

**CHRISTOPHER PLANS TRIP TO MIDEAST  
IN HOPE OF REVIVING THE PEACE TALKS**

By Deborah Kalb

States News Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Warren Christopher will travel to the Middle East later this month in the hope of reviving the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The long-rumored trip, which will be Christopher's first mission abroad as secretary, was announced Thursday by President Clinton in a statement released by the White House.

In the statement, Clinton cited his own "commitment to advance the peace negotiations" as the reason for Christopher's trip. He said the mission is "an indication of the priority my administration attaches to peacemaking in the Middle East."

Christopher will visit Israel and other parties connected with the peace talks from Feb. 17 through 24, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Thursday.

Efforts to restart the peace talks, which recessed shortly after the U.S. presidential elections, have been complicated by Israel's expulsion in December of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

Earlier this week, Israel agreed to take back 100 of the deportees almost immediately and reduce the terms of exile for the remaining men to one year.

But the deal, which was backed by Washington, was rejected by the Palestinians, who have threatened not to return to the table until all the deportees are allowed to return to the administered territories.

**'Made Sense' To Postpone Talks**

The United States has been seeking to divert attention away from the dispute over the deportees and refocus it on the peace talks.

Sending Christopher to the region could help restart not only the bilateral talks Israel has had with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians, but could provide a boost to the multilateral negotiations on regional issues like water rights and arms control.

Some of the multilateral talks had originally been scheduled to resume next week, but were postponed.

Boucher, at the briefing, said that it "made sense" to postpone the talks until Christopher had visited the parties concerned.

The administration has sought to encourage the peace process through talks with Israel and Arab participants over the course of the deportation crisis.

In his statement, Clinton appeared to signal the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement and other opponents of the peace process that they would find little sympathy from his administration.

Those who oppose the peace process "through violence and intimidation will find no tolerance here for their methods," the president said. "But those who are willing to make peace will find in me and my administration a full partner."

Clinton said Christopher would focus on other Middle East problems, including Iraq, during his trip to the region.

**RABIN CRITICIZED ON KNESSET FLOOR  
FOR FAILING TO CONSULT HIS MINISTERS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is continuing to come under sharp criticism for his handling of the deportation crisis, and not only from the opposition parties.

Rabin was the target of a rare personal attack on the Knesset floor Wednesday from a member of his own party.

Labor Knesset member Haggai Merom chided Rabin for not getting along with his ministers and implied that the premier was making decisions unilaterally, without seeking proper advice.

"No minister should be prevented from speaking his conscience," Merom said grimly. He charged there is "an atmosphere of fear" within the government.

Rabin, now under criticism domestically as well as internationally, retorted icily that any minister dissatisfied with the government could "find the door and walk out."

Merom, a prominent member of the Labor Party and a representative of the kibbutz movement, also called on Rabin to control damaging leaks in the news media about the political infighting in the Cabinet.

"Shut the mouths of your top officials," Merom told Rabin bluntly.

Knesset veterans said they could not recall an attack this severe against the prime minister led by a fellow member of the ruling party.

Rabin, seated at the Cabinet table, muttered angrily to Merom: "Vote no confidence in the government if you want!"

**Running A One-Man Show?**

But many leading media commentators said Thursday that Merom was merely voicing publicly what ministers and other top Labor figures were feeling privately: that Rabin is running a one-man-show and treating his ministers with indifference bordering on contempt.

"He speaks for them all," wrote Orly Azulai, the well-informed political reporter of the mass-circulation daily Yediot Achronot.

The storm triggered by Merom's remarks intensified when the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shimon Sheves, fired back a vituperative broadside at Merom.

"He's frustrated because he did not get a Cabinet post or any other government job," Sheves told reporters.

Sheves admitted that it was "irregular" for an appointed official to publicly criticize an elected official. But he said he was doing so in this case, because Merom had spoken "unfounded lies."

Sheves followed up his public comments with an official letter to the Knesset speaker, Shevah Weiss, demanding that he "rein in" Merom.

Merom, for his part, confirmed that the butt of his criticism was indeed Sheves, whom he had not mentioned by name. "He interposes a wall between the prime minister and the other Cabinet members," Merom wrote in the daily newspaper Ma'ariv.

In another interview, Merom said a "high official" in Rabin's office had actually told Jus-

tice Minister David Libai this week that the premier would not object if Libai were to resign.

Libai and Rabin had a heated exchange during a Cabinet meeting earlier this week, when Rabin tried to silence the minister during a debate on the deportations issue.

Libai was the only minister not to support Rabin during the original December vote to order the temporary expulsion of 415 Moslem fundamentalists to Lebanon.

Some political observers are interpreting this vehement clash as a reflection of an ongoing rivalry between Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that dates back years. Merom, they say, belongs to the Peres camp.

Other commentators simply explained the incident as reflecting a loss of control that has pervaded the government, most obviously since the deportation decision in mid-December.

### CONTROVERSY OF VOA IN THE NEGEV EDGING TOWARD FINAL RESOLUTION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A long-running debate between environmentalists and business interests on whether Israel should allow the United States to build a powerful radio transmitter in the Negev desert appears to be coming to a head.

The National Planning and Building Council, charged with making a recommendation to the government, began its final deliberations on the matter Tuesday.

The issue goes back several years to a U.S. request to build a Voice of America transmitter relay station, designed to beam U.S. government-controlled news programs and American propaganda into the former Soviet Union.

Environmentalists and residents in the area oppose the project, saying that electromagnetic radiation from the transmitters would harm nearby residents as well as interfere with the internal guidance systems of migratory birds passing over the region.

The tall and powerful transmission antennas would be spread over a wide area in an unspoiled region of the Negev.

But supporters claim the project will create jobs and help industry in the region.

The National Planning and Building Council failed to reach a decision Tuesday but its recommendation is expected shortly.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has said he opposes the project and has instructed his representative in the council to vote against the plan.

Environmentalists opposed to the VOA station braved snowy weather to demonstrate outside the building where the council met.

Support for the project is headed by Shlomo Haruvi, vice president of the Elbit electronics company, which has a major economic stake in the project.

Haruvi claimed in a radio interview Monday that "the station itself will become a tourist attraction, as is the case with technological monuments elsewhere in the world."

His claim was termed a "bad joke" by Micky Lipshitz, the director of the environmental department of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

"It will close off an area of some 15,000 acres and turn the site into a forest of antennas," Lipshitz said.

Although the bitter debate continues in Israel, American interest in building the trans-

mitter appears to have waned since the breakup of the former Soviet Union and the disappearance of the communist danger.

If Israel rejects the project, the VOA transmitting station is likely to be moved to Turkey.

### ETHIOPIA NOT PREPARED TO ALLOW ALL FALASH MORA TO COME TO ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Ethiopian government is not prepared to approve a large-scale emigration to Israel of the Falash Mora, a sect whose ancestors were Jews who converted to Christianity.

Israel's ambassador to Ethiopia, Haim Divon, conveyed the Ethiopian government's position on the issue to the Israeli Cabinet, which is reviewing a ministerial committee's recommendation to allow the Falash Mora to immigrate to Israel as individuals, but not as Jews under the Law of Return.

Ethiopian Jewish groups in Israel have generally attacked the recommendation as not going far enough to bring the entire Falash Mora community to Israel.

Many Ethiopian Jews in Israel have relatives among the Falash Mora who remain in Africa. The group is variously estimated to number between 20,000 and 40,000.

Some 4,000 Falash Mora are now waiting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, hoping to emigrate and settle in Israel. Thousands more live in rural areas.

Ethiopian immigrant groups here, who have staged demonstrations against the recommendation, demand that the entire sect be recognized as Jews. Under the Law of Return, any Jew has an automatic right of immigration to Israel.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban has said that a large part of the Falash Mora would end up coming to Israel anyway under guidelines that set family reunification, rather than the Law of Return, as the basis for granting the right of immigration.

Even under the Law of Return, some of the Falash Mora would be eligible to immigrate if they have Jewish parents or grandparents, or if they have decided to return to Judaism.

Yet the entire operation would be contingent upon cooperation by the Ethiopian government, and Divon's report to the Cabinet said that Addis Ababa would only permit emigration on a one-by-one basis.

The mass airlifts organized by Israel in the past were one-time exceptions, Divon explained.

Tsaban and Interior Minister Arye Deri have rejected accusations that Israel has applied a looser standard toward immigrants from the former Soviet Union than from Ethiopia on the question of who is a Jew qualifying under the Law of Return.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Arnon Mantver, director-general of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, said the comparison with the former Soviet Union is not fair.

"In the USSR, there was not an entire group of people who had converted from Judaism to Christianity, but rather individual cases of spouses of Jews," Mantver said.

The Jewish Agency official also rejected speculation that Israel wants to restrict the number of immigrants from Ethiopia because of problems absorbing those who have already come.

**JEWS SATISFIED WITH SUSPENSION  
OF CINCINNATI REDS OWNER SCHOTT**  
By Matthew Fleischer

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- After months of vigorous organizing to protest Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott's alleged anti-Semitic and racist comments, Cincinnati Jews and national Jewish agencies have expressed satisfaction with her one-year suspension from organized baseball.

They also reiterated the Cincinnati Jewish community's view that Schott's statements were best taken as a learning opportunity for baseball and for the community.

In a meeting Wednesday, major league baseball's ruling executive council removed Schott from the day-to-day operation of the Reds and fined her \$25,000 after concluding that she used racial slurs while addressing club employees.

Both the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee welcomed baseball's stand against bigotry and prejudice.

Baseball owners have "sent an unequivocal message that anti-Semitism and racism are incompatible with our national pastime and will not be tolerated," said Abraham Foxman, ADL national director.

"We hope that baseball's action regarding Ms. Schott is only the first step in a renewed commitment to fight bigotry within its ranks," the AJCommittee said.

Kenneth Stern, director of intergroup issues for the AJCommittee, stressed the symbolism of the suspension.

"Beyond baseball, this sends an important message throughout society about how people relate to each other. Behavior in organized sports has the power to set a strong example."

Michael Rapp, executive director of the Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council, stressed that Schott's punishment was not the organization's goal.

**'Has No Place In 20th-Century America'**

"From the beginning, JCRC's position has been to use this odious incident to improve the intergroup situation, not to have Marge Schott's head on the end of a pike. Marge Schott is not the issue.

"Our goal has been to learn from it, to be a convenient agency to help say that this sort of speech has no place in 20th-century America," he said.

Echoing Rapp's sentiments, Jerome Chanes, co-director of domestic concerns for the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said, "We see this as an opportunity for turning a bad situation into a situation that has positive possibilities for increased sensitivity training and other programmatic initiatives."

The baseball owners' group launched the investigation in response to the national outcry over remarks attributed to Schott that came to light last November.

A deposition in a suit filed against her by a former employee alleged that she made racially and ethnically demeaning comments, including the use of the word "nigger" and the term "money-grubbing Jews."

She also acknowledged in subsequent interviews that she kept a Nazi swastika armband in her home, but said she "never thought of it as anything offensive."

Shortly after Schott's comments came to light, the Cincinnati JCRC forged a coalition of

local groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Cincinnati Human Relations Council and the Urban League, to call her to task.

This coalition first met with Schott in November, and has held two other meetings since. A final meeting is scheduled for later this month.

Marilyn Krug, president of the Cincinnati JCRC, pointed out that besides the practical impact the meetings had on Schott, the "experience of sitting over the table on a common issue has been wonderful for Jewish-black relations."

**HUNGARY VOWS TO PUNISH SKINHEADS  
WHO STABBED JEWISH GIRL IN BUDAPEST**  
By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- A Jewish girl who was stabbed and injured by neo-Nazi skinheads has become the subject of national attention after Hungarian Interior Minister Peter Boross made a special point of promising punishment for the offenders.

Boross said it was unacceptable for skinheads wearing swastikas to be attacking people on the streets of Budapest. Speaking in Parliament, Boross said that "this Nazi symbol has already cost hundreds of thousands of lives to the Hungarian nation."

The 17-year-old victim of the stabbing, who did not want her name released, said she was attacked in front of her home by two youths last week who shouted at her "damned Jew."

Police have not yet identified the youths responsible for the attack.

The girl was briefly hospitalized for light injuries and released the next day, her mother told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The girl told reporters she received warning letters declaring, "Death to the Jews," shortly after telling her school classmates she was Jewish.

The girl, whose grandmother survived the Auschwitz death camp, is now being escorted back and forth to school by armed guards, paid for by the local Jewish community.

"It is unbelievable that more than 40 years after the Holocaust in Hungary, my daughter must go to school escorted by armed guards, because she, as a Jew, does not feel safe to go alone after what happened to her a week ago," the girl's mother told JTA.

An administrator in her school described the victim as a handicapped girl who lives with her mother in modest circumstances. According to the mother, she had spent some time on a kibbutz in Israel.

Discussion about the incident in Parliament became a hit heated after one member, Izabella Kiraly, defended skinheads, saying they were "young and good boys of the Hungarian nation."

Kiraly has previously called for Hungary to rid the educational system of "foreign spirit."

The Budapest office of the World Jewish Congress has expressed concern over this incident to the speaker of Parliament, George Szabad.

The attack comes on the heels of a clash two weeks ago between skinheads and two Gypsy men. Eight neo-Nazis were arrested for assaulting the men and distributing neo-Nazi material.

The youths later said they mistook the Gypsies for Jews.

The suspects were released, but are awaiting charges to be brought against them. Budapest's Jewish community issued a statement protesting their release.

## JEWIS HAIL PRESIDENT MITTERRAND FOR SUGGESTING REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- France's Jews have hailed President Francois Mitterrand's move to inaugurate an annual day of remembrance to mourn those Jews who were persecuted or deported from France to Nazi death camps during the Holocaust.

Mitterrand caused an outcry in July when he said France could not apologize for the wartime actions of the pro-Nazi Vichy regime.

But Wednesday, Mitterrand changed his stance and signed a decree declaring July 16 as a "National Commemoration Day of the Racist and Anti-Semitic Persecutions Perpetrated during the De Facto Authority of the So-Called 'Government of the French State' (1940-1944)."

The date was chosen to mark the day in 1942 of the first mass roundup of Jews in Paris by French police, known as the "Vel d'Hiv roundup."

On July 16, 1942, the Jews were rounded up and taken to the winter cycling stadium called the Velodrome d'Hiver.

Jean Kahn, head of CRIF, an umbrella group representing French Jewish organizations, said Mitterrand "has taken into account the wish of the French people not to forget what has become the symbol of the arrest of French Jews, the Vel d'Hiv roundup. It is something we have been asking for many years."

The decree says that a monument will be erected in Paris on the location of the Vel d'Hiv, where the rounded-up Jews were held prisoners before they were taken to the Drancy concentration camp in a northern suburb of Paris.

Some 13,000 Jews were arrested during those roundups. Almost all were deported to Auschwitz and gassed upon arrival.

The Vel d'Hiv was torn down in the 1960s, and an office building for the Ministry of Interior was built there instead.

### Follows Outcry Last November

The French president's decree also says that a plaque will be affixed in Izieu, near Lyon, where over 40 Jewish children stayed in hiding until they were discovered by SS officer Klaus Barbie. They were later deported and killed.

Mitterrand's repeated refusal to officially acknowledge that France should take some responsibility for the deaths of tens of thousands of Jews at the hands of the wartime Vichy regime has long been a bone of contention in the Jewish community.

The debate turned even more bitter last fall when Mitterrand laid a wreath on the grave of Marshal Philippe Petain on Nov. 11, the armistice day of World War I.

While Petain is celebrated as a war hero for his role in World War I, he is also vilified for collaborating with the Nazis in World War II.

In Mitterrand's own ranks, many voiced their disapproval of the president's attitude.

"One cannot dissociate the victor of Verdun from the traitor of Vichy," said various political leaders, protesting against the tradition initiated by Mitterrand to lay a wreath on Petain's tomb every year.

Mitterrand said at the time he would do something to correct the situation. Observers said the newly announced Commemoration Day appears to be Mitterrand's answer to the critics.

## GERMAN POLICE CONFISCATE NEO-NAZI RECORDS, TAPES

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- German police have confiscated thousands of neo-Nazi records and tapes in more than 10 major localities as part of a nationwide crackdown on right-wing music.

Police raided the homes and offices of musicians and producers in the right-wing rock music industry, which has popularized songs calling for the expulsion of foreigners from Germany and praised the country's Nazi past.

The music is seen by some as contributing to a wave of anti-foreigner violence, racism, and anti-Semitism in Germany.

Federal authorities said they would continue the searches in stores suspected of selling tapes blamed for inciting youths against foreigners.

Police crackdowns will occur whenever needed on the basis of information provided by the internal security service, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said.

The Anti-Defamation League in New York has been pressing Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government for some time to take action against neo-Nazi rock groups.

In another development, the Interior Ministry confirmed Thursday that according to recent reports, three neo-Nazi organizations banned a few weeks ago were trying to resume their activities.

The organizations are the German Alternative, the National Front, and the National Offensive.

The reports said that while several leaders of the groups were in jail or fighting the ban in court, other members of the organizations continue to hold meetings and in some case engage in paramilitary training.

## EX-GUARD AT CONCENTRATION CAMP DIES BEFORE HE CAN BE DEPORTED

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Sergis Hutyrzyk, a Somerset, N.J., man whose U.S. citizenship was revoked for lying about his wartime activities, died Wednesday of natural causes.

Hutyrzyk, who was 68, had been suffering from an inoperable aneurysm in his chest.

He died at home, only one day after his lawyers filed on appeal on his behalf in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia against the order that revoked his citizenship.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations first brought charges against him in August 1990.

OSI had intended to pursue deportation orders against Hutyrzyk if his appeals had failed.

Hutyrzyk, who immigrated to the United States in 1954, lost his citizenship last October based on his admission that he had served as an armed guard at the Koldyczewo concentration camp in Byelorussia, now Belarus, during World War II.

Hutyrzyk, a native of Baranowice, Byelorussia, denied he was personally responsible for any killings.

However, the government charged that he was known as the "black commander" in the concentration camp.

OSI alleged that from January 1942 to May 1945, Hutyrzyk served in the Byelorussian Schutzmannschaft, a Nazi-controlled police force which killed civilians.