"We're used to swastikas, but when they start using terminology used in Nazi Germany, it's a different ballgame, especially with what's going on in Germany now with skinheads," said Zev Mestel of the Beth Ora congregation in the St. Laurent section, one of the synagogues hit.

'Crimes Against Our Community'

The weekend's events "confirm the dire warnings" about the increase of hate crimes in Canada, said Rabbi Sidney Shohan of B'nai Brith.

"We should not shake our heads at what is happening in Germany and think it cannot happen here," Shohan said in a statement.

"We assume that this has something to do with neo-Nazis," said Michael Crelinsten, executive-director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Quebec region. "It's a particularly poignant event in a city like Montreal, with its large Holocaust survivor community."

Crelinsten voiced pessimism that authorities would be able to catch the perpetrators.

CJC has, however, offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of those responsible.

At Congregation Beth Israel Beth Aaron, one of the two synagogues in the predominantly Jewish suburb of Cote St. Luc that were vandalized, the graffiti were apparently sprayed onto the building while congregants were inside late Saturday afternoon for the mincha service.

"There are those who are tempted to dismiss these acts as being perpetrated by social outcasts," said Rabbi Reuben Poupko, spiritual leader of the synagogue.

"Yet we must remember the history of this century," he said. "Insignificant people can do terribly significant damage."

"Swastikas on synagogues do not represent crimes against buildings, but are crimes against our community and attempts to tear the very fabric of our society," he said.

HATE CRIMES DATA SHOW JEWS AMONG TOP TARGETS IN 1991

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Nearly 17 percent of the hate crimes committed in the United States in 1991 were anti-Jewish, according to statistics released in a preliminary report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This made Jews the most frequent targets of bias crimes by far, when compared to other religious and most other ethnic groups, including Hispanics and Asian Americans.

Experts regard the data as significant but not completely reliable as yardsticks of bias in this country, because law-enforcement agencies in fewer than half the states contributed to the statistics. And even in those states where statistics were reported, they were often incomplete.

It was the first year for which the FBI collected hate crimes statistics, as mandated by the Hate Crime Statistics Act, which was passed by Congress in 1990.

A total of 4,755 bias-motivated offenses in 23 states were reported to the FBI in 1991.

Of the crimes, 792, or 16.7 percent, were anti-Jewish.

The only groups that were the targets of more hate crimes were African Americans -- with 1,689 incidents, or 35.5 percent of the total -- and whites, who make up the largest percentage of the American people.

Anti-white incidents totaled 888 crimes, or 18.7 percent of the total.

Anti-gay bias crimes totaled 421, or 8.9 percent of the total number of hate-motivated incidents reported.

Just 23 anti-Catholic, 26 anti-Protestant and 10 anti-Moslem incidents were counted.

Data Collection Still Flawed

The data collection system is still flawed, according to the FBI's Robert McFall, who is acting chief of the training section in the Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

"It is not representative of the whole country at this point," he said.

Even in some of the states that supplied information, such as California, which reported only five bias incidents, there are state laws mandating that information be sent to the FBI, but not the funding to put the reporting systems and training into place.

Despite the fact that the number of bias crimes in all categories is sure to rise over the next several years as states' compliance with the Hate Crimes Statistics Act becomes more widespread, the relative percentage of crimes in each ethnic, religious and sexual orientation category will likely remain similar to what was found in 1991, said McFall.

"Anti-Semitism will continue to be a high category for us," he said.

According to Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, which has worked closely with the FBI to implement the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the 1991 data mark "the beginning of the process that delivers a message that society cares about hate crimes. Until now it's been the responsibility of each minority group to fend for themselves."

"As efforts to implement HCSA continue and expand, we will learn more about the perpetrators of these especially hurtful crimes -- and how to prevent them," said Foxman.

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They say it reflects the desire of Boutros-Ghali to keep the issue of the deportations off the Security Council's agenda for the time being. The issue had been expected to resurface upon special envoy Jonah's return this week.

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By Deborah Kalb
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Three new Jewish senators and 11 new Jewish representatives were sworn into the U.S. Congress on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Jews in the Senate to an all-time high of 10.

Two of the three new Jewish senators in the 103rd Congress are Democratic women from California, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. California and Wisconsin will now have two Jewish senators each. Newly elected Sen. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin was sworn in Tuesday, joining his fellow Democrat Herbert Kohl.

Boxer and Feinstein won their seats in highly publicized races marking the "Year of the Woman," which swept two other Democratic women, Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois and Patty Murray of Washington state, into the Senate.

There are also record numbers of women and minorities in the House of Representatives, which has 110 new members, the most in decades. The House will include 33 Jewish members, the same number as in the previous Congress.

Of the 11 new Jewish members, only one, David Levy of New York, is a Republican. There are now five Jewish Republican representatives, 27 Democrats, and one independent, Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Of the 10 Jews now serving in the Senate, only one, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, is a Republican.

California's Boxer, 52, and Feinstein, 59, were already well-known in the political world before entering the Senate. Boxer as a five-term U.S. representative from the San Francisco area and Feinstein as a former mayor of San Francisco and unsuccessful candidate for California governor.

Feingold, 39, had served as a Wisconsin state senator since 1983 and is known as a progressive. He defeated incumbent Sen. Robert Kasten, a conservative Republican who was supported heavily by pro-Israel political action committees. The Jewish vote was deeply split between the two.

Active In Jewish Community

While most senators, as of their swearing-in, did not yet know their committee assignments, most House committee posts have been filled.

New Jewish representatives Eric Fingerhut (D-Ohio) and Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.) have been assigned to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, along with veteran Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), a longtime friend of Israel who had not served on the panel before.

Some say Schumer is well-positioned to take over the leadership of former pro-Israel Reps. Mel Levine (D-Calif.), Larry Smith (D-Fla.) and Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), who are not returning.

Fingerhut, 33, who represents a northeast Ohio district, is a former Ohio state senator and former special assistant to the Cleveland mayor.

Deutsch, 35, whose district is in southern Florida, is a former Florida state representative. He has written for The Jewish Journal, and his first job, according to an aide, was for the local Jewish Family Services.

Another Jewish newcomer is Bob Filner (D-Calif.), a former San Diego city councilman and history professor at San Diego State University.

Filner, 50, has served on San Diego's Jewish

Community Relations Council and on the board of the Anti-Defamation League. He also was executive director for two years of the Lipinsky Institute for Judaic Studies at San Diego State.

"My upbringing and my approach to politics have been affected by my Judaism," Filner said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He added that because he represents a "majority-minority" district, he hopes to be involved in the Jewish community's evolving relationships with the African-American and Hispanic communities.

Three Newcomers From Northeast

Filner is joined by three other new Jewish Democratic representatives from California: Dan Hamburg, Jane Harman and Lynn Schenk. Hamburg, 44, an educator, represents the northern California counties stretching down from the Oregon border.

Schenk, 38, and Harman, 47, both attorneys, represent southern California districts. Harman has previous Washington experience, having worked on Capitol Hill and at the White House and Pentagon during the Carter administration. Schenk served as a San Diego port commissioner and was a White House fellow from 1976-77.

Another newcomer from the West is Sam Coppersmith (D-Ariz.), who represents a Phoenix-area district in what is his first time in elective office. The 37-year-old attorney formerly worked for the mayor of Phoenix and is immediate past president of Planned Parenthood.

Two new Jewish representatives from New York, one from New Jersey and one from Pennsylvania, round out the newcomers.

David Levy, 39, representing a Long Island district, is the lone new Jewish Republican. A former town councilman, he served as legal counsel to the Nassau County Republican Committee.

Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), 45, a longtime New York state assemblyman, represents a Manhattan district, replacing the late Rep. Ted Weiss.

Herbert Klein (D-N.J.), 62, an attorney and former member of the New Jersey Assembly, will serve on the Banking, and Science, Space and Technology committees, and the Congressional Arts Caucus, according to an aide. His district is in northeastern New Jersey.

Marjorie Margolies Mezvinsky (D-Pa.), 50, was elected in a suburban Philadelphia district. A former television reporter, she wrote a book, "They Came to Stay," about how, as a single woman, she adopted children from Korea and Vietnam. Now married, she and her husband, a former congressman, have a family of 11 children.

'92 ALIYAH FROM EX-USSR TOPPED 64,000

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- A total of 64,057 people made aliyah from the republics of the former Soviet Union last year, according to figures released this week by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The number includes 6,745 immigrants who arrived in Israel last month, a slight increase from the November rate of 6,544.

In addition, 4,044 Jews from ex-Soviet republics arrived here in December under the U.S. government's refugee program, a 40 percent increase over the prior month, according to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

That brought Jewish immigration to the United States for the 1992 calendar year to 45,303, according to HIAS figures.

7 SYNAGOGUES DEFAECED IN MONTREAL IN CITY'S WORST WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders have condemned the defacement of seven synagogues this past weekend in what some have called the worst rash of anti-Semitic attacks ever seen in this city.

Unidentified vandals painted red swastikas on all the synagogues and scrawled on one of them "Juden raus" (Jews out), the notorious slogan used by the Gestapo in World War II. All seven incidents, which were spread throughout the city, occurred within a span of 24 hours.

The defacements were the first in Quebec since a Jewish cemetery in the city of Sherbrooke was vandalized in 1991.

"This is the worst act of racism in terms of magnitude and scope ever," said Jonathan Schneiderman, spokesman for B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights here.

The league has been concerned with a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in Montreal over the last two years, ranging from hate mail to assaults, although Quebec has experienced fewer such incidents than several other Canadian provinces.

In Toronto, anti-Semitic slogans were painted onto three synagogues this past summer and a Jewish cemetery was defaced with red swastikas.

Schneiderman and others pointed to a possible connection between the vandalism here and the rise of neo-Nazi violence in Europe.

"We're used to swastikas, but when they start using terminology used in Nazi Germany, it's a different ballgame, especially with what's going on in Germany now with skinheads," said Zev Mestel of the Beth Ora congregation in the St. Laurent section, one of the synagogues hit.

'Crimes Against Our Community'

The weekend's events "confirm the dire warnings" about the increase of hate crimes in Canada, said Rabbi Sidney Shohan of B'nai Brith.

"We should not shake our heads at what is happening in Germany and think it cannot happen here," Shohan said in a statement.

"We assume that this has something to do with neo-Nazis," said Michael Crelinsten, executive-director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Quebec region. "It's a particularly poignant event in a city like Montreal, with its large Holocaust survivor community."

Crelinsten voiced pessimism that authorities would be able to catch the perpetrators.

CJC has, however, offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of those responsible.

At Congregation Beth Israel Beth Aaron, one of the two synagogues in the predominantly Jewish suburb of Cote St. Luc that were vandalized, the graffiti were apparently sprayed onto the building while congregants were inside late Saturday afternoon for the mincha service.

"There are those who are tempted to dismiss these acts as being perpetrated by social outcasts," said Rabbi Reuben Poupko, spiritual leader of the synagogue.

"Yet we must remember the history of this century," he said. "Insignificant people can do terribly significant damage."

"Swastikas on synagogues do not represent crimes against buildings, but are crimes against our community and attempts to tear the very fabric of our society," he said.

HATE CRIMES DATA SHOW JEWS AMONG TOP TARGETS IN 1991

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Nearly 17 percent of the hate crimes committed in the United States in 1991 were anti-Jewish, according to statistics released in a preliminary report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This made Jews the most frequent targets of bias crimes by far, when compared to other religious and most other ethnic groups, including Hispanics and Asian Americans.

Experts regard the data as significant but not completely reliable as yardsticks of bias in this country, because law-enforcement agencies in fewer than half the states contributed to the statistics. And even in those states where statistics were reported, they were often incomplete.

It was the first year for which the FBI collected hate crimes statistics, as mandated by the Hate Crime Statistics Act, which was passed by Congress in 1990.

A total of 4,755 bias-motivated offenses in 23 states were reported to the FBI in 1991.

Of the crimes, 792, or 16.7 percent, were anti-Jewish.

The only groups that were the targets of more hate crimes were African Americans -- with 1,689 incidents, or 35.5 percent of the total -- and whites, who make up the largest percentage of the American people.

Anti-white incidents totaled 888 crimes, or 18.7 percent of the total.

Anti-gay bias crimes totaled 421, or 8.9 percent of the total number of hate-motivated incidents reported.

Just 23 anti-Catholic, 26 anti-Protestant and 10 anti-Moslem incidents were counted.

Data Collection Still Flawed

The data collection system is still flawed, according to the FBI's Robert McFall, who is acting chief of the training section in the Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

"It is not representative of the whole country at this point," he said.

Even in some of the states that supplied information, such as California, which reported only five bias incidents, there are state laws mandating that information be sent to the FBI, but not the funding to put the reporting systems and training into place.

Despite the fact that the number of bias crimes in all categories is sure to rise over the next several years as states' compliance with the Hate Crimes Statistics Act becomes more widespread, the relative percentage of crimes in each ethnic, religious and sexual orientation category will likely remain similar to what was found in 1991, said McFall.

"Anti-Semitism will continue to be a high category for us," he said.

According to Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, which has worked closely with the FBI to implement the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the 1991 data mark "the beginning of the process that delivers a message that society cares about hate crimes. Until now it's been the responsibility of each minority group to fend for themselves."

"As efforts to implement HCSA continue and expand, we will learn more about the perpetrators of these especially hurtful crimes -- and how to prevent them," said Foxman.