

**ISRAEL REJECTS U.S. REQUEST  
TO JOIN MILITARY FORCE IN HAITI**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Israel has rejected an American request to join a U.N.-sponsored international military force for a possible invasion of Haiti.

Speaking on Army Radio on Monday, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Israel was willing to send humanitarian assistance to Haiti.

But he ruled out sending members of the Israel Defense Force, saying the climate in the Middle East prevented Israel from taking such a move.

"I don't think as long as there is not peace in the Middle East we can send military aid," said Beilin, adding that the United States had asked Israel to provide military, logistical or humanitarian support in case an international force were to invade Haiti.

"We responded to an appeal by the U.S. so that if and when a peacekeeping force is created for Haiti and democracy is restored, we will agree to participate in humanitarian aid to Haiti, with medical, not military, staff," Beilin said.

Prospects for an invasion of Haiti became more likely this week after the U.N. Security Council voted Sunday to support a U.S.-led international force that will use "all necessary means to facilitate the departure from Haiti of the military leadership" and restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

Despite Israel's refusal to send armed forces to Haiti, the U.S. request marked the first time that Israel has been included in U.N. planning for an international military operation.

**JORDAN WINS ROUND ONE IN QUEST  
FOR DEBT RELIEF FROM WASHINGTON**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Scoring high marks for his historic summit here with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, King Hussein of Jordan has won partial debt relief from Congress.

Less than a week after the Middle Eastern leaders declared an end to their 46-year-state-of-war and returned to their homes, U.S. lawmakers included in the final version of this year's foreign aid bill over \$200 million in debt relief to Jordan.

House and Senate conferees worked out the final version of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act in the early morning hours of last Friday. Once the measure is approved by both Houses of Congress, President Clinton is expected to sign it into law.

The \$13.6 billion foreign aid package also includes \$3 billion in aid to Israel, \$2.1 billion to Egypt and \$78 million for the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

The United States will use \$99 million to write off up to \$220 million in Jordanian debt. The actual amount varies depending which loans are paid off and when.

Both Rabin and Hussein made the issue of debt relief for Jordan a priority during their

meetings with President Clinton during the two-day summit last week.

After the measure is approved, Jordan will owe the United States approximately \$500 million. Other nations, which hold over \$6 billion in Jordanian debt, are expected to follow suit with limited debt relief before the end of the year.

While forthcoming in response to Jordan's initial debt-relief request, Congress stipulated in the bill that in order to receive any additional debt write-offs, Jordan must end its boycott of Israel, sign a comprehensive peace treaty with Israel and adhere to United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Capitol Hill leaders and White House officials plan to forgive the remainder of Jordan's debt over the next two years if Jordan meets the measure's requirements, sources say.

In a show of support for Jordanian debt relief, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last week that "Jordan and Israel have done their part. Now we must do ours."

**'America Stands With The Peacemakers'**

Calling Jordan's debt "crushing" and "crippling," Christopher said, "We're urging Congress to assist Jordan, to send a clear signal to the people of the region that America stands with those who are peacemakers."

The foreign aid package also includes \$80 million to assist Israel in resettling refugees from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and provides \$7 million for Middle East regional cooperative ventures between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

After overcoming opposition from some senior members of Congress and the Clinton administration, the conference committee included three amendments in the bill's final version relating to the Middle East.

In the first measure, the bill bans American diplomats from meeting with members of the Palestinian authority anywhere in Jerusalem to discuss matters concerning Gaza and Jericho. The original proposal, which banned all meetings regardless of subject matter, was toned down after strong protests from the State Department, Capitol Hill sources said.

Administration officials complained that a ban on all meetings would restrict their ability to conduct diplomacy, the sources said.

The measure, sponsored by Sens. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), also prohibits the United States from opening any new offices in Jerusalem to dispense aid to Gaza or Jericho.

The issue of aid to Palestinians being channeled through Jerusalem came to the fore last month when State Department officials confirmed the Agency for International Development was considering an office in eastern Jerusalem to dispense financial assistance to Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

A second amendment, sponsored by Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Richard Shelby (D-Ala.), prohibits the United States from sending any aid to the Palestinians until the Palestine

Liberation Organization amends the sections of its covenant calling for the destruction of the State of Israel.

The Specter-Shelby amendment also prevents the president from certifying PLO compliance with the peace accords without congressional oversight. The PLO in essence has six months to amend its covenant before the next time Clinton must certify to Congress that the PLO is in compliance. This amendment drew the most opposition but eventually passed.

Administration officials, as well as two powerful committee chairmen, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and U.S. Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), had opposed the amendment because it limited the president's authority in certifying PLO compliance.

The bill also includes a non-binding sense-of-the-Senate provision urging the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund not to give money to any countries that comply with any facet of the Arab boycott of Israel. The amendment was sponsored by Hank Brown (R-Colo.).

Lobbyists from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, worked well into the early morning hours last Friday ensuring support for these amendments, Jordanian debt relief and the overall bill. The conference committee ended its work shortly before 4 a.m.

"AIPAC worked for passage of the many key provisions in the bill which are critical to Israel's security, to a meaningful peace process and to ensuring a U.S. policy that supports Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital," an AIPAC spokesperson said.

AIPAC supports the "phased approach to relieve Jordan's debt as it moves toward a full peace treaty with Israel," the spokesperson added.

Klein said he was "gratified" that the bill passed, emphasizing his support for the Specter-Shelby amendment.

In addition to the provisions for Jordan included in the foreign aid package, Jordan could receive additional financial windfall from a proposal advocated by House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.).

In a letter to Clinton, Gephardt asked the president to expand the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement to include "those countries that conclude comprehensive peace agreements with Israel."

"By expanding economic opportunity to the nations that will determine the future of the Middle East, we can build a much stronger foundation for peace," Gephardt wrote.

#### **SENIOR LIKUD FIGURE BUCKS HIS PARTY, CALLS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF DEAL WITH PLO** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- A senior figure in the opposition Likud bloc has called on his party to accept the government's autonomy agreement with the Palestinians as well as last week's non-belligerency pact with Jordan.

Knesset member Moshe Katzav, chairman of the main opposition party's Knesset faction and a former transportation minister, also warned that if the Likud lost the next election, it would likely cease to exist as a political party.

Katzav's statement, which was made to the daily newspaper Yediot Achronot and which he

repeated in other media interviews on Sunday, triggered controversy within his party.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that if Katzav sought to change the Likud's policy platform he should bring his proposals before the appropriate party forums.

And Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement Sunday reiterating the party's opposition to the autonomy agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Last Friday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin briefed Netanyahu, Katzav and other top Likud leaders on the Washington Declaration signed with Jordan last week in Washington. The historic agreement officially brought to an end 46 years of hostilities between the two countries.

The Likud leadership has spoken favorably of that agreement, although with certain reservations regarding sections of the declaration granting Jordan special status with regard to Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

But until Katzav's categorical statements this weekend, the Likud's major spokesmen have maintained, at least in public, a hostile stance towards the agreement with the PLO.

#### **Reappraisal Of Likud Policies Sought**

Katzav has now called for a "reappraisal" by the Likud of its policies on peace and security, including those pertaining to relations with the PLO.

He specifically called on his party to proclaim its readiness to deal with "any Palestinian representation" regarding the full implementation of autonomy as provided for in the declaration of principles signed at the White House last September.

Katzav said his statement was meant to include the PLO and its chairman, Yasser Arafat.

This represents a major divergence from the official Likud line, which still sees Arafat as an unreconstructed terrorist.

Katzav set two conditions for his new position: that implementation of the declaration of principles be carried out without violations by either side, and that a Palestinian state be ruled out.

In that context, Katzav hinted that he would even support his party joining with Labor in a coalition of national unity.

"The Likud has got to come to terms with the irrevocability of the policies undertaken by the Rabin government," Katzav declared.

He added that the Likud must announce that it is forgoing its previous demand that the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip be revoked. Israeli troops withdrew from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho following the May 4 signing of the Cairo agreement for implementing Palestinian self-rule in the two areas.

According to Yediot Achronot, there are some senior figures in Likud who, in anticipation of an agreement between Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Assad, are already counseling flexibility on the party's position regarding the Golan Heights. Damascus has been calling for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan as a precondition for a peace between the two countries.

But these voices have yet to make themselves heard on a public platform in the way Katzav has now done regarding the agreement with the PLO.

## FALSE BOMB REPORTED AT MOSCOW SHUL AS COMMUNITY WORRIES ABOUT SECURITY

By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Moscow police recently received a phony threat about a bomb at Moscow's historic Choral Synagogue.

The warning came in wake of terrorist attacks on Jewish and Israeli targets in Buenos Aires and London and at first raised apprehensions here.

But the bomb squad that arrived at the synagogue on Arkhipova Street at 2 a.m. on July 27 found no explosive devices, said Igor Yaroslavsky, the synagogue's executive director.

Nervousness took hold for a short while, as the squad thought it had only 25 minutes to prevent a bomb from exploding. But a thorough search turned up no explosive devices.

Despite greatly increased security at Jewish sites and Israeli embassies around the world, Yaroslavsky said the Moscow synagogue had not taken any new security precautions.

"We want to but we don't have the money," he said.

At the Israeli Embassy here, Alexander Ben-Zvi, the charge d'affaires, said they had increased protection with assistance from the Russian government.

"We are taking measures, taking precautions, and we have asked our hosts to help us with that," he said.

A staff member in the office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the funding organization that has close contact with most of Moscow's Jewish groups, said she had not received word of any other bomb threats, nor of any other organizations that have made special efforts to increase security.

"Touch wood, we haven't had any problems," the staffer said.

## U.S. BARS DOCTOR WITH NAZI PAST AFTER JUSTICE DEPT. INVESTIGATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The U.S. government has placed Dr. Hans Sewering, one of Germany's leading physicians, on its "watch list" of undesirable aliens after the Justice Department found he had participated in Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution, the World Jewish Congress reported.

The ban on Sewering's entry into the United States follows by a year and a half his resignation as elected president of the World Medical Association after documents found in German archives were released showing that Sewering had been a member of the Nazi Party and SS.

The WJC had asked the U.S. Justice Department to investigate Sewering's wartime activities.

According to the uncovered documents, in 1943 Sewering signed an order transferring a handicapped 14-year-old girl to a so-called "healing clinic," where she was soon killed, along with hundreds of other patients, in the Nazis' "euthanasia" program.

Although Sewering acknowledged signing the transfer order, he had denied knowing the clinic was a euthanasia center. He had said that the Roman Catholic Church, which ran the clinic, would support his claim.

Instead, the hospital's director and four nuns

on staff rejected his explanation. They released a statement saying, "In the interest of the memory of these criminally murdered people, we cannot remain silent any longer."

"The sisters knew that these severely physically and mentally handicapped people would be exterminated as so-called 'unworthy lives,'" they said.

The Justice Department said Sewering had been placed on the "watch list" for having "ordered, incited, assisted or otherwise participated" in persecution "because of race, religion, national origin or political opinion."

Charges against Sewering were first made by the German magazine Der Spiegel. The campaign to bar Sewering from becoming the medical association's president was initiated by Professor Michael Kochen of the University of Gottingen, Germany, and doctors from the United States, Canada and Israel.

Sewering lives in Dachau, Germany, the site of the wartime death camp.

## SENATE: REPARATIONS ARE NOT INCOME

By Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The Senate has passed legislation preventing federal agencies from counting Holocaust restitution payments as income when determining eligibility for federal assistance programs.

"These payments are not income, but gifts from the people and the government of Germany who are trying to make amends for one of the darkest periods in human history," Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) said.

Companion legislation was introduced in the House last year by U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman and recently passed there.

DeConcini, who introduced the legislation in the Senate, did so after receiving a letter from Fanny Schlomowitz, an 83-year-old Holocaust survivor living in a government-subsidized one-room apartment in Phoenix.

Schlomowitz wrote that her rent was to increase by four times the current amount because the Department of Housing and Urban Development considered her restitution payments as income.

Prior to the legislation, there was no law applying to all federal agencies that determined if restitution payments are income or not.

President Clinton is expected to sign the bill into law later this summer.

## SWISS CHILDREN PITCH IN AT CEMETERY

GENEVA (JTA) -- A group of schoolchildren have volunteered to help clean up a Zurich cemetery that was the target of recent vandalism.

Two 11-year-old boys confessed earlier last month to the June 17 desecration of more than 100 gravestones at Switzerland's oldest Jewish cemetery. It was the second or perhaps third recent vandalism of the site.

Interviewed on Swiss television, the children, ages 11 to 18, explained that their volunteer effort was a way of showing their solidarity with the Jews and of registering their disapproval of racist acts.

A police spokesman said the desecration should not be brushed off as "nasty kids' games."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****ZHIRINOVSKY GRABS LOTS OF ATTENTION, BUT FOR JEWS, HE IS 'NO SERIOUS FIGURE'**

By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Whether he's throwing a punch in the Russian Parliament, spitting at Jewish demonstrators in France or relaxing half-naked in a Slovenian sauna, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has generated a lifetime's worth of attention since his victory in the legislative elections here six months ago.

But besides the splashy headlines and outlandish antics, how much of a threat does the ultranationalist pose to Russia's fledgling democracy -- and to Russia's Jewish community?

Not much, say a surprising number of community leaders and others.

"Today, not many people consider him a serious figure," said Michael Chlenov, the president of the Va'ad, the federation of Jewish institutions in Russia. "I never considered him a threat."

"He is losing his glamor. We know all his gimmicks already," added Tankred Golenpolsky, the editor of the Jewish Gazette newspaper. "In perspective, I don't think Zhirinovskiy is an important figure."

Alla Gerber, a Jewish deputy in the Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament, had this observation of her combative colleague: "People voted for him as a prophet, but now he is too close." She said his popularity "in the Duma and among the population in general is falling now."

Still, some of his ideas are taking hold.

As an ultranationalist, Zhirinovskiy believes that the former republics of the Soviet Union should return to the welcoming arms of "Mother Russia," and he defends the honor of his beleaguered homeland by attacking ethnic minorities inside Russia as well as Westerners, Americans and CIA agents.

These views are well-known and extreme, but watered-down versions are now becoming commonplace in a country reeling from economic hardship and longing for the stability and glory of Greater Russia.

**'Brings Harmful Ideas' To Consciousness**

In recent elections, Belarus and Ukraine voted for presidential candidates calling for closer relations with Russia. In addition, President Boris Yeltsin's rhetoric has taken a decidedly pro-nationalist slant in the last few months.

"Zhirinovskiy is an icebreaker," explained Yevgeni Proshechkin, the head of the Moscow Anti-Fascist Center. "It's not that he is harmful by himself, but he brings harmful ideas into the national consciousness."

Yet Zhirinovskiy's ideas about Jews do not seem to have entered mainstream politics. Anti-Semitism has not increased enormously, and immigration to Israel is even dropping slightly.

Regarding Jews, Zhirinovskiy is on record with a litany of bizarre statements.

At a news conference in December when his party won a quarter of the seats in the Duma, he blurted out that anti-Semitism is provoked by "those who consider themselves a part of the Jewish nation."

Yet experts here say far-right extremists

such as Alexander Barkoshev, who led violence during last fall's uprising, are a greater threat.

"Maybe Zhirinovskiy makes occasional anti-Semitic statements, but it's not a part of his doctrine," said Vladimir Schapiro, a sociologist at the Russian Academy of Sciences. "Zhirinovskiy's anti-Semitism is not a phobia; it's a game he plays consciously to get popularity among some part of the electorate."

Complicating the issue now is the question of Zhirinovskiy's own lineage.

In April, an Associated Press reporter trekked out to Almaty, Kazakhstan, where Zhirinovskiy was born. There he discovered that Zhirinovskiy's mother had been married to a Jewish man, Volf Eidelstein, and that the ultranationalist had been known as Eidelstein until he was 18 years old.

Zhirinovskiy dismissed the reports as a "fabrication" and a "forgery," but the allegations stuck, especially since Israeli officials have since stated that he once requested an invitation to immigrate to Israel, and Russian Jewish leaders say he was briefly involved in a Jewish cultural organization called Shalom.

Golenpolsky from the Jewish Gazette said Zhirinovskiy recently wrote a letter to him and spoke to him personally. But the damage control effort was pointless, Golenpolsky observed, noting that Zhirinovskiy's attempts to appeal to Russia's latent anti-Semitism have backfired.

**They Won't Forget His Father Was Jewish**

"Even if the time comes for the nation to put up a pro-Nazi leader, they would always remember that Zhirinovskiy's father is Jewish," he said. "This they will not forget."

In fact, this ironic twist to the Zhirinovskiy story has become legend here, popping up in discussions and winding its way into television comedy shows and the state Duma.

After an especially rabid speech by Zhirinovskiy, Yuly Gusman, a Jewish deputy from the reformist Russia's Choice party, attempted to defuse the tension with a joke: "Vladimir Volfovich," he said, "I'm talking to you as one Orthodox Christian to another."

Whether Zhirinovskiy and his party cohorts will exert real influence in the Duma remains to be seen. Meanwhile, he barnstorms the country in a continual campaign to become president in 1996.

The headquarters of his Liberal Democratic party are in a dilapidated four-story building in central Moscow. Outside the party office, elderly Russians sell photos of their leader.

The furniture in a waiting room looks like a thrift store bordello: a sagging red velvet settee, cracked linoleum, peeling paint, ancient curtains.

Those who request an interview are told it costs \$5,000 for a 30-minute chat, and anyway, he is busy with a banquet at the Iraqi Embassy.

But he can still be nabbed at the Duma, where his strange behavior is on display free. In a recent break in the Duma's last session, Zhirinovskiy stalked the hallway, his stocky body cramped into a speckled gray and white suit and a loud tie decorated with shooting stars and flowers in neon colors.

"There is no anti-Semitism in my party, no anti-Americanism," he bellowed in response to a question, his ice-blue eyes glistening: "There should be no lies on the part of journalists! No violence, no war! Make peace!"