

**ISRAEL TO TAKE BACK 100 DEPORTEES  
UNDER COMPROMISE REACHED WITH U.S.**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- In a move expected to take the wind out of mounting international pressure, Israel has partially reversed its deportation of 415 Palestinian activists from the administered territories.

Under a compromise deal worked out in consultation with the United States, Israel will accept back 100 of the Moslem fundamentalists it expelled to Lebanon in December and shorten to a maximum of one year the others' terms of exile.

In exchange for the concessions, Israel has apparently received a promise that Washington will block any attempt by the U.N. Security Council to impose threatened sanctions on the Jewish state.

Rabin, announcing the move in a late-night news conference Monday, described the compromise as a "package deal" under which the United States pledged "to prevent resolutions in international frameworks which would have practical significance against Israel."

Just a few hours after the Israeli Cabinet voted unanimously to approve the move, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters at the United Nations in New York: "President Clinton and I are pleased to announce that based on intensive consultations with the Israelis, there has been a breakthrough."

Christopher went on to explain that the United States believes the Israeli decision is consistent with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which demanded that Israel accept back the Moslem fundamentalists it expelled Dec. 17.

"As a consequence, we believe further action by the Security Council is unnecessary and could even undercut the process under way," he said.

The secretary of state, during a visit to the United Nations on Monday, had discussed the deportation issue at a working lunch with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

**Clinton Administration Praised**

Asked whether the U.S. would resort to using its Security Council veto to block sanctions against Israel if necessary, Christopher said, "That's a hypothetical question, and I don't think I have to get into it today."

According to other elements of the compromise reached by Israel and the United States, the remaining 300 deportees who are not accepted back by Israel will be dispersed among other countries in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The deportees are now living in a makeshift tent camp in southern Lebanon, stranded between Israeli and Lebanese army lines.

Israel also guaranteed to assure humanitarian assistance to the deportees and to offer each the opportunity to appeal before a military tribunal.

In Israel, members of the government expressed satisfaction with the compromise, but members of the opposition denounced Rabin for "caving in" to pressure from Washington.

Likud Knesset Member Moshe Katsav called the move a "surrender to the terrorist organizations, the leftist ministers and Arab countries."

Rabin himself, who only last week appeared

to defend the deportations as irreversible, said the decision to agree to the deal was "not easily taken."

The prime minister said he chose to back down on his earlier position in order to save the peace process and build good relations with the Clinton administration.

American Jewish groups hailed the agreement and the way in which it was hammered out between Israel and the Clinton team.

In New York, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a statement Monday calling the accord "a significant foreign policy achievement for the new administration that lays a firm foundation for a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries."

The Jewish umbrella group, pointing to the "significant concessions" by Israel, said it hoped "the Security Council will end its deliberations on this issue and drop consideration of any further resolutions against Israel in this matter."

**Rabin Telephones Mubarak**

There was uncertainty about how the Arab states would react to the deal.

The Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis was reported to have rejected the plan out of hand, charging that it was just a ploy to prevent U.N. denunciation of Israel.

The deportees themselves were also said to have dismissed the deal, insisting that they all be allowed to return to the territories immediately.

The resumption of the Middle East peace talks will hinge on whether the Arab parties can be persuaded to accept the compromise deal.

After the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Rabin phoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to ask for his help in carrying out the plan and getting the peace process back on track.

At the United Nations, Christopher said the United States "believes it is time to look ahead and reinvigorate the peace negotiations. The U.S. and Russia as co-sponsors will be conferring on this matter shortly to bring the parties back to the table."

Rabin stressed that the deal was not subject to further negotiations and that Israel would determine which deportees were to be returned. Israel said the men would return to the situation they had been in prior to expulsion, in most cases imprisonment.

*(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Larry Yudelson at the United Nations and Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv.)*

**ARREST OF PALESTINIAN AMERICANS  
SHEDS LIGHT ON HAMAS OPERATIONS  
By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Israeli officials have learned new details about the organization of the Hamas movement as a result of the arrest of two Palestinian Americans accused of attempting to revitalize and pump funds into the Islamic fundamentalist organization.

The arrest of the two American citizens appears to confirm reports that the Hamas network in the administered territories, including cells dedicated to attacks on Israeli soldiers, is

being directed by leaders in the United States and Britain.

The coordination of Hamas activities in the territories via a headquarters in Arlington, Va., is being compared by Israeli military sources to the direction of Palestine Liberation Organization activists by the PLO leadership in Tunis.

In New York, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations called on the FBI and the Senate and House Intelligence Committees to launch a "wide-ranging probe" of the links between Hamas terrorists in the administered territories and their supporters in the United States.

The conference urged the FBI to "bring to justice those who are using the United States as a base for financing and planning the tactics and strategy of Hamas in the Middle East."

The arrested men, Mohammed Abdul Hamid Salah, 39 and known as Abu Ahmed, and Joma Hilmi Jarad, 36 and known as Abu Anas, came here in mid-January from the United States, allegedly with the intention of distributing \$650,000 to local activists. Abu Ahmed was found to be in possession of \$100,000 in cash.

Their mission was to rehabilitate the movement after it had suffered two major blows in December: the arrest of some 1,000 fundamentalists and the subsequent temporary expulsion to southern Lebanon of 415 activists.

The Israeli actions brought the cash flow to Hamas operations to a trickle and disrupted the communication channels between local Hamas chapters and command headquarters abroad.

#### Four Bases In The Territories

In addition, the movement's military wing reportedly had suffered setbacks from stepped-up Israeli intelligence operations. But the group proved in an attack this past weekend leaving two Israeli soldiers dead that its power has not been crushed altogether.

With their funds, Abu Ahmed and Abu Anas allegedly also hoped to recruit more Palestinian youth to the military wings of the movement.

An initial investigation of the two men indicates they met in London two years ago, introduced by Mohammad Kazem Sawalha, 32. Sawalha was Hamas commander in the territories until two years ago.

This year's visit here was not the first by the men. According to local sources, they had come here last August and supplied local armed cells with funds. These groups were later responsible for armed attacks on soldiers in the Hebron region of the West Bank.

Hamas operates in the territories from four bases: in Nablus, Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza. According to military sources, each base operates independently and is linked directly to headquarters in the West, as well as to branches in Iran, Sudan and Syria.

In the United States, the Virginia leadership is reportedly headed by Dr. Moussa Abdul Marzouk, among other figures. The U.S. branch of Hamas also is involved in such public activities as presenting lectures, publishing books and pamphlets, and various other religious and cultural pursuits.

In New York, the Conference of Presidents issued a statement saying that "as long as Hamas is permitted to carry out its nefarious schemes with impunity on our shores," there will be "no peace for Israel, for moderate Arabs or for America itself."

#### **NEW AMERICAN ZIONIST MOVEMENT IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN MIAMI**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The American Zionist Movement was officially voted into existence in Miami this past weekend, and the new body elected Seymour Reich to be its president.

Reich is a past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and president emeritus of B'nai B'rith International.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the executives of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, hailed the organization's founding.

Addressing 500 delegates attending the first American Zionist Congress since the founding of the Jewish state, Dinitz referred to the formation of the new group as "the birth of a new Zionism in America, a momentous occasion that will focus American Jewish attention on the urgency of participating in the upbuilding of Israel."

The American Zionist Movement has replaced the American Zionist Federation and enlarged its scope. With this transformation, another Zionist body has been lost in the shuffle of bylaws.

And that is not at all an accident.

The body whose authority is being absorbed by the new Zionist Movement is the American Section of the World Zionist Organization.

While the Zionist Federation, and now the Zionist Movement, unites America's Zionist organizations, the American Section has been the representative of the international World Zionist Organization. It consisted of those members of the WZO's executive body who lived in America.

At its inception, prior to the creation of the State of Israel, it played the role of political activist on behalf of Jerusalem that has since been assumed by Israel's ambassadors.

#### No Separate Lay Leadership

Since 1948, the American Section, legally a separate non-profit corporation, has been the American arm of the Jerusalem-based WZO. In that capacity, it was a registered foreign agent and was responsible for bringing over shlichim, the Zionist emissaries who came to the United States from Israel to do the work of the WZO.

In addition, it was charged with supervising their work, a task it handled at arm's length.

The American Section will continue to fill out the paperwork with the Immigration and Naturalization Service for the shlichim.

But it will no longer have its own lay leadership or issue its own statements.

The Federation, and now the Movement, represented American Zionism by virtue of being an umbrella grouping of the American Zionist organizations such as Hadassah, the Zionist Organization of America, and the Association of Reform Zionists of America.

Representation on the broad-based board of the new Movement will be assigned to the constituent organizations in rough accordance with the formula used to represent them at the World Zionist Congress.

Currently, the formula reflects the 210,957 votes cast in a national mail balloting of American Zionists held in 1987.

Seats on the board will be reserved for the American members of the WZO Executive. But they will have no guarantee of a more coveted place in the Movement's narrower and more functional Cabinet.

# LUBAVITCHER REBBE APPEARS, BUT NOT AS AWAITED MESSIAH

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A low groan rose from the crowd inside 770 Eastern Parkway as the beige curtains around the balcony were pulled shut and the Lubavitcher rebbe disappeared into his private quarters without establishing, publicly and unequivocally, his status as the Messiah.

But the rebbe's exit only momentarily dimmed the indefatigable faith and fervor of his 7,000 followers who packed into the main Lubavitch synagogue in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn on Sunday hoping to witness revelation.

Nearly as many Lubavitchers crowded outside the building, which seemed unable to accommodate even one more soul, and more saw the proceedings by a satellite hookup which linked Chabad houses around the world, including 10 locations in Israel, Paris, Moscow and all over North America.

Inside the building, when the rebbe concluded his 10-minute appearance, women crammed into the ladies' balcony of the synagogue began fervently reciting Psalms.

Some men and women left the building, but a few minutes later word began circulating that the rebbe was going to come out again. Within moments, the enormous space was once again packed from wall to wall as Lubavitchers ran back into the building hoping that the rebbe would reveal himself.

In the end, the rebbe did as he has done since the High Holy Days, when he first resumed making regular public appearances after a debilitating stroke last March.

He sat in a chair at the edge of a specially constructed balcony and looked out over the sea of his followers.

Sunday evening marked a traditional annual appearance by the rebbe, on the 43rd anniversary of his ascension to the throne of Chabad leadership and on the anniversary of the death of the previous rebbe, his father-in-law.

## Appearance 'Should Not Be Misinterpreted'

But his followers, always anxious for a glimpse of their beloved leader, came hoping for even more.

During the preceding week, rumors of the rebbe's "anointment" as the Messiah -- with oil and a gold crown -- had spread from Crown Heights throughout the extensive international network of Lubavitch emissaries and adherents.

With each nod of the rebbe's head Sunday night, his Hasidim became more frenzied, pushing forward with greater force and singing their anthem louder and louder: "King Messiah, live forever!"

But the 90-year-old Lubavitch leader, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, did not accept the title.

A statement issued by the rebbe's secretariat said his appearance Sunday night "should not be misinterpreted or misconstrued for anything more than it is."

The appearance was "his regular attendance at the evening services and nothing more than that," the statement said.

Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, a leading member of the secretariat, has been in the forefront among those in the Lubavitch movement who had denounced the efforts of those who have been publicly proclaiming the rebbe as the Messiah --

in news releases, paid advertisements and billboards.

Those efforts have been spearheaded by Rabbi Shmuel Butman, chairman of the International Campaign to Bring Moshiach.

It was Butman who had publicized the notion that the rebbe would be anointed as the Messiah on Sunday.

Butman was forced to backtrack from that position and announced to those assembled on Sunday that "this is not a coronation. No human being has the power to anoint the Messiah. The only one that has the power is the Almighty."

Still, Butman's popular following was made crystal clear when, in the course of the evening's program, his name was announced and applause rang out from all over the synagogue.

In the women's sections, in balconies hidden behind tinted glass, thousands of sweating women crammed into space meant to hold hundreds swayed back and forth and climbed over one another vying for a view of their leader.

One young girl, sweat dripping down her flushed face, moaned that she didn't feel well and had to leave. But there was no way for her to get out.

When the rebbe disappeared for the evening behind the beige curtain, one participant was asked if she thought that the near-hysteria made Lubavitch look foolish to outsiders.

"The problem is that outsiders see us through their own perspective, their own lenses," said Devorah Gralnick. "The challenge for us is to get everyone to see this our way."

## INTERIOR MINISTER ENDING SILENCE ON CHARGES OF FINANCIAL CORRUPTION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Interior Minister Arye Deri, after long refusing to cooperate with a police inquiry into alleged financial corruption, has finally announced he will answer questions by investigators.

Deri, head of the Orthodox Sephardic Shas party, has been under investigation for the past three years both for alleged fraud committed under his supervision at the Interior Ministry and for suspected improprieties in his own personal finances.

Until now, Deri has maintained his right to remain silent.

Deri made the surprise announcement Sunday, following repeated requests by Attorney General Yosef Harish that the Cabinet minister break his silence over his alleged involvement in fraudulent activities.

Deri told Harish he was now ready to respond to any questions.

Police said the new move would prolong the investigation of the Deri case, as investigators would now have to question him on every detail in the long and complicated inquiry. Police estimated that the investigation would be extended by at least two months.

Political observers explained Deri's change of heart as a response to growing public and political pressure that Deri, as a public figure, should not keep quiet in the face of serious allegations besmearing his reputation.

The Shas party is also weighing its continued partnership with the Labor and Meretz parties, after tensions caused by remarks made by Education Minister Shulamit Aloni of Meretz that many Orthodox Jews found offensive.

## **SPIELBERG, WJC REACH AGREEMENT OVER MAKING MOVIE AT AUSCHWITZ**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A potential conflict over the filming of "Schindler's List" by Steven Spielberg has been resolved amicably.

Spokespersons for Spielberg and for the World Jewish Congress, which had objected to the project, agreed that Spielberg would not employ numerous extras nor erect a replica gas chamber at the former death camp, now a memorial site.

It was the concern that such reported production plans would mar the dignity of the site that led WJC Vice President Kalman Sultaniuk to issue a protest two weeks ago.

Another point of contention was the charge that the International Auschwitz Museum Council, of which Sultaniuk is vice chairman, had earlier rejected Spielberg's request to film at the site.

Spielberg, known best for films such as "E.T." and "Jaws," then reportedly appealed directly to the Polish government and received permission to go ahead with his project.

In a series of phone conversations last week between Spielberg on the one hand and WJC President Edgar Bronfman and Sultaniuk on the other, the film director gave assurances that satisfied the WJC leaders.

Sultaniuk and Spielberg agreed to meet Feb. 11 in New York to reaffirm their agreement and to forestall future misunderstandings, said WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg.

In Los Angeles, a spokeswoman for Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment company said that only a "symbolic scene" would be staged, showing the arrival of Jewish prisoners at the Auschwitz train terminal.

"We had never planned to film within the camp site or build a gas chamber," said Chris Kelly. "Everything else will be shot in Krakow."

The question of jurisdiction over the Auschwitz memorial site has been settled in this case by empowering Sultaniuk to speak at the Feb. 11 meeting for the Auschwitz International Council and the Polish Ministry of Culture, as well as the WJC, Steinberg said.

"Schindler's List," based on the best seller by Thomas Keneally, tells the story of the wily and heroic German businessman Oskar Schindler, who saved thousands of Jews from death by sheltering them in his factories in wartime Poland.

## **HOLOCAUST MONUMENT IN AMSTERDAM VANDALIZED A DAY BEFORE DEDICATION**

By Henriette Boas and Ruben Vis

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Vandals damaged a monument commemorating the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz a day before it was unveiled in a ceremony at Amsterdam's Wertheim Gardens.

At Sunday's ceremony, which took place despite the vandalism, Amsterdam Mayor Ed Van Thijn, a Jew and a Holocaust survivor, pointed out how the monument's defacement created a link with the monument's theme, the defacement of the heavens after Auschwitz.

Jewish authorities who attended the memorial service -- an annual remembrance of the day Auschwitz was liberated -- were shocked and angered. They called upon Amsterdam's citizens to protest the desecration by bringing flowers to the site.

"This act has so much violence in it that it

cannot remain unanswered," said Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp.

The monument, designed by the Dutch sculptor and author Jan Wolkers, was originally placed in a municipal cemetery in 1977.

However, it was decided to move the sculpture from the cemetery after plans were made to build a crematorium on the cemetery's grounds.

The Netherlands Auschwitz Committee thought it would be inappropriate to place the Auschwitz memorial near a working crematorium, as Jewish victims were burned in Auschwitz's crematoria after being murdered.

The monument unveiled Sunday was a larger version of the original sculpture and was placed in the Wertheim Gardens near the Hollandse Schouwburg, an unused Amsterdam theater. The building was used by the Nazis from 1942 to 1944 as a collection center for Jews who had been rounded up for deportation.

On the day of the unveiling, the monument's glass plates were found to have been smashed by a pickax or similar object.

The monument's design was of six mirrors, containing small cracks, facing the sky. Wolkers placed the cracks in the mirrors to express that after Auschwitz, the heavens will forever be violated.

Jewish monuments in Holland have been vandalized, though infrequently, in the past. However, the desecration of the Auschwitz memorial was unprecedented because of its prominence and connection to the annual remembrance day.

In a related matter, the Dutch government announced it would contribute \$250,000 for restoration activities at Auschwitz.

The Dutch Cabinet said it was making the donation because it felt the Polish State Museum at Auschwitz should serve as a reminder of the horrors of racism.

## **ESCAPED DUTCH WAR CRIMINAL LOCATED LIVING IN GERMANY**

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A former Dutch war criminal who managed to escape from prison in 1952 and flee to Germany has been recently located in the German city of Hagen.

Herbert Bikker, 77, was tracked down by Dutch Nazi-hunter Jacques Kooistra, and an interview with him was broadcast on Dutch television.

Bikker, who escaped from prison during Christmas 1952 with six other inmates, worked as a camp guard at the notorious German concentration camp Erica in eastern Holland during the Nazi occupation.

When Bikker fled to Germany he was granted citizenship under the so-called Fuhrer Erlass of 1943, by which Adolf Hitler granted German citizenship to all foreign members of the SS.

As German citizens, Bikker and his fellow escapees could not be extradited to Holland to serve out the remainder of their terms.

The Erica camp, which held both non-Jews and Jews, was noted for the extreme cruelty of its guards who, while mostly Dutch, were members of the SS.

Bikker was accused of killing two members of the Dutch resistance and of cruel treatment of prisoners.

After the war, Bikker was sentenced to death, but his sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.