

JEWISH LEADERS 'CLEAR THE AIR' WITH CLINTON'S PICK FOR STATE

By Deborah Kalb
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Secretary of State-designate Warren Christopher met here Wednesday with a small group of Jewish organizational leaders, in a session one official called "very positive."

The meeting represented a clearing of the air between Christopher and Jewish leaders, after a period during which some in the Jewish community had expressed concern about the prospective secretary's commitment to a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

"We found that the meeting dispelled some of the concerns," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, one of the participants in the meeting.

"We discussed a wide variety of concerns and found him very responsive," he said.

Others attending the meeting were Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), who hosted the session; Lester Pollack, the new chairman of the Conference of Presidents; Monte Friedkin, vice president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; and Liz Schryer, AIPAC's political director.

Lieberman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Christopher asked him to set up the meeting.

'Quite Warm And Forthcoming'

"He was reaching out. He knew there was concern in the pro-Israel community," the senator said.

Christopher was "quite warm and forthcoming," Lieberman said.

He said the secretary-designate, who has had ties with the Jewish community in Los Angeles, told the Jewish leaders he considers himself pro-Israel.

After the session, Pollack and Hoenlein met with Anthony Lake, whom President-elect Bill Clinton has named to chair his National Security Council, and Samuel Berger, Lake's designated deputy.

Hoenlein characterized the meetings as "very open" and said they included talk about the Jewish leaders' concerns.

Many of these center around Christopher's and Lake's work in the Carter administration State Department, which is perceived as having been tough on Israel.

Hoenlein said the Clinton appointees "believe the concerns were unfounded."

The Jewish leaders left the meeting with Christopher "reassured," he said, that the pro-Israel positions espoused by Clinton during the campaign "would characterize the foreign policy of the administration."

Hoenlein said Christopher planned to meet soon with the entire Conference of Presidents, an umbrella group of 50 national Jewish secular and religious organizations.

"Mr. Christopher assured us of his desire to be accessible and have positive, ongoing communications," he said.

22 MEMBERS OF HAMAS TERROR GANG ARRESTED FOR A STRING OF MURDERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- After weeks of frustration, Israeli security forces have scored a major victory against terrorist gangs of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, arresting members of a group held responsible for a string of murders.

Israeli security sources say they are holding 22 members of the Izz a-Din al-Kassam group, a military branch of Hamas, most of whose leadership was deported to Lebanon three weeks ago.

The detainees have confessed to killing two Israeli soldiers and wounding six others, in four shooting attacks between October and December last year, according to military sources.

News of the detentions came four days after the brutal murder of Shin Bet security agent Haim Nahmani in the heart of Jerusalem, apparently by a Hamas informer.

Announcing the arrests Wednesday, the commander of the Hebron region in the West Bank said 30 more Hamas suspects are being sought in the area.

Col. Yossi, whose last name was not released, would not comment on whether Israeli forces had captured the murderers of Nahmani and border policeman Nissim Toledano.

The Dec. 13 abduction and murder of Toledano was the immediate trigger for Israel's expulsion of 415 Moslem fundamentalist activists to Lebanon.

Gang Headed By Student Leader

The deportations, which elicited widespread condemnation, would prove to be justified, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said as news of the arrests was announced.

The terror group was uncovered in the wake of the arrest in November of Jawad Baher, a 34-year-old teacher in Hebron, who led investigators to other suspects.

When the General Security Service, as Shin Bet is formally known, detained five more suspects Tuesday, it was decided to announce the successful exposure of the terror gang.

Most of the suspects live in Hebron. Some are from the Gaza Strip but were staying in the Hebron region.

The gang's 26-year-old leader, Sheik Salah Arouri, is a member of the student council at the Islamic College in Hebron. He comes from the village of Aroura in the Ramallah region.

Gang members met regularly in rented apartments and in mosques in Hebron, sources said. Tens of thousands of dollars were transferred to them from the Gaza Strip to finance operations, including the purchase of cars.

The gang members have confessed to the murder in Hebron last October of Israeli army reservist Shmuel Gersh and to firing shots at a military vehicle near the city at about the same time, wounding two soldiers.

They also reportedly confessed to throwing hand grenades at an army vehicle in Hebron in November. The grenades never exploded.

Members of the gang reportedly surrendered a large number of weapons and explosives.

KNESSET DISCIPLINES ARAB MEMBER ACCUSED OF INCITING PALESTINIANS

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JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted Wednesday to restrict an Arab member's freedom of movement for three months following his alleged incitement of Palestinians to violence.

By a narrow 54-48 majority, the Israeli lawmakers partially deprived Hashem Mahmid of his parliamentary privileges for calling on Palestinians in Gaza two weeks ago to fight against Israel's hold on the territories "using all possible means."

The action means that Mahmid, a member of the formerly Communist Hadash party, temporarily loses his right as a Knesset member to visit most public institutions, including closed military zones in the administered territories.

The vote, which was held by secret ballot, was a blow to the government coalition, which unsuccessfully sought to ward off a majority for the motion.

Indeed, some members of the Labor and Shas parties crossed lines to vote in favor of disciplining Mahmid.

But the parliamentary loss has broader implications.

It threatens to erode the tacit support for the Labor-led coalition provided by five Arab Knesset members of the Hadash and Arab Democratic Party, whose backing has given the prime minister a more comfortable parliamentary margin by which to govern.

That support was already under strain because of Israeli Arab opposition to the Dec. 17 deportation of 415 Moslem fundamentalist activists to Lebanon.

Mahmid said Wednesday's vote marked "a black day for the Knesset." He said he would appeal the move to the High Court of Justice.

He spoke after a heated five-hour debate, which saw 40 Knesset members mount the rostrum.

Labor whip Avi Yehzekel blamed the parliamentary failure of the coalition on the absence of several Labor ministers during the vote.

The Meretz bloc, Labor's left-wing coalition partner, described the vote as the biggest defeat for the government since it took office in July.

JEWS, MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON BOSNIA

By Deborah Kalb
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Five American Jewish groups have joined with American Arab, Moslem and Christian groups in a statement urging President Bush and President-elect Bill Clinton to "take whatever steps necessary" to save the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Many Jewish groups, seeing parallels between the Nazi Holocaust and the "ethnic cleansing" inflicted upon Bosnian Moslems by Serbs, have been active in recent months in urging stronger U.S. action to help the Bosnian people.

Jewish leaders said that while such joint Jewish-Arab-Moslem cooperation was not unprecedented, it was unusual.

"It is not unrelated to the situation in Bosnia," said Andrew Baker, director of European affairs for the American Jewish Committee, one of the groups signing the statement, which was released at a news conference Wednesday.

Baker said that in the past few months there has been "a lot of back and forth" among the various groups to try to "join forces on this issue."

Mark Pelavin, Washington representative for the American Jewish Congress, another organization signing the statement, said that part of the importance of Wednesday's joint news conference was that "we were putting aside our differences to work together."

The coalition of 10 groups called on the U.S. government to "provide for the defense of the people of Bosnia," either by direct military action or by lifting the arms embargo.

In addition, the groups called for enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia, for a recognition of "ethnic cleansing" as genocide and for admission into the United States of at least 25,000 refugees from the former Yugoslavia, under emergency provisions of the U.S. Refugee Act.

Jason Isaacson, one of the organizers of the news conference, said the experience was "heartening and fascinating."

In over one hour, he said, "the words 'the Middle East' never came up, and maybe that's unprecedented."

Isaacson, who is director of government and international affairs at AJCommittee, said there would be follow-up meetings among the groups joining in the statement.

'Plenty Of Issues' In Common

Pelavin of AJCongress said his group had worked in the past with the National Association of Arab Americans. The two groups recently put out a joint statement on the importance of the peace process, he said.

Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, also cited the joint briefing with the AJCongress as "heralding a new spirit of identifying areas of common concern."

Arab and Jewish groups had worked together "sporadically" on domestic issues, Jahshan said, but until recently, there had been "no systematic effort" to join together on issues of foreign policy.

Wednesday's news conference, he said, is the second such event.

"We welcome it," Jahshan said. "Despite different perspectives on the Arab-Israeli conflict, there are plenty of issues we can work on to advance."

In addition, Pelavin said, AJCongress has worked with the American Muslim Council on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, legislation supported by a coalition of religious groups. The bill would make it harder for the government to encroach upon religious practices.

Wednesday's statement followed a Dec. 22 rally in Washington staged by a coalition of 24 Jewish groups to push for stronger U.S. action on Bosnia.

Jewish women's groups staged a rally the same day in New York to protest the mass rape and sexual abuse of thousands of women in the former Yugoslav republic.

The groups signing Wednesday's statement included the Albanian American Civic League, AJCommittee, AJCongress, American Muslim Council, American Task Force for Bosnia, Americans for Freedom in Former Yugoslavia, Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith International, National Association of Arab Americans and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

RUSSIAN PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER URGES ISRAEL TO WORK FOR PEACE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The speaker of the Russian Parliament has urged Israel not "to play into the hands of the opponents of peace" by such actions as the Dec. 17 deportation of 415 Islamic fundamentalist activists to Lebanon.

Winding up a three-day visit to Israel on Tuesday, Ruslan Khasbulatov said he opposed "the deportation and other repressive measures, as a matter of principle."

But carefully balancing his remarks, the Russian lawmaker told reporters the terrorist actions that provoked Israel's move were unjustified.

He said also the Russian Parliament greatly appreciates the basic policy thrust of Yitzhak Rabin's Labor government, which, he said, involves real negotiations and genuine concessions.

Khasbulatov, a Moslem member of the Chechen people, said all the Moslem republics of the states that formerly comprised the Soviet Union are "secular and democratic," and that, as such, there is no place in them for religion to play a political role.

"It is one thing to respect religion and to assist clerics, especially since religions in the Soviet Union suffered for so long. But it is quite another to allow religious fundamentalism to take on a political role," he said.

Asked about emigration from his country, Khasbulatov spoke with concern about a "brain drain" of "young, talented people, both scientists and scholars in the arts."

He referred in this context to Jewish emigration, but said that, from the Russian perspective, the problem is much greater, as it affects many sectors of the population.

"It shows our society is sick," he said. "We have to find ways of improving matters at home."

A Colorful Figure

Khasbulatov met with Prime Minister Rabin and other government figures, and also with Palestinian leaders before leaving for visits to Egypt and Jordan.

Khasbulatov, 50, is one of the more colorful figures on the Russian political landscape.

Once a staunch ally of President Boris Yeltsin -- he stood with Yeltsin against the Communist hard-liners during the August 1991 putsch -- Khasbulatov became Yeltsin's most dangerous enemy after the Russian president failed to include him in his Cabinet following the putsch's failure.

Using his position as Parliament speaker, Khasbulatov has appealed to the conservative, formerly Communist majority in the Parliament to slow Yeltsin's reforms at every step, under the banner of promoting parliamentary power as essential to Russia's new democracy.

A former lecturer in socialist economics at Moscow's Plekhanov Institute, Khasbulatov is regarded even by his enemies as intelligent and politically astute.

Prior to his departure for Israel, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he was looking forward to his first visit to Israel, as well as to Jordan and Egypt, where he has Arab friends from his days at Moscow State University in the 1960s.

In Jordan, he said, he was also looking forward to meeting the small Chechen community.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Alexander Lesser in Moscow.)

KOHL URGES END TO RACIST ATTACKS, SHOWS MORE ATTENTION TO NEO-NAZIS

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Showing heightened visibility in condemning neo-Nazi violence, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has urged his countrymen to support efforts by authorities to put an end to xenophobia and racist attacks.

In a New Year's Eve message carried widely in the national media, Kohl promised the government would do its utmost to protect non-Germans who have been the target of neo-Nazi assault.

Kohl came under earlier criticism for failing to respond firmly to attacks on foreigners here.

Meanwhile, Bonn is moving to enact a constitutional amendment to curb the inflow of asylum-seekers, whose number this year neared half a million.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters has readied government legislation that will limit the right to political asylum, in a change that has been formally approved by the main opposition party, the Social Democrats, whose support is indispensable for parliamentary passage.

The move cost the Social Democrats one of its most prominent members, the writer Gunther Grass, who resigned in protest.

Both the ruling Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democrats say the change is needed to handle the misuse of asylum, which has taken on enormous proportions.

They believe most of the asylum-seekers do not meet the test of admission to refugees persecuted for political beliefs but rather are people seeking to improve their economic and social status.

The Jewish community in Germany has criticized the move to change the constitution because it creates the impression of surrender to neo-Nazi violence.

Germans turned out in large numbers last weekend to protest xenophobia and neo-Nazi violence.

In Essen, in the heavily populated state of North Rhine-Westphalia, 300,000 people joined in a candle and torchlight vigil stretching almost four miles. The demonstrators formed circles around hostels for foreigners and other buildings that were recent targets of violence against refugees, homeless people and the handicapped.

It was among the largest of the demonstrations that took place in the last few weeks, signaling increasing awareness of the danger of extreme rightist violence.

Smaller vigils took place in other towns, mobilizing hundreds of thousands in demonstrations of opposition to racism.

The chairman of the German Jewish community, Ignatz Bubis, said the demonstrations indicate widespread desire to take back the streets from neo-Nazi gangs.

ISRAEL TRAILS SAUDIS ON U.S. TRADE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Israel trails Saudi Arabia in trade from the Middle East with the United States, according to the daily Ha'aretz.

Overall American imports from the region dropped by 8 percent to \$9.25 billion during 1992.

During that year, Saudi Arabia imported \$3.95 billion from the United States and exported \$5.56 billion. Israel was next with imports of \$1.93 billion and exports of \$1.7 billion, followed by Egypt and Kuwait.

SOME 300 JEWISH STUDENTS GATHER IN ISRAEL 'TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

By Michele Chabin

ARAD, Israel, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- "We're here to make a difference," said Dasee Berkowitz, one of 300 students from 40 countries attending this week's World Gathering of the World Union of Jewish Students.

Berkowitz, a 20-year-old student at Barnard College in New York, was not just spouting platitudes. A year ago, she and other Jewish students decided to create an organization that would bring Jewish young people back to their roots.

Today, their organization, called Lights in Action, disseminates information about Judaism, Zionism and Jewish culture to 50,000 American college students.

"We had to do something to reignite the flame of Jewish pride and identity, and this is what we came up with," said Berkowitz, sitting in the packed auditorium of the Arad Community Center, where much of the conference took place.

"You see all these students? Each one is working in his or her community, trying to foster Jewish continuity."

Jewish leaders agree that at a time when assimilation is at an all-time high and anti-Semitism is rampant, such student activists are at a premium.

Judging from the impressive list of speakers who addressed the participants, the students' efforts were taken seriously.

"You are the future of the Jewish people," Ignatz Bubis, the head of the Jewish community in Germany, told the gathering during Sunday's opening-night ceremony.

"We are again experiencing anti-Semitic incidents in Germany, and throughout Europe," Bubis said. "But I have faith in the young people."

"Last month, six young people organized a huge demonstration against anti-Semitism and violence against foreigners. I'm proud to say that three of the six were Jewish," he said.

New Generation Of Leaders Needed

Sometimes being a leader requires personal sacrifice, said Hebrew University Professor Barry Chazan. "We need a whole new generation of Jewish leaders, and that will mean that a lot of you will have to throw away your law books and medical texts."

"We desperately need Jewish teachers and communal workers who know about Judaism," he said. "I know many of you don't want to be Jewish teachers, but neither did Jeremiah."

"But God said, 'Go wherever I send you.' And he did."

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, chairman of the Association of Arab Academics, called on the youths to maintain an open mind with regard to the peace process and the Palestinians.

"For many years, Arabs refused to speak to Israelis. They refused to negotiate. But in the past two to three years, the Arab world has undergone an ideological revolution."

Tibi said the Palestine Liberation Organization "has openly declared its willingness to talk directly with the Israeli government and its representatives. Regretfully, these calls have not yet been answered. In the meantime, victims are falling on both sides," he said.

Though the vast majority of students rejected many of Tibi's claims, including his assertion

that East Jerusalem is occupied territory, they admired what they termed his courage in coming to speak to a group of student Zionists.

"We've been presented with a wide range of opinions, and I appreciate that," said Jakov Pekovic, a student at the University of Belgrade in Serbia.

"I came to this conference first and foremost to meet other Jewish students and exchange information and ideas. Back in Belgrade, there are only 2,500 Jews, and we feel very isolated," said Pekovic, referring to the situation that has arisen with the civil war in what used to be Yugoslavia.

'A Real Eye-Opener'

"The war has separated friends," said a friend of his from Zagreb, Croatia. "We don't travel to Belgrade, so Jakov and I don't see each other back home."

"It is odd for us to hear so much about anti-Semitism from the other participants, and in the workshops, because there is no anti-Semitism in Yugoslavia," said the young woman from Zagreb.

"We are also not concerned with the threat of assimilation, she continued. "The fact is, perhaps 80 percent of Yugoslav Jews are already intermarried."

"What concerns us as Jewish students is Jewish education. We know very little about Jewish customs and laws. Many of us would like to lead a traditional Jewish life, but we don't know how. It would be wonderful if a rabbi would come and live in Zagreb," she said.

"So far, this conference has been a real eye-opener," said Rinat Levy, an Israeli graduate student at the Hebrew University. "It's been great to hear the concerns and goals of Jewish students in the Diaspora."

Levy, a communications student, said she would like to see "more contact between Israelis and Diaspora Jews. The Israeli students have a lot to teach the others about what it's like to live in Israel and serve in the army. We grow up with a great deal of Jewish pride."

"On the other hand, foreign students can teach the Israelis a lot about student activism," said Levy.

"In Israel, the student union concerns itself with everyday needs: tuition, housing, the price of books. Abroad, the students deal with assimilation and other real issues," she said. "We have a lot to teach each other."

JOINT RESEARCH SET WITH CHINA, INDIA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Israel is to carry out joint scientific research with China and with India, countries that established diplomatic relations with the Jewish state a year ago.

Jerusalem will cooperate with Beijing in space research and its implementation for peaceful purposes, according to Dr. Gershon Metzger, director-general of the Ministry of Science and Development, who was in China and India last month on official visits.

Teams of Chinese and Indian scientists are due in Israel in February and April respectively.

The two countries forged first-time-ever ties with Israel in January 1992.

At the economic level, the Israeli government has approved an agreement equalizing tariffs and improving terms of trade with China. Trade between the two countries last year was estimated at \$40 million.

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"It shows our society is sick," he said. "We have to find ways of improving matters at home."

A Colorful Figure

Khasbulatov met with Prime Minister Rabin and other government figures, and also with Palestinian leaders before leaving for visits to Egypt and Jordan.

Khasbulatov, 50, is one of the more colorful figures on the Russian political landscape.

Once a staunch ally of President Boris Yeltsin -- he stood with Yeltsin against the Communist hard-liners during the August 1991 putsch -- Khasbulatov became Yeltsin's most dangerous enemy after the Russian president failed to include him in his Cabinet following the putsch's failure.

Using his position as Parliament speaker, Khasbulatov has appealed to the conservative, formerly Communist majority in the Parliament to slow Yeltsin's reforms at every step, under the banner of promoting parliamentary power as essential to Russia's new democracy.

A former lecturer in socialist economics at Moscow's Plekhanov Institute, Khasbulatov is regarded even by his enemies as intelligent and politically astute.

Prior to his departure for Israel, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he was looking forward to his first visit to Israel, as well as to Jordan and Egypt, where he has Arab friends from his days at Moscow State University in the 1960s.

In Jordan, he said, he was also looking forward to meeting the small Chechen community.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Alexander Lesser in Moscow.)

KOHL URGES END TO RACIST ATTACKS, SHOWS MORE ATTENTION TO NEO-NAZIS

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Showing heightened visibility in condemning neo-Nazi violence, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has urged his countrymen to support efforts by authorities to put an end to xenophobia and racist attacks.

In a New Year's Eve message carried widely in the national media, Kohl promised the government would do its utmost to protect non-Germans who have been the target of neo-Nazi assault.

Kohl came under earlier criticism for failing to respond firmly to attacks on foreigners here.

Meanwhile, Bonn is moving to enact a constitutional amendment to curb the inflow of asylum-seekers, whose number this year neared half a million.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters has readied government legislation that will limit the right to political asylum, in a change that has been formally approved by the main opposition party, the Social Democrats, whose support is indispensable for parliamentary passage.

The move cost the Social Democrats one of its most prominent members, the writer Gunther Grass, who resigned in protest.

Both the ruling Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democrats say the change is needed to handle the misuse of asylum, which has taken on enormous proportions.

They believe most of the asylum-seekers do not meet the test of admission to refugees persecuted for political beliefs but rather are people seeking to improve their economic and social status.

The Jewish community in Germany has criticized the move to change the constitution because it creates the impression of surrender to neo-Nazi violence.

Germans turned out in large numbers last weekend to protest xenophobia and neo-Nazi violence.

In Essen, in the heavily populated state of North Rhine-Westphalia, 300,000 people joined in a candle and torchlight vigil stretching almost four miles. The demonstrators formed circles around hostels for foreigners and other buildings that were recent targets of violence against refugees, homeless people and the handicapped.

It was among the largest of the demonstrations that took place in the last few weeks, signaling increasing awareness of the danger of extreme rightist violence.

Smaller vigils took place in other towns, mobilizing hundreds of thousands in demonstrations of opposition to racism.

The chairman of the German Jewish community, Ignatz Bubis, said the demonstrations indicate widespread desire to take back the streets from neo-Nazi gangs.

ISRAEL TRAILS SAUDIS ON U.S. TRADE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Israel trails Saudi Arabia in trade from the Middle East with the United States, according to the daily Ha'aretz.

Overall American imports from the region dropped by 8 percent to \$9.25 billion during 1992.

During that year, Saudi Arabia imported \$3.95 billion from the United States and exported \$5.56 billion. Israel was next with imports of \$1.93 billion and exports of \$1.7 billion, followed by Egypt and Kuwait.

SOME 300 JEWISH STUDENTS GATHER IN ISRAEL 'TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

By Michele Chabin

ARAD, Israel, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- "We're here to make a difference," said Dasee Berkowitz, one of 300 students from 40 countries attending this week's World Gathering of the World Union of Jewish Students.

Berkowitz, a 20-year-old student at Barnard College in New York, was not just spouting platitudes. A year ago, she and other Jewish students decided to create an organization that would bring Jewish young people back to their roots.

Today, their organization, called Lights in Action, disseminates information about Judaism, Zionism and Jewish culture to 50,000 American college students.

"We had to do something to reignite the flame of Jewish pride and identity, and this is what we came up with," said Berkowitz, sitting in the packed auditorium of the Arad Community Center, where much of the conference took place.

"You see all these students? Each one is working in his or her community, trying to foster Jewish continuity."

Jewish leaders agree that at a time when assimilation is at an all-time high and anti-Semitism is rampant, such student activists are at a premium.

Judging from the impressive list of speakers who addressed the participants, the students' efforts were taken seriously.

"You are the future of the Jewish people," Ignatz Bubis, the head of the Jewish community in Germany, told the gathering during Sunday's opening-night ceremony.

"We are again experiencing anti-Semitic incidents in Germany, and throughout Europe," Bubis said. "But I have faith in the young people."

"Last month, six young people organized a huge demonstration against anti-Semitism and violence against foreigners. I'm proud to say that three of the six were Jewish," he said.

New Generation Of Leaders Needed

Sometimes being a leader requires personal sacrifice, said Hebrew University Professor Barry Chazan. "We need a whole new generation of Jewish leaders, and that will mean that a lot of you will have to throw away your law books and medical texts."

"We desperately need Jewish teachers and communal workers who know about Judaism," he said. "I know many of you don't want to be Jewish teachers, but neither did Jeremiah."

"But God said, 'Go wherever I send you.' And he did."

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, chairman of the Association of Arab Academics, called on the youths to maintain an open mind with regard to the peace process and the Palestinians.

"For many years, Arabs refused to speak to Israelis. They refused to negotiate. But in the past two to three years, the Arab world has undergone an ideological revolution."

Tibi said the Palestine Liberation Organization "has openly declared its willingness to talk directly with the Israeli government and its representatives. Regretfully, these calls have not yet been answered. In the meantime, victims are falling on both sides," he said.

Though the vast majority of students rejected many of Tibi's claims, including his assertion

that East Jerusalem is occupied territory, they admired what they termed his courage in coming to speak to a group of student Zionists.

"We've been presented with a wide range of opinions, and I appreciate that," said Jakov Pekovic, a student at the University of Belgrade in Serbia.

"I came to this conference first and foremost to meet other Jewish students and exchange information and ideas. Back in Belgrade, there are only 2,500 Jews, and we feel very isolated," said Pekovic, referring to the situation that has arisen with the civil war in what used to be Yugoslavia.

'A Real Eye-Opener'

"The war has separated friends," said a friend of his from Zagreb, Croatia. "We don't travel to Belgrade, so Jakov and I don't see each other back home."

"It is odd for us to hear so much about anti-Semitism from the other participants, and in the workshops, because there is no anti-Semitism in Yugoslavia," said the young woman from Zagreb.

"We are also not concerned with the threat of assimilation, she continued. "The fact is, perhaps 80 percent of Yugoslav Jews are already intermarried."

"What concerns us as Jewish students is Jewish education. We know very little about Jewish customs and laws. Many of us would like to lead a traditional Jewish life, but we don't know how. It would be wonderful if a rabbi would come and live in Zagreb," she said.

"So far, this conference has been a real eye-opener," said Rinat Levy, an Israeli graduate student at the Hebrew University. "It's been great to hear the concerns and goals of Jewish students in the Diaspora."

Levy, a communications student, said she would like to see "more contact between Israelis and Diaspora Jews. The Israeli students have a lot to teach the others about what it's like to live in Israel and serve in the army. We grow up with a great deal of Jewish pride."

"On the other hand, foreign students can teach the Israelis a lot about student activism," said Levy.

"In Israel, the student union concerns itself with everyday needs: tuition, housing, the price of books. Abroad, the students deal with assimilation and other real issues," she said. "We have a lot to teach each other."

JOINT RESEARCH SET WITH CHINA, INDIA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Israel is to carry out joint scientific research with China and with India, countries that established diplomatic relations with the Jewish state a year ago.

Jerusalem will cooperate with Beijing in space research and its implementation for peaceful purposes, according to Dr. Gershon Metzger, director-general of the Ministry of Science and Development, who was in China and India last month on official visits.

Teams of Chinese and Indian scientists are due in Israel in February and April respectively.

The two countries forged first-time-ever ties with Israel in January 1992.

At the economic level, the Israeli government has approved an agreement equalizing tariffs and improving terms of trade with China. Trade between the two countries last year was estimated at \$40 million.