

VOL. 71 - 76th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

NO. 22

**U.S. DEFENDING DEAL WITH ISRAEL,
SAYING IT FULFILLS U.N. RESOLUTION**

By Deborah Kalb

States News Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- American officials are defending the compromise reached this week with Israel, saying its willingness to take back 100 of the men deported to Lebanon and shorten the exile of some 300 others satisfies the conditions of a U.N. Security Council measure.

"It's consistent in that it provides for the return of these people," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday. He added that the United States believes no further Security Council action is needed.

The compromise, hammered out during extensive consultations between American and Israeli officials, was intended to head off any action in the U.N. Security Council that could result in sanctions being imposed against Israel.

The problem is that the Palestinians have rejected the compromise, insisting that all of the deportees be returned immediately.

And they appear to have received support from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who told a delegation of American Jewish organizational leaders on Tuesday that he did not believe the Israeli agreement would fulfill the terms of a Dec. 18 Security Council resolution.

Furthermore, a draft resolution that would impose sanctions on Israel is still circulating at the United Nations, though the non-aligned nations have not yet decided whether to support it.

Albright Launches Initiative

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has assured Israeli officials that the United States will now veto any U.N. sanctions initiative.

But Washington would clearly prefer to avoid such a move, since it would mark the first time America has exercised that prerogative since the end of the Cold War. A U.S. veto could also alienate the Arab nations, delaying the resumption of the Middle East peace talks indefinitely.

As a result, the new U.S. representative to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, has begun a major diplomatic initiative aimed at convincing the Security Council members that the deportation issue should be set aside, with a view toward getting the peace talks back on track.

Albright, who assumed her post only Monday, discussed her efforts Tuesday with Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gad Yaacobi.

Meanwhile, an 11-member delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met at the United Nations with Boutros-Ghali.

Though there were disagreements, the conference's chairman, Lester Pollack, described the discussions as "very good" and said that "both sides agreed the focus should be on the resumption of the peace process."

Israel's departing ambassador to Washington, Zalman Shoval, expressed confidence Tuesday that the Middle East peace talks would resume in "weeks rather than months," because "everybody has too much at stake."

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Larry Yudelson at the United Nations.)

NEWS ANALYSIS:**ISRAELI MOVE HAS AVERTED SANCTIONS,
BUT WILL IT REIGNITE THE PEACE TALKS?**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- By agreeing this week to take back 100 of the Palestinians it deported to Lebanon, Israel may have successfully averted the imposition of punitive sanctions by the United Nations.

But it is not yet clear whether the Israeli move, hailed by Washington and viewed at home as a major concession, will persuade the Arabs to return to the negotiating table.

Under the "package deal" described by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the United States has agreed to block any "practical" action against Israel, such as U.N. sanctions, in exchange for Israel's willingness to take back 100 of the deportees and review the cases of the other 300 or so it expelled from the administered territories in December.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made clear America's resolve to back Israel on the issue by declaring Monday that Jerusalem had complied with the U.N. Security Council's Dec. 18 resolution demanding the return of the deportees.

But it will be an empty victory if such key Arab states as Syria and Jordan refuse to resume peace talks with Israel, as the Palestinians have threatened to do.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres observed this week that the first reactions to Israel's move from the Arab world may not be the final word on the subject.

Multilateral Talks In Doubt

Syria's position is critically important. Reaction from Damascus has so far been muted, leading some observers to believe that President Hafez Assad will go along with the deal and was perhaps consulted.

In this regard, observers here are wondering whether the deal cut between Rabin and Christopher also included discussions about a land-for-peace agreement on the Golan Heights meant to appease Syria, even in the face of Arab world criticism.

The first test on the fate of the peace talks may come next week. Although the next round of the bilateral peace talks has not yet been scheduled, two sets of multilateral talks in the fields of arms control and economic development are slated to convene next Monday.

If Syria decides not to show up, though, it will be no great disappointment, since Damascus has boycotted the multilateral talks from the start. Syria, along with its client Lebanon, has said it will only attend the multilateral talks once tangible progress is made in the bilateral talks.

As for the Palestinians, they have not previously been asked to take part in the arms control talks, although they were due to be invited for this round.

Israel seems to be counting on Egypt to bring to the table the other dozen or so Arab parties participating in the multilaterals. Egypt has indicated it will come, regardless of the deportation crisis.

Rabin made a point of phoning Egyptian

President Hosni Mubarak immediately after the Israeli Cabinet approved the compromise on the deportees and before Rabin announced the deal publicly at a news conference. The prime minister reportedly consulted intensively with the Egyptians when devising the plan.

There is some question whether America, as co-host of the talks with Russia, will go ahead and risk issuing invitations for next week's talks.

If the invitations were issued and then rejected, the United States would suffer a diplomatic defeat, and the deportation crisis would be seen as having doomed both the multilateral talks and the chances for a resumption of the bilateral negotiations.

But that is Washington's problem, Israeli officials here seem to feel. They believe the Rabin government has done its share and that it is now up to the United States to use all its diplomatic energies to get the rest of the world, especially the Arabs, to come on board.

E.C. OFFICIALS WELCOME ISRAELI PROPOSAL FOR DEPORTATION CRISIS

By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- European Community officials have welcomed Israel's proposal to resolve the crisis over the Palestinian activists it deported, saying the move will smooth the way for further talks on expanding trade relations between the 12-member community and Israel.

The Israeli announcement that it was prepared to take back 100 of the Moslem fundamentalists it temporarily expelled in December came only hours before Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was due to discuss the issue with his European counterparts in the E.C.

Peres met Monday with the 12 E.C. foreign ministers for the annual meeting of the E.C.-Israel cooperation council.

"I find this information (about Israel's decision) a very good step. I find it very helpful," Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish foreign minister, said after the E.C.-Israel meeting.

Denmark currently holds the European Community chairmanship.

The European commissioner in charge of external relations, Hans van den Broek, remarked: "Israel has opened the door to a solution, and that is important. It is a helpful step."

Van den Broek is a former foreign minister of Holland.

In December, the E.C. had condemned the deportations, terming them a "violation of international law." The crisis had threatened to complicate Israel's efforts to develop closer economic relations with the community.

During a meeting with journalists on Tuesday, Peres explained that the Israeli decision was "a gesture toward the Clinton administration and the European Community."

"We wanted to avoid any shock with the United Nations," he added.

Israeli and E.C. representatives are scheduled to meet March 2, probably in Israel, to update the 1975 E.C.-Israel cooperation and trade accord. The new agreement would deepen economic links.

"Israel aspires to an enhanced relationship and a deeper level of substantive cooperation," Peres told the E.C.-Israel cooperation council meeting.

Israel also wants to reverse its growing trade deficit with Europe. This deficit totaled \$4.5 billion in 1991.

U.S. SAYS IT WILL INCLUDE HAMAS IN ITS ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

By Deborah Kalb

States News Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The State Department confirmed this week that it was, for the first time, including a section on the Hamas fundamentalist movement in its annual report on global terrorism.

The inclusion of Hamas in the report comes in the wake of the recent arrests in Israel of two Palestinian Americans accused of funneling money to Hamas activists, and follows weeks of controversy over Israel's deportation of over 400 Palestinians, many of whom had ties to Hamas.

"The group's violent activities increased dramatically during 1992," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday. Hamas' activities included "increasingly lethal tactics" such as roadside explosions and car bombs, he added.

Boucher said the inclusion of Hamas was not part of any deal with the Israelis regarding the deportation issue.

The United States was instrumental in crafting a compromise with Israel this week whereby 100 of the 400 deportees would be returned almost immediately, and the terms of deportation of the others were to be shortened.

Recent reports have suggested that the Hamas movement is now being directed by leaders in the United States and Britain.

The terrorism report, scheduled to be released in late April, is a barometer of U.S. attitudes toward various movements in the Middle East and elsewhere. It includes countries as well as organizations.

Information Passed To U.S.

The two Palestinian Americans accused of helping to organize Hamas, both from Illinois, and a third man accused of lesser charges, have been visited by American consular officials in Israel, although Boucher said American diplomats had raised questions with the Israelis over delays in the visits.

American officials have given one of the men medicine for a heart condition.

Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) has discussed the case of the arrested men with Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval.

Following the arrests, Israeli security forces have passed a considerable amount of information to American authorities, in the hope they would limit Hamas activities in the United States.

It is believed the three men will face trial in Israel, although there is a chance that the United States will ask that they be extradited.

Israel also maintains that the men established contact with the Islamic Movement in Israel proper, in addition to Islamic fundamentalists in the administered territories.

Leaders of the Islamic Movement in Israel denied those charges.

Sheik Abdullah Nimer Darwish, a leader of the movement, said that if contacts were actually made, they were without the approval of the group's leadership.

"We have declared many times in the past that anyone who violates the law in Israel does not represent the Islamic Movement," Darwish said.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem.)

ADL ANNUAL AUDIT SHOWS DROP IN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN U.S.

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- For the first time in six years, the Anti-Defamation League has reported a decline in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States.

There were 8 percent fewer incidents in 1992 than in 1991, and the most serious types of anti-Semitic vandalism declined by almost 50 percent, the lowest number since 1988.

The figures were contained in the agency's annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents, released Tuesday at a news conference in Washington.

"While we welcome the reported reduction of anti-Semitic incidents reflected in the audit, one year of decline is not a trend," said Melvin Salberg, ADL national chairman.

A total of 1,730 anti-Semitic incidents were reported last year, the second-highest total in the annual audit's 14-year history.

The record was set in 1991, with 1,879 incidents reported that year.

At the news conference, Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) joined Salberg, ADL National Director Abraham Foxman and ADL Washington representative Jess Hordes in discussing the audit.

Schumer will soon introduce legislation that could increase prison time for those convicted of hate crimes. The bill would allow federal judges to impose harsher penalties if the crime was motivated by hate based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

A similar bill, also introduced by Schumer, died in the last Congress.

The showing in the ADL audit of a decline in anti-Semitic incidents of about 8 percent was tracked in each of the survey's two main categories: vandalism and harassment.

There were 856 acts of vandalism against Jewish institutions and Jewishly owned private and public property reported in 1992, a decrease of 7.7 percent from 1991.

And there were 874 acts of anti-Semitic harassment, threat and assault reported in 1992, down 8 percent from the preceding year.

More Harassment Than Vandalism

In a continuation of a trend first discerned in 1991, there were more anti-Semitic incidents of harassment, threats and assaults than vandalism.

"This 'in your face' anti-Semitism may signal a new tendency to engage in direct confrontations with Jews and further erodes the taboo against open bigotry," Salberg said.

There were 28 reported cases of the most serious types of vandalism -- arson, attempted arson, cemetery desecration and synagogue bombings -- which made it the lowest number in four years and a decline of 43 percent since 1991.

They included seven cases of arson, four attempted acts of arson, one bombing and 16 cemetery desecrations.

This significant decline "may be attributable to the ever-increasing attention being paid to the hate crime problem by law-enforcement agencies around the country," said the ADL report.

One indication of this is the fact that there were far more arrests in 1992 in connection with hate crime investigations -- 86 -- than there were in 1991, when there were 52 such arrests.

Also, just 18 percent of the reported anti-Semitic incidents targeted Jewish institutions,

while 44 percent took place in public areas, such as public schools or office buildings. This indicates, according to the report, that Jewish organizations and synagogues are being better protected by security personnel than they were in the past.

The other 38 percent of the vandalism cases took place on Jewishly owned private property.

One arena in which there was a dramatic upsurge in anti-Semitic activity was on the campus, both at the high school and college levels.

There, anti-Jewish activity rose to its highest levels ever, with 114 incidents reported last year. That represents a 12 percent increase over 1991 and a doubling in the number since 1988.

The number of affected campuses -- 60 -- did not change from 1991.

38 Percent Decrease In New York State

In addition to the overt anti-Jewish incidents recorded in the audit, other more subtle but ominous developments -- the popularity of Holocaust revisionists and stridently anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist speakers -- have contributed to a sense of unease among Jewish students at many colleges and universities, according to the report.

The 1992 audit, prepared by the research department of the ADL's Civil Rights Division, includes data from 39 states and the District of Columbia, reported to ADL regional offices by victims, community leaders and law enforcement officials.

It includes anti-Semitic acts that are not crimes, like distributing neo-Nazi pamphlets and making slurs against Jewish individuals.

The state reporting the most acts of anti-Semitism was again New York, with 157 incidents, down a significant 38 percent from 1991.

New Jersey saw an increase of 53 incidents, bringing the total to 155 for 1992. California reported a drop of eight incidents, to 116, while Florida saw an increase to 69, up by 26 acts.

Massachusetts was down 16 for a total of 52, while Pennsylvania was down six, for a total of 43.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Deborah Kalb of States News Service in Washington.)

STUDENTS STOP REVISIONIST'S LESSONS

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- A group of Jewish students prevented Holocaust-denier Bernard Notin from resuming his lectures this week at a university in the southeastern French city of Lyon.

Notin, an economist, had been suspended from teaching at the university for three years, following a 1989 article in which he denied the existence of gas chambers in Nazi death camps.

He was to go back to lecturing last Saturday. But the decision infuriated professors and students, who said Notin's teaching would be a blemish on all French universities. The decision was also contested by human rights and anti-racist groups.

On Saturday morning, when Notin was to deliver his lecture at Lyon III University, a group of some 50 people, led by the Union of Jewish Students, unfurled a banner showing a yellow star and a list of Nazi death camps. The group barred Notin from entering the classroom.

The school's administration decided to cancel the lecture in order to prevent further disturbances. No decision has been taken yet about the future of Notin's teaching.

**LAWMAKER WHO SUPPORTS DEMJANJUK
SAYS THE 'REAL' IVAN IS STILL ALIVE**
By Holly Yeager
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio), who has long been a supporter of John Demjanjuk's claims that he is not the gruesome "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka, says he has fresh evidence that the "real" Ivan is alive in Eastern Europe.

Traficant held a news conference here Tuesday while special court proceedings were continuing in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to determine if the U.S. Justice Department withheld evidence that another man, said to be Ivan Marchenko, was the so-called "Ivan" who operated the crematoria at the death camp.

"I believe Ivan the Terrible is still alive and is certainly not Demjanjuk," the Ohio Democrat said as he released what he said was an original photograph of Ivan Marchenko (also spelled Marczenko).

He said the picture was part of Marchenko's personnel file at Treblinka.

People in Jewish groups who believe Demjanjuk is truly a war criminal cast doubt on Traficant's contentions.

This new evidence "fits into the pattern of Traficant's repeated efforts to defend Nazi war criminals, specifically Demjanjuk," Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said in New York.

"It hasn't held much water in the past and I doubt it will this time," he said. "It isn't new and it isn't evidence. The so-called 'fresh evidence' was released about a year ago by Traficant and was already in the court record," Steinberg said.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said that if Traficant has new information about the case, he should share it with both the Justice Department and the Israeli Supreme Court, which convicted Demjanjuk of war crimes and sentenced him to death.

Will 'Take Him To Israel To Stand Trial'

Cooper said that all documents pertaining to Demjanjuk indicate "that this man was a Nazi war criminal."

"Whether or not he was a Nazi war criminal at Treblinka or at the Sobibor death camp doesn't matter. They did exactly at Sobibor what they did at Treblinka," said Cooper.

About 250,000 Jews died at Sobibor and more than 800,000 perished at Treblinka.

Demjanjuk, a retired Cleveland area auto-worker who came to this country from Ukraine after World War II, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981, extradited to Israel in 1986 and convicted of war crimes. He is now on death row in Israel.

In addition to the photograph, Traficant said his own investigative team of six people has found additional evidence which it will provide to Demjanjuk's defense team in Israel about Marchenko's life after World War II.

He said that Marchenko moved to Eastern Europe, married a woman from Yugoslavia and was a KGB operative.

"He is still alive and should be brought to justice," Traficant said. "We will bring Marchenko to America and take him to Israel to stand trial."

But the congressman refused to provide further details or evidence of his charges about Marchenko's activities and whereabouts.

The Ohio lawmaker said his investigative team will likely be able to track Marchenko down in Eastern Europe in two to three months.

Traficant charged the Justice Department with ignoring evidence that Demjanjuk is not Ivan the Terrible.

That issue is currently being investigated in federal court proceedings in Nashville, Tenn., under a special appointed master, U.S. District Judge Thomas Wiseman.

The congressman said he is preparing a brief on his investigation, which he will present to Department officials after President Clinton fills the post of attorney general.

The Justice Department did not return telephone calls on the case.

**JEWS HAIL ELECTION OF HAVEL
AS LEADER OF NEW CZECH STATE**
By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE (JTA) -- The Jewish community here has welcomed the recent election of Vaclav Havel as president of the new Czech Republic, saying the playwright-turned-politician has demonstrated an understanding for Jewish concerns.

Havel, the dissident who led Czechoslovakia after the country's Communist government was thrown out of power in 1989, was elected Jan. 26 as the first president of the Czech Republic.

Rabbi Karol Sidon, chief rabbi of the Czech Republic, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Havel's election is "a very good start for the new state."

Sidon, a fellow-signatory with Havel of the Charter 77 manifesto against the former Communist regime, said he believed Havel would make an even better president now than he was of the old Czechoslovakia.

Havel resigned as president of the former Czechoslovak state last July after Slovak members of the old Parliament blocked his re-election.

Havel campaigned against the breakup of the binational state, but the two republics split apart on Jan. 1.

Sidon said Havel's experience as Czechoslovak president exposed him to the political realities needed to run a country and thus made him a more capable leader.

Havel's election as president to the new republic came after a nasty debate in the Czech Parliament.

A group of 11 representatives from the racist, right-wing Republican Party of Miroslav Sladek tried to block Havel's election by filibustering for several hours.

They insulted Havel and accused him of being a tool of external forces, including a charge that he was being paid off by foreign interests in shekels, the Israeli currency.

In the final tally, Havel won with 109 votes to Sladek's 14 votes and 49 for the Communist-led left bloc.

Jiri Danicek, president of the federation of Jewish communities of the Czech Republic, stressed that Havel has an understanding for the concerns of the Jewish community.

Danicek, who was another co-signatory of the Charter 77 manifesto, said he regarded Havel as the country's best choice for president and commended the Czech leader for his moral integrity.