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**U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TO BE SATISFIED
WITH WAY ISRAEL IS TRYING RIOTERS****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The United States is satisfied so far with the way Israel is conducting the trials of Palestinians arrested for rioting and incitement in the administered territories, an American diplomat indicated Wednesday.

Morris Draper, the U.S. consul general in East Jerusalem, said American officials observing the trials report that they are being carried out with full regard to the "due process of law." Draper was interviewed on the Israel Defense Force educational television program.

An Arabic-speaking official from the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem and a Hebrew-speaking envoy from the U.S. Consulate in Tel Aviv on Tuesday attended the trials in Nablus military court, where 48 suspects were charged with various security offenses.

They officials said they planned to visit other courts in the territories where trials are under way and would report their observations to their superiors.

But a group of prominent West Bank lawyers announced Tuesday they would boycott the trials because the proceedings are "humiliating and illegal."

Nevertheless, three Arab lawyers showed up at the Nablus court to represent nine of 18 defendants whose hearings had already begun.

Lawyers in the Gaza Strip, however, are continuing their boycott begun last week and most defendants there are without legal counsel.

Harsh Penalties Reported

Haaretz reported Wednesday that the imposition of harsh penalties on youths who pleaded guilty to charges of violence in the Gaza Strip has aroused anger and hatred among local residents.

According to Haaretz correspondent Eitan Rabin, four youngsters aged 15 to 18 confessed they prepared gasoline bombs and threw them at Israeli military vehicles.

The military judge, Lt. Col. Yosef Liav, sentenced them to between two and two-and-a-half years in prison. The defendants were shocked by the severity of the sentences and refused to rise from their seats, the correspondent reported.

Meanwhile, a 7-year-old Palestinian youth died Wednesday at Soroka hospital in Beersheba of bullet wounds he suffered in a clash with an IDF patrol at the Jebalya refugee camp last week. Two soldiers and 10 camp residents were injured in the melee.

Haaretz noted Wednesday that the measures being taken by Israel in the aftermath of nearly three weeks of violence in the administered territories are not new.

The newspaper recalled that the Cabinet voted in August 1985 to reinstate deportations and administrative arrests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to create "environmental motivation" against terrorism. The decision ended a five-year period during which no residents of the territories were deported.

During the six months that followed the

Cabinet decision, 21 former security offenders, released in a 1985 prisoner exchange, were expelled to Jordan. Most of the deportees in recent years have not been convicted of terrorists acts, but of incitement, contact with terrorist organizations or "political subversion," Haaretz said.

Palestinians suspected of subversive acts were deported, while those accused of less serious offenses were usually placed under administrative detention or "house arrest," the paper said.

**ISRAELI ARAB MILITANTS ARRESTED,
AS DEBATE ON DEPORTATIONS CONTINUES****By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Security authorities cracked down on Israeli Arab militants and continued to round up Palestinian activists in the administered territories as the Inner Cabinet met Wednesday to consider the deportation of troublemakers.

Government sources, meanwhile, denied reports that the Defense and Foreign ministries are split over the issue of deportations. They said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin are working in close coordination on that and other matters.

But the Foreign Ministry is known to be concerned about foreign criticism of the possible deportations, while Rabin is on record in favor of the speedy expulsion of alleged agitators.

Rabin issued administrative arrest orders Wednesday against two Israeli Arabs, Raslan Mahajneh and Raja Agbriya, for their alleged role in violent demonstrations at Umm el-Fahm village during the Arab general strike in Israel on Dec. 21.

Administrative arrest allows the authorities to hold suspects in jail for up to six months without filing formal charges, and can be extended for longer periods.

40 Arrested

Meanwhile, 40 more activists were arrested Tuesday in the administered territories and may face deportation. Some of them are former security prisoners who were among more than 1,000 Palestinian and Lebanese offenders released from jail in 1985 in exchange for three Israeli soldiers held captive by Ahmed Jabril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The latest arrests have raised apprehension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Relatives and friends of the detainees have not been informed why they were arrested and fear they will be deported. Israeli authorities have not confirmed or denied that this is intended.

Haaretz quoted Palestinian sources Wednesday as saying the detainees are "prominent figures in the Palestinian nationalist camp in the administered territories." Arab radio stations reported that Israel intends to expel hundreds of Palestinians from the territories.

Israeli security sources said if deportations are ordered, they will not be carried out "like thieves in the night." All legal procedures and regulations required by law will be strictly observed, the sources said.

The Inner Cabinet, the government's top

policy-making body, consisting of five Labor and five Likud ministers, is also reviewing the situation in Israel's Arab community -- those living within Israel's pre-1967 borders. The general strike on Dec. 21 in solidarity with the Palestinians in the territories raised serious concern that the country's 750,000 Arab citizens are becoming radicalized.

Attention has been focussed on the Sons of the Village movement, an extremist group of Israeli Arabs that refuses to recognize Israel. The group is believed to have been the prime mover behind the Umm el-Fahm demonstrations, which closed the main Afula-Hadera highway for two hours and ended in a violent clash with police.

Several Sons of the Village members demonstrated outside the Haifa district court Wednesday morning to protest the administrative arrests of Mahajneh and Agbriya, who are alleged to be leaders of the movement. The court building was sprayed some time Tuesday night with graffiti demanding the release of Mahajneh and Agbriya and an end to the "Israeli occupation."

Ronni Milo, a Likud deputy minister without portfolio, blamed the National Committee of Arab Mayors for the Dec. 21 violence and demanded that the government have nothing more to do with it. But Peres warned that cutting ties with the mayors would "leave the Arab sector to the extremists."

(Tel Aviv correspondent Gil Sedan contributed to this report.)

TWO ISRAELIS INJURED BY BOMBS IN ENVELOPES MAILED FROM ISTANBUL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- For the first time in 15 years, Israel has been hit by a wave of letter bombs. Two residents of Or Yehuda, near Tel Aviv, were slightly injured by one such device Wednesday.

It was one of 10 letter bombs, all posted from Istanbul, that arrived in Israel this week. The other nine were detected by postal employees before delivery to the addressees and safely defused.

According to Shlomo Aharonishky, the senior explosives expert at police headquarters, the letter bombs are large white envelopes containing Christmas and New Year's greetings and several dozen grams of explosives, sufficient to cause serious injuries to face or hands.

The envelopes appear to have been addressed at random. Postmarks indicate they were mailed from Istanbul on Dec. 23. The addresses were printed on stickers and the envelopes bore the return address of "D. Nissim, Istanbul."

The first three letter bombs were discovered Tuesday at the post office in Kiryat Arba, a Jewish township adjacent to Hebron in the West Bank. The others were found Wednesday at the central post offices in Haifa, Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan.

One was delivered to the home of the Asher family in Or Yehuda. Aviva Asher told police she began to open it, but on seeing the Christmas card inside, decided it was not intended for them and re-sealed the envelope.

She said she gave it to her brother-in-law to return to the post office. "He apparently opened it before handing it in, and it exploded, injuring him and a bystander," she said. Both were hospitalized.

Police said the last letter bombs were re-

ceived in Israel in 1972. They congratulated the postal workers for intercepting all but one of the devices.

LEONID AND LUDMILA VOLVOVSKY RECEIVE PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE

JTA Staff Report

Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Leonid Volvovsky, a leader of the Soviet Union's Jewish cultural movement who spent 16 months in a Siberian labor camp for "slandering the Soviet state," has received permission to emigrate to Israel.

The news was first reported in Israel on Wednesday and later confirmed by the Long Island Committee on Soviet Jewry.

Volvovsky, 45, a computer scientist, and his wife, Ludmila, a radio engineer, plan to join their 19-year-old daughter Kira in Jerusalem, where she has been living since receiving permission to emigrate in November.

Leonid Volvovsky had first been denied permission to emigrate in 1974 on the grounds that he possessed state secrets. Soon thereafter he was dismissed from his position at the Moscow Research Institute of Complex Mechanization and Automization in Oil and Gas.

The couple were denied permission as late as June of this year, and were told that permission would not come until 1992.

That same month, a note was taped to their apartment door reading "Item 70," referring to the Soviet legal code number for crimes of "anti-Soviet propaganda." The note was a reference to Volvovsky's prison sentence, which ended in March.

Volvovsky, one of the most popular Hebrew teachers and youth leaders within the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, was sentenced to a three-year term in October 1985 after a search of his apartment by Soviet police turned up a large quantity of Jewish books, including a copy of Leon Uris' "Exodus."

At the time, he and his wife were living in Gorky, where they had been expelled for their high-profile activity in Moscow teaching Hebrew and Jewish culture.

After Volvovsky's arrest, his wife spent much of her time in the company of refusenik friends in Moscow. She would proudly tell visiting Americans how her husband, when asked during his trial to identify himself, gave the court his Hebrew name, Ari, and defiantly described himself as a citizen of Israel.

The couple said they would go to Israel as soon as they could complete the necessary emigration and travel arrangements.

(Contributing to this report were David Landau in Jerusalem and Andrew Silow Carroll and Mark Joffe in New York.)

NEW CONSUL GENERAL NAMED IN NEW YORK

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Uri Savir, who is presently media adviser to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, has been named the next consul general in New York, one of Israel's most important and prestigious diplomatic postings.

Savir, 33, will succeed Consul General Moshe Yegar, who is to become ambassador to Sweden.

* * *

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Friday, January 1, 1988, because of the postal holiday.

STATE DEPARTMENT OPPOSED \$8 MILLION IN U.S. AID FOR FRENCH YESHIVAS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Ozar Hatorah, a New York-based Jewish educational organization, will receive \$8 million in U.S. federal funds to build yeshivas in and around Paris primarily for, the organization says, Jewish refugees.

The expenditure, opposed by the State Department, was sponsored as an amendment to the \$600 billion 1988 spending authorization bill by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee for Foreign Operations and a noted ally of Israel.

Like other federal agencies, the State Department traditionally resists "earmarkings," whereby members of Congress allot money to a specific project even though the affected government agency has not requested that designation.

The department's Bureau of Refugee Programs, referring to the Inouye amendment, said that "particularly during a time of low-budget resources, earmarking can have a dangerously negative and possibly discriminatory impact on the U.S. ability to maintain a balanced response to the humanitarian needs of refugees."

On Monday, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said that "we opposed this particular earmark, among others, in a letter" in mid-December to House-Senate negotiators considering the Inouye amendment. An aide to Inouye declined to comment Wednesday and the senator was unavailable for comment.

Ozar Hatorah board members, including New York real estate developer Zev Wolfson and Rabbi Berel Wines, principal of the Orangetown-Monsey Hebrew School in Suffern, N.Y., said it was they who brought their cause to Inouye's attention.

Because of his subcommittee chairmanship, "he's the most obvious person to contact," explained Wolfson.

Wines said in a telephone interview Wednesday that he spoke with Inouye twice in the last few months. He said Inouye "did his own research" on Ozar Hatorah over the last year.

Wolfson said in an interview Wednesday that he contributed \$1,000 to Inouye's 1985 primary campaign, but asserted "he was 100 percent sure" that Inouye knew nothing about it when reaching his decision. He said Inouye is the "greatest friend" Jews have in Congress and said he found it "insulting" that the allocation was being criticized.

Wines said it is not unusual for U.S. taxpayer money to be spent on French schools, since the beneficiaries primarily are refugees. He emphasized that the U.S. government provides aid to refugees in various countries.

However, the Associated Press reported that although the bill states that the recipients, French Sephardic Jews in Paris, are refugees, many of them have lived in France for a decade or more and are well-off. The report also noted that the French government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees do not consider the Sephardic Jews to be refugees.

The money will not be used entirely for refugees, the organization officials noted. But Wolfson said that the "predominant majority" of French Jews in Ozar Hatorah's yeshivas are impoverished refugees.

Ozar Hatorah's yeshivas educate 10,000 students overall, 3,000 of whom attend its 13

schools in France.

Rabbi Heshy Augenbaum, executive director of Ozar Hatorah, said that while Ozar Hatorah generally builds yeshivas for refugees in poor, unsettled areas, its purpose in France is simply to build them in "pockets where the Jewish population is substantial."

Augenbaum said the yeshivas were necessary because of France's "limited Jewish infrastructure," and said intermarriage among Jews in some areas of France exceeds 70 percent.

But the Inouye amendment came under fire Wednesday in a Washington Post column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, who have often taken stands critical of Israel in the past. They cited an unfulfilled \$23 million request that Secretary of State George Shultz made to Congress a few months ago that would upgrade the "quality of life" of Palestinians on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

O.U. GETS FIRST OF RESTITUTION IN ILLINOIS KOSHER FRAUD CASE

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The Illinois attorney general's office forwarded \$100,000 Monday to the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the first installment of a \$236,000 restitution to be paid by a Chicago poultry processor and distributor accused of falsely labeling products kosher.

The restitution, along with a \$14,000 civil penalty for violating Illinois consumer protection laws, is part of a judgment late last month by the Cook County Circuit Court against Shelat Kosher Foods Inc. and United Poultry Inc.; the companies' president, Sheldon Terman; and their secretary, Michael Terman. Both men were ordered removed from the businesses.

The defendants were ordered to pay the remainder of the restitution in three additional yearly payments. The judgment did not preclude additional suits that may be brought against the companies by dealers or consumers who purchased the falsely labeled poultry.

According to Dave Curry, a spokesman for Attorney General Neil Hartigan, Shelat was ordered dissolved as a business, while United may continue to do business, providing the kosher food it handles is stored separately and shipped in sealed containers.

The court also ruled that Sheldon Terman be prohibited from ever again engaging in the processing or distributing of kosher foods in Illinois, while Michael Terman may not be allowed to serve in a supervisory capacity in a kosher food business in Illinois, Curry said.

The court dismissed a similar suit against Aspen Foods, a company with ties to Shelat and United, citing lack of evidence.

The attorney general filed suit against the companies Nov. 4 following complaints by the O.U. that kosher "shields" were being applied in a facility other than the one supervised by rabbinical authorities.

According to Curry, the restitution money will be used by the O.U. to help alleviate problems caused by the violations and to "help preserve the integrity of the process" of certifying kosher foods.

Rabbi Menachem Genack, rabbinical coordinator for the O.U. kosher division in New York, said some of the money would go into educational programs concerning kashrut.

ARGENTINE JUSTICE OFFICIAL ASKS DENATURALIZATION FOR SCHWAMMBERGER

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- An Argentine official has moved to revoke the citizenship of Nazi war crimes suspect Josef Schwammberger, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

Schwammberger is being held in La Plata pending a West German extradition request on allegations that he was responsible for the deaths of about 1,000 people, mostly Jews, while he commanded two labor camps in occupied Poland during World War II.

Argentine Secretary of Justice Enrique Paixao instructed prosecutors Tuesday night to revoke Schwammberger's citizenship, saying the pending charges are so "severe that the government considers it unworthy for him to possess" Argentine citizenship.

Paixao said Argentine authorities would not have granted Schwammberger citizenship in 1965 if had known of the West German charges, which include murder, blackmail and stealing gold fillings and jewelry from victims. Paixao said his government would move quickly to handle the extradition request.

Officials said Schwammberger worked for a chemical company and lived for years in La Plata, 30 miles southeast of Buenos Aires.

JOURNALIST SAYS YUGOSLAV WAR CRIME DOCUMENTS USED TO BLACKMAIL WALDHEIM

By Susan Birnbaum

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Yugoslav documents accusing Austrian President Kurt Waldheim of war crimes and allegedly used to blackmail him while he was secretary general of the United Nations were presented here Tuesday by Chicago-based journalist Charles Ashman.

Ashman displayed a Yugoslav government document, dated Dec. 26, 1947, written by Dr. Dusan Nadel Jkovic, president of a state commission. In English translation from Serbo-Croatian, it "declares and confirms" Waldheim, then an official of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, "as a war criminal."

The document recommends that the Foreign Ministry "transmit our report to the U.N. War Crimes Commission in London for his registration and inclusion into the German war criminal list, with mention of the specific importance for the registration."

Ashman appeared at a news conference at the University of California at Los Angeles at the conclusion of the three-day Conference on Jewish Identity in the 21st Century, sponsored by the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

He also showed a Dec. 12, 1947 memo from the Yugoslav Interior Ministry to the Foreign Ministry. The translation mentions the presence in German Army Group E of "First Lieutenant Waldheim whom a German witness/prisoner confirmed. . . was involved in the reprisal decision-making process for executing hostages. . ."

Ashman said he had obtained the documents two weeks ago in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, from the Foreign Ministry, and that their authenticity was verified by a Yugoslav historian last week.

The journalist said the chief of the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry, Anton Kolendic, claimed in an interview in the Washington Post last year and again in a statement last week in Yugoslavia that he gave all of his nation's documents on Wald-

heim's Nazi past to the Soviet Union in 1968 for the purpose of blackmailing him.

He was U.N. secretary general from 1972 to 1982. Ashman said the blackmail occurred during Waldheim's first two years as secretary general, when Soviet and Eastern Bloc U.N. secretariat employees increased ten-fold. He also claimed that Waldheim repeatedly met with Soviets in Ottawa, which he said is a known KGB center.

Served From 1939 To 1945

Ashman also presented an Austrian Foreign Ministry personnel file that lists Waldheim's active service as a first lieutenant in the German Army from 1939 to 1945.

This adds to the evidence, acknowledged by Waldheim, that he incorrectly asserted in his autobiography that he left the army due to injury before his Balkans service began in 1942.

In addition, an April 28, 1980 letter from former U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti asked Waldheim for his assistance in providing U.N. war crimes files to the Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Justice Department.

The letter seems to counter Waldheim's allegations that he knew nothing until recently of the war crimes files.

Also included among the documents is a copy of a telegram dated Aug. 21, 1968 from the Waldheim, then the Austrian foreign minister, to the Austrian Embassy in Prague.

The telegram orders the closing of the embassy during the Soviet incursion, and allowing "admittance only to Austrian passport holders. Czech citizens found in the building will be convinced to leave the building."

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said this was significant because of Austria's position as a "centerpiece as an asylum for political refugees."

Ashman added that Czechs who fought the Soviets and then received refuge in Austria were ordered to leave.

Deportation Hearings

Neal Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Justice Department, said at the news conference that deportation proceedings have been initiated against Joseph Eckert, an ethnic German native of Yugoslavia living in Los Angeles who allegedly was a member of the SS Death's Head Battalion.

District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman of Brooklyn, N.Y., asked for further legislation to combine denaturalization and deportation in order to accelerate the process of deporting Nazi war criminals from the United States.

Former OSI director Alan Ryan claimed about 10,000 former Nazis entered the United States during the war.

At a concurrent press conference, the Simon Wiesenthal Center presented witnesses to Joseph Schwammberger's alleged Nazi atrocities.

Rabbi Marvin Heir, who is dean of the Wiesenthal center, said the Argentine justice and interior ministries had asked the center to present eyewitness testimony from 12 people who allegedly saw Schwammberger commit mass murder.

West Germany is seeking to extradite him.

Hier also said that Schwammberger's SS file was missing six pages from the war years. Hier added that the center compared SS photos of Schwammberger with those taken upon his arrest and found "an absolute match."

**MILITARY ORDERS NINE PALESTINIANS
DEPORTED AND RELEASES 186 OTHERS****By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The military authorities issued deportation orders Sunday against nine Palestinians they said were long involved in "incitement and subversive activities." Five are from the West Bank and four are from the Gaza Strip.

Israel announced at the same time that it has released 186 suspects arrested during the disturbances as a gesture of good will. But some 1,600 others are still under detention, about half of them arrested recently.

The announcement of the deportations Sunday morning ended a week of speculation over whether, in face of strong criticism from abroad, Israel would in fact act to expel Palestinians arrested during the recent disturbances in the administered territories. The United States, in particular, had cautioned Israel against such measures.

The announcement brought a swift protest from the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mohammad Bassiouny. He said his government objected to the deportations, and added that in his own view, they might further escalate the unrest.

A military spokesman said most of the men ordered deported have long prison records of security offenses. Some had been under administrative detention or had their movements restricted but nevertheless continued "hostile activities." All may appeal to a military review board and, ultimately, to Israel's Supreme Court.

It was not immediately clear where the deportees would be sent if and when the expulsion orders are carried out. Both Egypt and Jordan indicated last month they would not accept Palestinians ousted by Israel.

Arab Woman Shot Dead

The deportation orders were announced as a weekend of relative calm in the territories was marred by the fatal shooting of a young Arab woman by a border police patrol in Al-Ram, a northern suburb of Jerusalem.

The patrol, attacked by rock-throwing youths, gave chase and one policeman fired his rifle, wounding a woman, who later died in a hospital. The woman, in her 20s, was not immediately identified.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the army's central sector, went to the scene of the shooting. He announced a short time later that the patrolman and his company commander have been suspended, pending an investigation of what appears to have been the use of fire arms contrary to regulations.

It remains to be seen whether the latest incident, on the heels of the deportation orders, will have repercussions. Rashad A-Shawa, the former mayor of Gaza, warned Sunday that Israel cannot solve the Palestinian problem by expulsions.

Abdel Wahab Darousha, an Arab Laborite member of the Knesset, called on the authorities not to carry out the deportation orders. He said they violate international conventions on human

rights and will only increase tension in the territories and tarnish Israel's image in world opinion.

But another Labor M.K., former chief of staff Mordechai Gur, said he saw the deportation orders as necessary. Gur, a political dove, argued that under the circumstances, a wide variety of measures is needed to restore order in the territories and the expulsion of agitators is one.

A military spokesman, meanwhile, gave details about two of the Palestinians facing deportation, Jibril Rajab and Jamal Jabara.

Released In 1985 Exchange

Both were serving prison sentences for security offenses when they were released in 1985, along with more than 1,000 other Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners, in exchange for three Israel Defense Force soldiers held captive by Ahmed Jabril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Jabara was described as a senior member of Al Fatah, the main terrorist branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He allegedly participated in organized strikes and riots in the West Bank town of Kalkilya.

Rajab also was described as an Al Fatah activist in the West Bank. He was serving a life sentence imposed in 1970 for a variety of terrorist acts when released in 1985. He was subsequently rearrested for new offenses.

The military authorities described him as a close associate of Feisal Husseini, the principal PLO activist in the Jerusalem area. Husseini is presently in administrative detention.

Israel has deported 19 Palestinians from the administered territories during the past two years.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
DEPORTATION POLICY HAS ITS ROOTS
IN LAWS USED DURING BRITISH MANDATE
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- There is more than a little irony in Israel's policy of deporting Palestinian troublemakers.

Nineteen have been expelled from the administered territories during the past two years and deportation orders were issued against nine others Sunday. The legal basis derives from the British Mandate's defense emergency regulations of 1945.

The irony lies in the fact that those very same regulations were applied to deport members of Haganah and of the dissident underground Irgun and Stern gang to such places as Kenya and the Seychelles before Israel was founded.

Many of the Israeli leaders now deporting Palestinians were once members of Haganah, the Irgun or the Sternists.

On the diplomatic front, Israel's expulsions have elicited uniform condemnation from its Western friends and allies. It is based on the Geneva Conventions, especially the Fourth Convention of 1949 on the rights and obligations of occupying powers, which states that deportations must not be carried out from territories occupied during war.

Israeli officials and experts on international law point out that the relevant text -- paragraph

49 -- refers to the mass deportations of populations from territories of another nation captured in war.

Foreign Ministry legal expert Ronni Sabel stresses that neither the West Bank nor the Gaza Strip can be regarded as "foreign territory" and that there is no question of "mass deportations." The expulsions apply only to a relatively few agitators and ringleaders.

'Disruptive Individuals'

An Israel Defense Force spokesman further narrowed it down to "particularly disruptive individuals" in "exceptional circumstances, when previous means have proved insufficient to stop activity presenting a clear and present danger to the security or public safety of the region."

Sabel observed that the differentiation between "mass deportations" and the expulsions ordered by Israel has been borne out by the International Red Cross and prominent international legal experts.

It has also been upheld by numerous rulings of Israel's Supreme Court.

Moreover, the court rulings extend the safeguards of due legal process to potential deportees. They may appeal the expulsion orders to a military board of review and, if unsuccessful, to the high court itself.

Sabel and other Israeli jurists also maintain that Israel is not "deporting" individuals in the generally accepted meaning of the word.

Rather, Israel is transferring West Bank residents (who still hold Jordanian passports and are governed by Jordanian law), administered by Israel in a territory not incorporated into Israel, from one part of what Jordan still considers its territory to another part of that territory across the Jordan River.

Jordan Can't Refuse Deportees

According to Sabel, refusal by Jordan to accept such individuals would be illegal, because no country may, under international law, refuse to accept its own citizens deported from another country.

But that reasoning has dangerous pitfalls. It can be interpreted as implying that the West Bank remains a part of Jordan, a view that is anathema to Israeli right-wingers.

If Israel has to incorporate the West Bank, as the right-wing parties demand, it would be deporting its own citizens, and Jordan would have the legal right to refuse to accept them.

To resolve the dilemma, Israeli officials say the political echelon must seek a compromise between the demands of the Defense Ministry and the military authorities, who stress security with little regard for Israel's image around the world, and those of the Foreign Ministry, whose prime concern is diplomatic relations.

In addition to the nine Palestinians under deportation orders, there are presently about 50 in administrative detention, according to sources in the IDF.

This, too, is a holdover from the British Mandate, which allows preventive arrests and detentions for up to six months without formal charges.

Other punitive measures allowed are restricted movements and bans on travel abroad for persons classified as "political subversion activists" who, the IDF says, "may exploit stays abroad for the escalation of such subversive activity."

IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL UP 35 PERCENT IN 1987

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A total of 13,658 immigrants arrived in Israel during 1987, a 35 percent increase over 1986, when only 9,500 arrived, according to figures released Friday by the Absorption Ministry and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Provisional figures released by the Central Bureau placed Israel's population at 4,404,000 at the start of 1988, of which 3,611,000 or 82 percent is Jewish.

Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur said the rise in immigration was attributable mainly to the increased number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union. Of 8,080 who emigrated last year, 2,180 came to Israel.

Tsur said the 74 percent "drop-out" rate in Vienna, the transit point for Jews leaving the USSR, is very worrisome and jeopardizes the continued exit of Jews.

He noted that among the Soviet Jews who came to Israel, 550 are university graduates, some 300 of them in the free and technical professions. Ninety of the immigrants are researchers in the social sciences, humanities, physical sciences, and medical and life sciences.

Immigration from South Africa, Argentina and Romania also increased by about 35 percent last year. But the numbers from South Africa were below expectations, Tsur said. As among Soviet Jews, most Jews who left South Africa went to countries other than Israel.

The Central Bureau reported that there are 615,000 Moslems in Israel, comprising 14 percent of the populations; about 102,000 Christians (2.3 percent); and 75,000 Druze and other faiths (1.7 percent).

The country's overall population grew by 72,000 persons last year, a 1.7 percent increase, compared to an increase of 1.6 percent in 1986. The Jewish population increased by 50,000, a 1.4 percent rise, compared to 1.3 percent last year. There were 98,000 births in 1987, compared to 99,300 in the previous year.

The mortality rate was close to 30,000, about the same as last year.

REAGAN TELLS SOVIETS OF CHANUKAH

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- In a televised New Year's Day greeting broadcast in the Soviet Union, President Reagan addressed American concerns about human rights, but did not specifically mention the plight of Soviet Jews denied permission to emigrate.

"As you know, we Americans are concerned about human rights, including freedom of speech, press, worship and travel," Reagan said. "Silence is a falsehood. We will always speak out on behalf of human dignity."

Reagan also gave Soviet viewers a look at how Chanukah and Christmas are celebrated in the United States -- a look that may have surprised Americans, as well as their Jewish and non-Jewish counterparts in the Soviet Union.

"Most of us celebrate Christmas or Chanukah," the president said, then added: "As part of those celebrations we go to church or synagogue, then gather around the family dinner table. After giving thanks for our blessings, we share a traditional holiday meal of goose, turkey or roast beef, and exchange gifts."

MILITARY CHANGING RULES TO ALLOW JEWISH PERSONNEL TO WEAR SKULLCAPS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The U.S. armed services are changing their regulations to allow Jewish personnel to wear yarmulkes (skullcaps), following the signing of an amendment to the 1988 Defense Authorization Law by President Reagan on Dec. 4.

A spokesman for the Defense Department in Washington said Thursday that the department has 120 days to implement the new law. It requires the services to allow members to wear "neat and conservative religious apparel which is part of the observance of the religious faith practiced by the members while in uniform" if it would not interfere with their military duties.

According to the spokesman, the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines Corps are changing their handbooks to include the new rule. The spokesman pointed out that while servicemen traditionally have been allowed to wear religious garments at religious services, never before have they been allowed to wear them routinely.

The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) hailed the new law. Allen Rothenberg, COLPA president, said it assures "that a symbol of the Jewish faith (the yarmulke) would no longer be arbitrarily deemed as incompatible with public service."

The bill was drafted by Nathan Lewin, COLPA national vice president. It was designed to reverse the March 1986 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Goldman vs. Weinberger*, that the military was not constitutionally required to allow its members to wear a yarmulke while on duty.

Lewin and David Butler, COLPA's national secretary, represented Captain Simcha Goldman, who wished to wear his yarmulke while serving in the Air Force, against then-Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) led the effort on behalf of the bill in Congress and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) led the effort in the Senate.

ARGENTINA SAYS IT WILL SOON EXTRADITE SCHWAMMBERGER

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Suspected Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger will be extradited to West Germany shortly to stand trial, Argentine officials promised the prosecutor's office in Stuttgart on Saturday.

They said their country gave high priority to West Germany's extradition request and that legal means appear to have been found to deprive Schwammberger of the Argentine citizenship he acquired nearly 40 years ago.

Schwammberger, 75, is believed to have been directly involved in the killings of at least 1,000 Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland in 1942 and 1943. Documentary evidence was brought to Argentina by a representative of the federal prosecutor's office on Nov. 26.

Schwammberger was arrested in Cordoba province in October, on the basis of information supplied by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center and other sources. He is presently being held in prison in La Plata.

The Argentine minister of justice, Enrique Paixao, ordered an investigation in November of charges that Schwammberger lied about his Nazi

past when he applied for an Argentine passport in 1950. That would be grounds to rescind his citizenship.

Schwammberger was arrested in Austria in 1945. But he escaped to South America in 1948 and entered Argentina two years later under his own name. He was employed by a German company, Siemens.

A warrant for his arrest was issued in 1973 by a court in Stuttgart. It still stands, and he is expected to go on trial there for killings and atrocities in the ghettos and slave labor camps of Przemsyl, Rozwadow, Stalowa-Woda and the concentration camp in Mielce.

RAIDERS WHO WRECKED OFFICE OF LE PEN PAPER SAY THEY'RE JEWISH

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A self-proclaimed commando group of Jewish youths last week raided the office here of a publication of the extreme right-wing National Front, smashing furniture, tearing out telephone lines and destroying part of its archives.

The group, consisting of a dozen young people, left leaflets signed "Jewish Combat Organization -- Section Secondary Schools," and saying it will not "tolerate the anti-Semitic propaganda of a hoodlum like Jean Marie Le Pen." It warned anti-Semites to "tremble with fear."

The editor of the publication, Roland Gaucher, said the group burst into the offices of *National Hebdo*, with faces masked by scarves and wearing helmets. He said the raid lasted less than five minutes and that the group left long before the police arrived.

National Hebdo is a relatively obscure weekly supporting Le Pen's bid for the French presidency and generally close to his extreme right-wing political movement.

A communique issued Dec. 30 to *Agence France Presse* said, "We shall not go into details with a man who termed the Holocaust a historic detail and who dares deny the existence of the Shoah."

The communique warned that the combat organization will continue to prevent the National Front and "all other anti-Semitic organizations" from carrying out their work throughout the presidential campaign. The elections are due to be held in May.

Jewish organizations have refused to comment on the incident while studying the facts, but Jewish leaders privately say they oppose violence in spite of their opposition to Le Pen and all he stands for.

WEST GERMAN POLICE HALT NEO-NAZIS

BONN, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Police used tear gas to break up an illegal demonstration by about 300 neo-Nazi youths in Fladungen-Leubach Thursday evening, New Year's Eve. The town is on the border between Bavaria and Hesse, and police from both states participated.

Several arrests were made and a quantity of Nazi banners and anti-Semitic written material was confiscated.

The youths, members of a group called *Wiking Jugend*, carry on in the manner of the *Hitler Jugend* of the Third Reich. It is against the law in West Germany to publicly sing Nazi songs and demonstrate with Nazi symbols.

BRITISH JEWISH COMMUNITY SPLIT OVER HONOR TO ITS CHIEF RABBI

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Sir Immanuel Jakobovitz, chief rabbi of the British Commonwealth, has been elevated to the House of Lords. But Britain's normally close-knit Jewish community is of different minds over the singular honor bestowed upon its official religious leader and mentor.

Jakobovitz, who will be 67 next month, was one of only three new barons on the Queen's New Year Honors List announced Friday. He will sit in the 1,200-member upper house of Parliament, along with the archbishops of Canterbury and York, the leaders of the Church of Scotland, the Methodists and other free churches.

He is the first chief rabbi so honored. But this has raised charges in some Jewish and non-Jewish quarters that his accession was due to a political and social outlook shared by Britain's Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. It is Thatcher who compiles the yearly honors list on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II.

Differences of opinion have arisen within the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the overall representative body of Anglo-Jewry. Its president, Dr. Lionel Kaplowitz, hailed the new Lord Jakobovitz as a spokesman for the nation. In his 21 years as chief rabbi, Jakobovitz has "changed the face of British Jewry," Kaplowitz declared.

But Dr. Geoffrey Alderman, an Orthodox university don and member of the Board of Deputies, took another view. Speaking for a small but vocal group, who contend that the Jewish community made an unacceptable concession on shehita (ritual slaughter), following a recent government report on animal welfare, Alderman said by giving Jakobovitz a peerage, the prime minister delivered a "slap in the face" to the Jewish community.

Admired By Thatcher

It is generally believed Jakobovitz owes his barony less to his work for the Jewish community than to his public pronouncements and writings on secular matters that endeared him to Thatcher. He appears to embody many of the Victorian values on family purity and the work ethic cherished by the prime minister.

His opinions on homosexuality, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, urban poverty and terrorism were in many cases more to her liking than those by leaders of the Church of England.

While Jakobovitz's admirers in and out of the Jewish community are many, his critics fear that from now on, he will be viewed by the world as the spokesman of British Jewry on all issues.

The chief rabbi has been controversial in the past, mainly because of his outspoken criticism of some Israeli policies, notably during the Lebanon war, which alienated many Jews. Now he may have earned envy if not resentment, among Roman Catholics, whose bishops are currently excluded from the House of Lords.

Born in 1921 in Koenigsberg, East Prussia, Jakobovitz came to England as a refugee, shortly after the outbreak of World War II. The son of Rabbi Julius Jakobovitz, he continued his studies here at Jews College, London and Etz Chaim.

He served as chief rabbi of Ireland from 1949 to 1958 and then spent nine years in New York as rabbi of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. He returned to Britain as chief rabbi of the United

Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth in 1967. He is due to retire as chief rabbi when he reaches age 70, unless the United Hebrew Congregations changes its rules.

JEWS DEMAND FIRING OF OFFICIAL WHO CITED EFFICIENCY OF GAS CHAMBERS

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A West German official who cited the killing of Jews in gas chambers as an example of improperly applied efficiency was censured last week by the Ministry of Defense. The outraged Jewish community wants him fired.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish community in West Berlin, called on Defense Minister Manfred Woerner to immediately dismiss Dr. Rainer Reinhart, who is vice president of the Munich-based Bavarian Regional Civilian Administration of the armed forces, known as Wehrberich 6.

A ministry spokesman said Saturday that the matter is under study, but did not indicate whether further action is contemplated. Earlier, a ministry official called Reinhart's example "deplorable."

In a publication used by officials of his administration as well as by troops, Reinhart hailed the principle of efficiency, but said it was not always proper to apply. As an example, he said that while it was more economical to exterminate Jews by gas than to kill them individually, it certainly was not the right thing to do.

Reinhart's article appeared in an official publication of his administration called Unterrichtsblaetter.

A spokesman for the Defense Ministry admitted that the ministry and the army ordered thousands of copies of the leaflet, but said their circulation has been stopped.

ZIONIST THINKER AND JOURNALIST DIES

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Josef Fraenkel, a leading Zionist, biographer of Theodor Herzl and an internationally known journalist for much of this century, died here last week at the age of 84.

He was regarded as the foremost authority on Herzl's early life and as a storehouse of Jewish memories. In 1938, as Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in Prague, Fraenkel reported the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia and its immediate effect on the Jewish community there.

He was a member of the Zionist Revisionist movement, but broke with its leader, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, when the latter seceded from the World Zionist Organization in 1935. Instead, Fraenkel supported the moderate Revisionist Meir Grossman, founder of the Jewish State Party, which remained inside the WZO fold.

Fraenkel was born in Ustrzyki, Poland, in 1903. He grew up in Vienna and fled to Czechoslovakia after the Anschluss in 1938, only to be confronted again by Nazi invaders. After the fall of Prague, he came to England, with the help of JTA's London correspondent, Samuel Goldsmith.

He spent more than 30 years working for the British section of the World Jewish Congress. He founded the Association of Jewish Journalists in London and edited an anthology of writings by Austrian Jews.

**ISRAEL SAYS RETALIATION IS NOT
MOTIVE FOR AIR RAIDS IN LEBANON**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Military sources said Monday that Saturday night's extensive air raids on terrorist targets in southern Lebanon were not retaliation for the hang glider attack of Nov. 25 in which six Israel Defense Force soldiers were killed at a military base in upper Galilee.

The sources said "the IDF has abandoned the policy of revenge." The air raids, they said, were intended to keep the various terrorist groups in southern Lebanon off balance and were the result of "good intelligence information" which made them opportune.

The targets hit included bases of Al Fatah, the terrorist wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabril; and Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian extremist group.

Druze positions were also hit, but Israel has apologized to the Druze, saying they were not intended targets, Maariv reported Monday.

Jabril's bases received the heaviest pounding, which apparently gave rise to news media reports that the raids were Israel's belated response to the attack by one of Jabril's terrorists, who used a motorized hang-glider to scale the Israel-Lebanon border and struck at the IDF base nearly two months ago.

Swift Response In Past

The retaliation scenario also was given credence by the fact that Israel has mounted no air raids in Lebanon since the Nov. 25 incident, whereas in the past it has always responded swiftly to terrorist attacks inside Israel.

According to the IDF, air force jets and helicopter gunships scored hits on buildings in the Ein Hilwe refugee camp south of Sidon, on Hezbollah positions in Mayoun and Ein-El-Tin, on the small harbor at Jiyeh, halfway between Sidon and Beirut, and on Barja village, near Jiyeh in the foothills of the Shuf mountains.

The planes and helicopters encountered anti-aircraft fire and rocket-propelled grenades, but all returned safely to their bases, the IDF reported.

Jiyeh and Barja, and positions near Damour in the Sidon area, are controlled by Druze militia. According to Maariv, senior defense officials advised the Druze that the attacks were not directed against them. The Druze are not targets for Israeli attacks, even though they are known to be cooperating with terrorists in the region, the officials said.

They added, however, the air force will not refrain from bombing terrorist targets located within Druze concentrations, Maariv reported.

According to Lebanese sources, Israeli naval craft also took part in the attacks.

Various casualty reports were issued in Lebanon. Lebanese police reported 10 killed and 20 injured in the raid on Jabril's base, which lasted more than an hour. Later reports put the dead at 32 and said searches were going on for additional bodies.

**KILLING OF PALESTINIAN WOMAN
TRIGGERS NEW UNREST IN WEST BANK**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Trouble erupted anew in the West Bank on Monday in reaction to the fatal shooting of a Palestinian woman by Israeli security forces and deportation orders issued against nine Palestinian activists.

Soldiers used tear gas to break up a violent demonstration in the Al-Ram neighborhood, north of Jerusalem, where the shooting occurred. Unrest spread to the nearby Kalandriya refugee camp, Bir Zeit and Ramallah in the West Bank.

The Tulkarem refugee camp was placed under curfew after demonstrations. Arab shops and businesses were closed in most West Bank towns. The commercial strikes spread to East Jerusalem, but shops there began to reopen Monday.

The Israel Defense Force, meanwhile, is investigating the death of Haniye El-Zarawneh, 25, during a clash near Al-Ram on Sunday between the IDF and Palestinian youths.

According to eyewitness accounts, about 20 Arab youngsters wearing veils or masks stoned Israeli vehicles at an intersection of the Jerusalem-Ramallah highway. A small IDF unit chased them into the Al-Ram neighborhood. One soldier pursued a 14-year-old Arab boy into the courtyard of the Zarawneh family home while firing into the air.

The soldier seized the boy, eyewitnesses said, but continued to fire his weapon, hitting the Zarawneh woman, who was hanging laundry on a roof.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the IDF central sector, visited the scene and ordered the soldier involved and his commanding officer detained, pending completion of an investigation. Military sources said it appeared that the soldier acted contrary to regulations and that the force sent into the neighborhood was too small to cope with the situation.

The deportation orders issued Sunday against five West Bank Palestinians and four from the Gaza Strip were another element contributing to the renewed disturbances.

The deportations were not unexpected. Israel had made clear since the beginning of the recent wave of disturbances on Dec. 9 that it had the option to expel troublemakers from the administered territories.

**U.S. WELCOMES REDUCTION OF VIOLENCE,
REITERATES CONCERN OVER DEPORTATIONS**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Monday that the United States welcomes the recent reduction in violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Overall, we have seen a general lessening of violence and that we welcome," the spokesman said.

Redman faced a flurry of questions at the daily briefing on Israel's decision Sunday to deport nine Palestinians, the killing of a Palestinian woman in the territories by Israeli soldiers

and Israel's weekend air raid on terrorist targets in southern Lebanon.

Commenting on the deportations, Redman said "Israeli leaders are well aware of our views." The State Department has frequently mentioned that it objects to deportation of Palestinians. He noted that "there is a judicial appeal process that is apparently still involved in these cases."

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres defended the deportations while speaking on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley." Peres said that Israel was following Jordanian law when it deported the Palestinians.

Peres explained that since Israel does not use capital punishment, "the most we can do is to deport in accordance with the law." He stated that "the Jordanian law is the prevailing law on the West Bank."

Peres also noted that last weekend passed by "in a quiet manner" in the territories, although he said he regretted Sunday morning's killing of the Palestinian woman. (See related story.)

In explaining the event, he said "some Israeli soldiers were ambushed by masked Palestinians, and one of them was isolated." Then, in self-defense, one of the Israeli soldiers "fired in there and apparently the cartridge . . . hit the woman."

Soldiers Suspended

Peres said the army's regional commander did not accept this explanation and, as a result, the unit commander and other soldiers have been suspended, Peres said.

Redman confirmed Monday that "the government of Israel has expressed its regret and has suspended soldiers and the company commander involved, pending an investigation by Israeli authorities."

He also expressed sympathy for any "innocent victims" of Sunday's Israeli air strike in southern Lebanon.

But he added that the attacks "also demonstrate vividly the importance of security for Israel's northern frontier and stability in southern Lebanon. Those can only be brought about through a process of political reconciliation among Lebanon's warring factions."

On Sunday, Peres was asked whether real progress in the peace process possible since many Israeli leaders oppose returning land seized during the Six-Day War of 1967.

He responded, "I don't think that we have to divide Jerusalem. And I don't think we have to return to the 1967 frontiers."

Peres said he believes that "the negotiation will result in some solution that nobody has suggested until now."

Other Solutions Possible

He explained that "in addition to the partition of the land, you can have other solutions, like a federation, a confederation, sharing the government, a transitional period."

He said the emphasis should first be to "open a negotiation between equals, with full respect, with good faith -- to look for a solution."

He repeated his support for an international peace conference, as long as it does not impose a solution and leads to direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis.

Peres recalled that Israel, Egypt, the Soviet Union and the United States participated in such

a conference in 1973, which preceded direct talks between Israel and Egypt, culminating in the Camp David Accords in the late 1970s. "The taste of the pudding is in its eating," he quipped.

Earlier on Sunday's show, two U.S. Jewish leaders discussed Israel's use of live ammunition, as well as peace prospects.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, recently wrote in the New York Times that rioting in the territories should "shock" the Israeli government and that the status quo in the territories "corrodes the Jewish and democratic character" of Israel.

Schindler was more tempered in his criticism Sunday, stating only that "there is a recognition that there is a danger of using excessive force."

'Excessive Force'

The State Department has repeatedly criticized Israel in recent weeks for using "excessive force" and, particularly, for using live ammunition against Palestinian rioters.

The department's forceful statements on the subject disturbed several American Jewish leaders. A delegation of the leaders, led by Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, met Dec. 24 with Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead to express their concerns.

Abram was asked on Sunday's program to address the administration's concern over Israel's use of lethal force.

He asserted that "Israel uses live ammunition as a last resort" although "there have been some miscarriages of the usage of live ammunition." He said that General Yitzhak Mordechai, head of the Israel Defense Force southern command, is punishing and disciplining soldiers "who do that."

Abram said that "during the last several days new riot equipment has been given to the Israeli soldiers" as well as rubber bullets.

Sunday's show also featured Columbia University Professor Edward Said, who is a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestine Liberation Organization's policy-making body. He praised Palestinian resistance by stating "this is the right of all occupied people -- to resist military occupation."

LABOR QUICKER TO DEPORT THAN LIKUD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- More Palestinians by far were deported from the administered territories by Labor Party defense ministers than by their Likud counterparts, according to a review of deportations during the past 20 years, published Monday in Maariv.

Moshe Dayan deported 850 during his tenure as defense minister in Labor-led governments from 1967 to 1974. Shimon Peres, as defense minister from 1974 to 1977, ordered three deportations.

The current defense minister, Laborite Yitzhak Rabin, has deported 19 Palestinians since 1984 and ordered nine more deported Sunday. Three other cases are being processed for possible deportation.

In contrast, Ezer Weizman, as defense minister in the first Likud administration from 1977 to 1980, ordered four deportations. His Likud successors, Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens, ordered none during their combined tenure from 1980 to 1984.

8,000-PLUS SOVIET JEWS EMIGRATED IN 1987, BUT ACTIVISTS DISCONTENTED

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- More than 8,000 Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union during 1987, a nine-fold increase over the 914 Jews who were permitted to leave in 1986, and the largest amount since 1981, when 9,500 Soviet Jews emigrated.

But Soviet Jewry activist groups expressed disappointment over the figure, noting that in the year in which "glasnost" was introduced the number of Jewish emigres comprised only a small fraction of the 400,000 Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) reported Monday that 8,155 Jews left the Soviet Union in 1987, 899 of them in December.

"In light of 'glasnost' and the summit meeting in Washington, we had hoped that there would be a significant increase in permissions for December 1987," the NCSJ said in a statement issued here.

"While we recognize that 1987 proved to be a much better year for Soviet Jewish emigration than 1986, this year's total is far from that of the benchmark year of 1979, when more than 51,000 Jews were granted exit visas."

Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ), expressed dismay over what she termed the "low emigration figure" considering the improved U.S.-Soviet relations.

Speaking by telephone from her office in Chicago, Cohen said that 8,149 Jews left the Soviet Union in 1987. She disclosed that 2,072 of them went to Israel, 144 of whom reached the country on direct flights from Bucharest, Rumania, which were introduced last year.

Cohen charged that "the low figure of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in 1987 indicates the continuing reluctance on the part of the Soviets to resolve the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration in any meaningful and substantial way. The Soviets are continuing to deal with the issue by a case-by-case approach, therefore denying that hundred of thousands of Soviet Jews, at least 400,000 of them, want to leave the Soviet Union."

Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration, based in Geneva, reported Monday that 8,011 Jews left the Soviet Union in 1987. The committee said 1,955 of them settled in Israel. The committee's December figures were 868 Soviet Jewish emigres, of whom 188 settled in Israel.

(Geneva correspondent Tamar Levy contributed to this report.)

CABINET APPROVES BUDGET TO DISMAY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH MINISTERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- A \$29.9 billion national budget, approved Sunday by the Cabinet, has been sent to the Knesset Finance Committee, from which it is expected to emerge, after long and probably undramatic deliberations, more or less intact.

The Cabinet handed Finance Minister Moshe Nissim an important personal and political victory when it voted 18-2 to endorse his budget package for fiscal 1988, after more than five weeks of behind-the-scenes wrangling among the ministers. There were two abstentions and one minister

demonstratively refused to participate in the vote.

The budget, though \$5 billion over the 1987 level, calls for cutbacks in government expenditures of \$463 million, only about \$8 million short of the reductions originally proposed by Nissim on Nov. 30.

The two negative votes were cast by Education Minister Yitzhak Navon and Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino, both of Labor.

They objected strenuously to Nissim's cuts in subsidies for health and education. The health budget will be reduced by \$40.6 million from last year and the education budget by \$6.25 million.

But Navon said after the Cabinet meeting that the past weeks of negotiations narrowed the gap between his ministry's demands and the Treasury's position. He said there was therefore no cause for him to resign, as he had threatened at one point when negotiations were at a stalemate.

Navon said last month he would quit if the budget ended free high school education in Israel. Apparently he won on that point.

But a major controversial element in Nissim's package remains -- the postponement for two years of free pre-kindergarten for children aged 3 to 4.

The two abstainers in the Cabinet vote were Laborites Aryeh Nehamkin, the minister of agriculture, and Yaacov Tsur, minister of immigration and absorption.

Both are dissatisfied with cuts in the agriculture budget.

ISRAELI ARABS MAY FORM OWN PARTY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Israeli Arab leaders are debating whether to establish an independent Arab political party or continue to work for their agenda within the mainstream factions, which for most of them is the Labor Party.

According to a report Monday in Davar, the head of several Arab town councils and public figures from Galilee, the Negev and the "triangle," a group of Israeli Arab towns southeast of Haifa, held meetings in recent weeks to discuss forming a new Arab party.

An Arab Labor member of the Knesset, Abdul Wahab Darousha, one of the unofficial initiators of the idea, did not deny talks are being held. But he said there is no commitment as yet to an independent political faction, Davar reported.

Others behind the idea, who are either associated with the Labor Party or unaffiliated with any party, have consulted with Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, the mayor of Shfaram in lower Galilee.

Hussein, who chairs National Committee of Local Council leaders, is not enthusiastic. He believes Israeli Arabs should act within the established parties and attempt to influence them, Davar reported.

Uzi Baram, secretary general of the Labor Party, has already stated that Labor does not support the establishment of a separate Arab party or list. He maintained that Labor is a Jewish-Arab party that believes in integrating Arabs into its ranks.

Apart from Labor, Arabs belong to the Progressive List for Peace, a tiny leftist faction, and the Rakah Communist Party, which has no influence whatsoever in Israeli politics.

ANGRY, FRIGHTENED BOROUGH PARK RESIDENTS MOURN SLAIN NEIGHBOR

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Hundreds of Orthodox Jews crowded a yeshiva in Brooklyn Sunday to remember a murdered 39-year-old postal worker who left behind a wife, a nine-month-old daughter and a legacy here of sadness, fear and anger.

The "chesped," or memorial service, capped a week of community activism in the predominately Orthodox Borough Park section of Brooklyn, where Eli Wald, a "baal teshuvah," or newly observant Jew, was stabbed more than 11 times coming home from work Dec. 25.

Detectives at the 66th police precinct said Sunday that they are pursuing a few leads in the murder, which many community members felt was bias-related. But Captain Michael Scagnelli, head of the precinct, said the stabbing was the result of a robbery "that went bad."

Rabbinical leaders at the service repeated their calls made earlier in the week for increased donations to the community's privately-funded safety patrol, financial support for Zohara Wald and her daughter Rochel, and cooperation among the disparate, and sometimes fractious, Hasidic and non-Hasidic Orthodox groups who share the neighborhood.

"Because of this tragedy, the community should come together and become more of one community," said Rabbi Jacob Perlow, the Noveminsker rebbe.

"All Jews in the community, we are all one being. If one gets hurt, it's like tearing off a limb," said Rabbi Naftali Halberstam, son of the Bobover rebbe.

Their remarks, in Yiddish, were received with rapt silence from the black-hatted men and boys who packed the benches and the aisles of the Beth Jacob Yeshiva auditorium. Loudspeakers carried their words outside the school building, where dozens more gathered on the sidewalk.

Traditional Neighborhood

At least 100,000 non-Hasidic Orthodox and Hasidic Jews live in Borough Park, a neighborhood of two- and three-story attached homes, with shop windows announcing "We will be open motzei shabbos," computer stores offering Hebrew software and with what seems like a synagogue or yeshiva on every corner.

According to Scagnelli, occasional muggings occur in the neighborhood, but Borough Park is still what he called a low-crime precinct.

Wald lived a block away from the elevated subway tracks that stretch north to Manhattan and south toward Coney Island. Wald was not raised in an Orthodox family, but came to identify himself as a member of the Lubavitch Hasidim.

He was "a content person," according to Rabbi Mordechai Marcus, an acquaintance and a teacher at Yeshivat Ohr Torah in Queens, N.Y. Marcus said Wald was "just happy to be religious. He felt privileged being involved in Torah mitzvahs."

Wald's body was found at 1:10 a.m. Dec. 25 with multiple stab wounds in his front and back. Because his wallet, containing \$2 cash, and other personal belongings had not been disturbed, neighbors called a rally in order to call attention to what they said was an anti-Semitic attack.

A detective from the bias crimes unit has uncovered no evidence that the crime was racially

motivated. One Borough Park resident has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the murderer's capture.

The murder also caused local leaders to call for renewed support of the Borough Park Community Patrol. According to Chaim Israel, director of the patrol, unarmed neighborhood volunteers and armed guards carrying licensed revolvers monitor the neighborhood in marked cars around the clock. Community members are asked to contribute \$52 per year for the service, and contributions had been falling off in the last few years.

The first shifts of the rebuilt patrol began Sunday night.

Wald's murder also drew attention to friction among neighborhood groups. One anonymously written flier distributed at the memorial service and seen blowing in the streets blocks away blared "Jew Murdered: Council Coverup."

It went on to claim that the local Council of Jewish Organizations, which organized the memorial service at the request of local rabbis, had attempted to downplay Wald's funeral and had pocketed money intended for the patrol.

Last week, Rabbi Morris Shmidman, executive director of the council, called the "coverup" charges "nonsense." On Monday, he said the council is not responsible for running the patrol. "The patrol is not viable because people have not paid the dues," he added.

Division Over JDL, JDO

The community has also been divided over the presence of the Jewish Defense League and the Jewish Defense Organization, both of which announced security plans for the neighborhood. At Sunday's memorial service, Mordechai Levy, head of the JDO, handed out applications for gun permits.

Israel of the Borough Park Security Patrol, however, said the other groups' efforts were "dangerous things. I think it is dangerous to get individuals into confrontations, to jeopardize people in the community. God forbid someone gets hurt, then who's responsible?"

According to Shmidman, the community appreciates how the police are conducting their investigation.

But fear and anger also remain. In a voice cracking with emotion, Rabbi Halberstam told mourners, "We came to the United States seeking peace and tranquility. Now it's dangerous to go out in the streets at night."

BAR KOCHBA'S NAME UNEARTHED AGAIN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Twenty-seven years ago, the name of Shimon Ben Kosiba -- also known as Bar Kochba -- was found for the first time at an archaeological dig in Israel. Two months ago, it was found again.

The first reference to Bar Kochba, who led the Jewish revolt against the Roman emperor Hadrian from 132 to 135 C.E., was found in 1960 on a papyrus document unearthed in the Nahal Hever region. The second was found deep in a cave in the Lachish region, just north of the Negev, which apparently served as a hideout for Jews fighting the Romans.

A team of archaeologists headed by Dr. Amos Kloner uncovered a bronze weight bearing the inscription: "Shimon Ben Kosiba, prince and leader of Israel."

**U.S. ABSTAINS ON U.N. VOTE URGING
RETURN OF DEPORTED PALESTINIANS**

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The United States abstained Thursday on a Security Council resolution calling on Israel "to ensure the safe and immediate return" of four Palestinians it expelled Wednesday from the West Bank and to "desist" from further deportations of Palestinian civilians.

The resolution, adopted by a vote of 14-0, was the third anti-Israel resolution passed by the Security Council in less than a month and the second in which the United States abstained.

The United States voted in favor of a resolution on Jan. 5 demanding that Israel rescind deportation orders it had issued on Jan. 3 against nine Palestinian activists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It abstained from voting on a Dec. 22 resolution that condemned Israel for the measures it was taking to subdue rioters in the territories.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, criticized the Security Council's preoccupation with the situation in the territories. In a brief statement after the vote Thursday, he said the United States abstained, because it believes that the continued Security Council meetings on the subject do not assist in bringing tranquility to the area.

Walters stressed that the United States has made it clear that it is opposed to deportations and that it "deeply regrets" the expulsion Wednesday of the four Palestinians. But the U.S. envoy noted that the four had declined to use their right of appeal to Israel's Supreme Court against the deportation orders.

He declared that the Security Council's "selective attention" to the unrest in the territories will not restore peace and quiet to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking before the vote, said Israel would not accept the resolution.

Afterward, he expressed "appreciation" for the U.S. abstention. Noting U.S. support for the Jan. 5 resolution, he said, "We are pleased that the American vote is now shifting in the other direction."

Operative Paragraphs

The resolution was sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia. Its operative paragraphs stated:

"The Security Council (1) calls upon Israel to rescind the order to deport Palestinian civilians and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those already deported; (2) requests that Israel desist forthwith from deportation of any other Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories; (3) decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review."

The Security Council also reaffirmed its resolution of Jan. 5 and expressed "deep regret that Israel, the occupying power, has, in defiance of that resolution, deported Palestinian civilians."

Netanyahu, in his statement before the vote, denounced the resolution as grossly one-sided. He

said it contained not one word about Palestinian violence against Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs. He said it lacks even "an appeal for restraint on all sides."

Netanyahu declared that the anti-Israel resolution would only contribute to inflaming passions and increasing violence in the territories.

By expelling the four Palestinians, Israel acted "as our right under international law to secure law and order in the territories," the Israeli envoy said. He accused the Security Council of condoning acts of violence against Israel and of condemning Israel's countermeasures. "In face of violence, it pushes peace further away," he said.

He added, "Even if we threw rose petals at the stone-throwers, Israel would be condemned by the Security Council."

**FIVE PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS
ARRESTED, INCLUDING SENIORA**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Five Palestinian editors and journalists were arrested here Thursday. The charges were not immediately disclosed.

The most prominent among them, Hanna Seniora, had planned to hold a news conference Thursday to discuss the civil disobedience campaign he is trying to promote in the West Bank.

Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al Fajr, was questioned and released on 2,000 shekels (\$1,300) bail. The others arrested were Salah Zuheika, editor of the daily A-Shaab; Ibrahim Karain, publisher of the Arabic weekly Al-Anda; and journalists Mohammad Zahaika and Abdul Latif Raed.

It was unclear why they were arrested. According to the Israeli authorities, the journalists' publications reflect the positions of various factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization. According to one report, the detainees are suspected of membership in terrorist organizations.

Seniora, who has emerged as an outspoken advocate of non-violent resistance to the Israeli occupation, was charged with endorsement of terrorism -- allegedly at a news conference in Washington two years ago -- and with planning an illegal assembly, police sources indicated.

The illegal assembly apparently referred to the news conference Seniora planned to hold Thursday afternoon to launch a campaign calling on Palestinians in the administered territories to boycott Israeli products, refuse to pay taxes and stay away from their jobs in Israel.

Seniora announced his plans a week ago. He intended to hold a news conference then, but canceled it. He charged that Israeli authorities had prevented other Palestinian figures from attending.

Seniora is widely respected in Palestinian intellectual circles and has Israeli friends. His name was mentioned last year as a possible Palestinian representative in a proposed joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to hold peace talks with Israel. He announced last year that he might stand for election to the Jerusalem City Council, but changed his mind later.

VIOLENCE ABATES UNDER CRACKDOWN; U.N. ENVOY EXTENDS HIS VISIT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Relative quiet prevailed in the administered territories Thursday, despite the expulsion Wednesday of four Palestinian activists from the West Bank.

The only serious trouble spot was Hebron, south of Jerusalem, where police used tear gas to disperse a demonstration in the center of town. A number of refugee camps were under continuous curfew, a new policy aimed at preventing disturbances from erupting.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a television interview Wednesday night, "We shall prove to them (Palestinian demonstrators), even if it takes two months, that they will achieve nothing by violence."

Cracks appeared in the Arab general strike, despite efforts by Palestinian nationalists to have it continue. East Jerusalem merchants began opening their shops. Many Palestinian business owners said the strike was driving them to bankruptcy and called it "catastrophic," according to Israeli media reports.

Shops in Ramallah were closed for several hours Thursday. They reopened, but only because Israeli security forces pressured the shopkeepers to abandon the strike.

Meanwhile, United Nations Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding had a second meeting Thursday with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at which he reiterated the United Nations' deep concern over the deportation of Palestinians. Premier Yitzhak Shamir has refused to meet with the U.N. official.

Goulding is on a fact-finding mission to assess the situation in the administered territories. He visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Wednesday, but the Israel Defense Force refused to let him enter several refugee camps that were under curfew.

Goulding was to have returned to New York on Thursday, but he has extended his visit. No date was given for his departure.

EUROPEAN LEADERS URGE EEC NOT TO IMPOSE ANTI-ISRAEL SANCTIONS

By Edwin Eytan (Paris)
and David Kantor (Bonn)

Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community has drawn the line against imposing sanctions on Israel, despite its unanimous condemnation of Israel's deportation of Palestinian activists and the use of lethal force against demonstrators in the occupied territories.

French officials said Thursday they would not support EEC sanctions against Israel. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany rejected the idea out of hand.

Kohl, who spoke with foreign correspondents Thursday at a luncheon in Bonn, made light of suggestions by Socialist factions in the Strasbourg-based Parliament of Europe that the EEC freeze its economic agreements with Israel. He said he has consistently opposed economic sanctions as a means of dealing with political problems.

West Germany assumed the rotating chairmanship of EEC institutions on Jan. 1. Kohl will preside next month at a summit meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the 12 European Community member states.

The chancellor disappointed Arab journalists at the luncheon, who pressed him to issue a separate condemnation of Israel's handling of unrest in the administered territories. Instead, he read parts of a prepared text, released by the EEC two days ago, that expressed concern over Israeli actions.

Kohl stressed repeatedly that the EEC was doing what it could with respect to the Middle East and warned against unrealistic expectations.

When an Arab journalist asked for his view on the Palestinians' right to self-determination, Kohl, apparently annoyed, replied, "I talked about it so many times. Do you want me to repeat it again?"

'Very Good' Relations

Answering other questions, Kohl said Bonn's relations with Israel are "very good." He said they were an example of West Germany's success in learning from the past and winning friends among those persecuted by the Nazis.

The chancellor's remarks and responses were a clear signal that Bonn does not favor putting excessive European pressure on Israel at this time.

In Paris, meanwhile, diplomatic circles expressed concern that the EEC's determination to avoid economic sanctions against Israel could be undermined by the European Parliament, its legislative institution.

The parliament may fail to ratify Israel's latest economic agreements with the European Community, signed in Brussels last month. Ratification normally would be routine. But the continuing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Israel's tough response, make it "highly problematic," sources in Paris said.

The agreements themselves are of minor economic importance. But the European Parliament's refusal to ratify them would be a serious blow to Israel's prestige. Ratification must be voted by a majority of members. Abstentions or the absence of a sizeable number of parliamentarians would be sufficient to kill ratification.

GERMAN-ISRAEL YOUTH EXCHANGES MAY SUFFER

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Youth exchanges between West Germany and Israel may fall victim to continued unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, exchange program officials say.

The programs, financed largely by the national government here and other public sponsors, report no significant cancellations. However, officials concede that many youth groups and their sponsors may in the future opt for nations other than Israel. Their choice of Israel implied a show of solidarity that was strongly encouraged when Israel's image here was favorable.

Youth exchanges with Israel suffered badly in 1982 because of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Experts fear this may be repeated because of image problems resulting from extensive media coverage of unrest in the occupied territories and the measures taken by Israeli security forces to counter disturbances.

Apart from the exchanges, West German tourism to Israel also may suffer because of the unrest. Several travel agents said in interviews that people who planned trips to Israel are worried. Some trips to Israel have been canceled, the travel agents said.

ENVOY DISMISSES REPORTS ARAFAT IS READY TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL **By Yitzhak Rabi**

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A reported statement by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, that he is willing to accept United Nations resolutions recognizing Israel's right to exist, was dismissed as "double-speak" Thursday by Israel's ambassador to the United Nations.

Asked at a news conference to comment on the report, Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu said he had not seen Arafat's exact words. But the reports he did see said the PLO leader was prepared to accept all resolutions on the Middle East adopted by the United Nations, but not Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate the right of all countries in the region to exist within secure and recognized boundaries, Netanyahu said.

Most U.N. resolutions on the Middle East adopted over the years, in fact, "contradict" Resolutions 242 and 338 and call for the demise of the Jewish state, the Israeli envoy claimed.

He said Arafat is "talking from both sides of his mouth."

Netanyahu also rejected out of hand a proposal made by the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, Aleksandr Belonogov, at another news conference here Thursday. Belonogov said his country would support sending U.N. troops to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to maintain peace there.

"It is not acceptable to us," Netanyahu said. "The U.N. does not intervene in internal security matters. Would great Britain agree that the U.N. would send troops to Northern Ireland to supervise the peace there?" the Israeli envoy asked.

He insisted that Israel is acting in accordance with international law in the measures it has been taking to restore calm in the administered territories.

Asked if Israel would continue to deport Palestinian troublemakers, Netanyahu replied, "That is a means we will continue to resort to."

HIAS EXPECTS TO WEATHER SHORTFALL IN U.S. REFUGEE SETTLEMENT FUNDS **By Andrew Silow Carroll**

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The anticipated shortfall in U.S. State Department funds to private U.S. refugee organizations this year will not seriously affect HIAS, the international Jewish resettlement organization, its leader said Wednesday.

"If we are going to be affected, it will be later in the year," said Karl Zukerman, executive vice president of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. "But if there is not a change, there will not be enough money for the government to bring in all the people it would like to bring in."

The shortfall is due to the unanticipated increases in the flow of refugees from East to West, including Jews and Armenians from the Soviet Union. HIAS can weather the shortfall in part, said Zukerman, because it anticipated the increase this past year in Soviet Jewish emigration.

HIAS was one of a number of private organizations advised by State Department officials at a meeting here last week not to expect more money to cover rising costs.

The State Department has contracts with 18 organizations that provide assistance to refugees

seeking homes in the United States and other Western countries.

A spokesman for the coordinator of refugee affairs at the State Department said Wednesday that the increasing number of refugees and rising costs due to the lower exchange rate of the dollar mean the current allocation for refugees "may be insufficient without changes."

\$346 Million Allocated

Current resettlement funds represent approximately one-third of the \$346 million allocated for refugee assistance this year.

The U.S. Congress intended the funds to cover the costs for a maximum of 68,500 people seeking homes in the West, but did not anticipate the increases in the exodus from Eastern European countries.

The spokesperson said the refugee affairs office had not yet determined the size of the shortfall.

Hit especially hard by the shortfall will be organizations, such as Church World Service, that provide care for Armenians leaving the Soviet Union. Soviet Armenian emigration has increased 12-fold over original estimates for 1988 to almost 1,000 per month.

According to Zukerman, the increases in the number of Soviet Jews and other refugees handled by HIAS were also dramatic. In 1987, HIAS aided in the resettlement of 6,000 Soviet Jews and 2,500 Iranian Jews, up from 650 and 800, respectively, the year before.

In 1988, HIAS expects to spend \$8 million on refugee services, up from \$5 million in 1986.

HIAS receives half of its budget from the State Department. The other half is provided by allocations from Jewish community federations, memberships and bequests.

Said Zukerman: "We're okay for 1987 as far as the U.S. government is concerned, but fiscal '88 is the story."

ISRAEL EXTENDS VISAS OF SOVIET DELEGATION **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Israel has extended for one month the visas of the Soviet consular delegation here.

A further extension awaits an expected favorable response from Moscow to Israel's request to send a similar delegation to the Soviet Union, Maariv reported Thursday.

Israel has been urging such reciprocity ever since the Soviet delegation arrived here last June. The visas for the Soviet personnel were to expire on Jan. 31.

Yossi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, on Sunday told the new head of the Soviet delegation, Georgi Martirosov, that Israel is prepared to significantly extend the visas on a reciprocal basis.

The delegation, which came here six months ago to inspect Soviet property in Israel and examine the status of Soviet nationals living in the country, is the first Soviet diplomatic presence in Israel in more than 20 years.

Moscow broke relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War. But a thaw seems to have set in of late.

Observers in Jerusalem predict the Soviet delegation is preparing for an extended stay in Israel, which may mean that an Israeli delegation will soon go to Moscow.

NEW STUDY POINTS TO NEED FOR HATE-CRIMES LEGISLATION

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A study, released Wednesday, of crimes triggered by prejudice tallied 3,000 such incidents in the United States between 1980 and 1986.

The study, released at a news conference here by an Atlanta-based public policy group, the Center for Democratic Renewal, is based largely on unofficial sources, since only three states -- Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania -- keep statistics on hate crimes, explained Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

Rudin said Congress needs to approve a bill sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) that would for the first time require the Justice Department to compile statistics on crimes motivated by bigotry.

"It's like tracking a disease," he said, mentioning that the profile of the person who commits hate crimes is still unclear, except for the "youth factor." He mentioned that no one knows whether the crimes occur more often in urban than in rural areas, or at a certain time of year.

He also called for "education campaigns" targeted at youths, and stricter penalties, should official statistics find that the crimes do not occur "randomly."

Rudin participated in the news conference along with Leonard Zeskind, research director for the Center for Democratic Renewal; Dr. Kenyon Burke, associate general secretary for church and society of the National Council of Churches; and Cedrick Hendricks, a congressional aide representing Conyers.

While the report did not categorize the 3,000 incidents into compartments such as "anti-Semitic," it said that "people of color, as well as Jews, remain the single largest target of organized hate violence."

It also found that the 1980s have been marked by "cross-fertilizations of the (Ku Klux) Klan with neo-Nazi groupings," making anti-Semitism "increasingly significant."

"Jew-hating has always been a part of nativist and racist movements in this country," the report noted.

Rudin said that such crime "is not a regional issue -- as some might have thought some years ago -- it is a national issue." He noted that anti-Semitic or anti-black acts are not indigenous to any one part of the country.

He said the most important message of the study, which is titled "They Don't All Wear Sheets," is that "words do kill" even if those who utter the words don't carry out the acts.

HEARING POSTPONED FOR NAZI SUSPECT

By Michael Solomon

TORONTO, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Imre Finta, a Hungarian-born Canadian accused of war crimes in Hungary, Austria and Poland during World War II, won a postponement of a preliminary hearing in federal court here Wednesday. It was put off until Jan. 20, because Finta hired a new lawyer, Douglas Christie.

Finta is the first Canadian to face prosecution under the amended criminal code, which allows Canadian courts to try suspected war criminals for crimes committed on foreign soil.

COURT RULES ISRAELI EX-MAYOR BE BURIED IN CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A former mayor of Beersheba, Israel was buried Thursday in a Christian cemetery in Falls Church, Va., culminating a legal struggle over whether he was Christian or Jewish when he died.

The body of Haviv Schieber, 74, who left Israel for the United States in 1958, had been sitting in an Arlington, Va., hospital since his death Dec. 31, while a Baptist minister and a Lubavitch rabbi argued in Arlington Circuit Court over Schieber's religious status.

On Monday, Judge Benjamin Kendrick ruled that "there is no question (Schieber) was born a Jew but became a Christian."

According to the book "The Campaign to Discredit Israel" by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Schieber founded the one-man Holy Land State Committee in 1968, which advocated a democratic, secular, demilitarized state for Jews, Moslems and Christians in the Holy Land.

The minister, the Rev. Dale Crowley Jr., had testified that Schieber fully converted to Christianity, and noted that he had taken care of Schieber for more than two years.

Schieber's son, Daniel Reveh of Israel, had filed an affidavit claiming his father wanted a Jewish funeral. Reveh was represented by Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan of the Rockville, Md., Chabad House, who argued that Reveh -- as next-of-kin -- should decide how to bury Schieber.

Father and son had not seen each other for 25 years.

In an interview Tuesday, Kaplan said the trial was replete with "hearsay as to what (Schieber) may have thought."

Kaplan's attorney, Donald Chaiken, had contended that the deceased was Jewish because "once a Jew, always a Jew," according to press reports.

Kendrick reportedly responded that "Jewish law has about as much standing in this court as Chinese law."

Testifying on Crowley's behalf, noted Jewish anti-Zionist Alfred Lilienthal said a Jew can change religions. In an interview Tuesday, Lilienthal said Schieber had requested a funeral "that would lead him to Jesus" when he last saw Schieber alive Dec. 27.

Lilienthal also testified that the argument of "once a Jew, always a Jew" is racist. He told the court that Adolf Hitler was the "ultimate racist" in calling for the extermination of anyone born from a Jewish mother regardless of that person's religious convictions.

One of Kaplan's Chabad colleagues, Rabbi Bentzion Geisinsky, said Thursday that Reveh would not appeal the decision.

On Wednesday, Kaplan refused to sign the court order turning the body over to Crowley. Geisinsky explained that Kaplan, "as an observant Jew," felt he could not in good conscience sign.

JEWISH LIGHT IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City now has "good light, Israeli light," Premier Yitzhak Shamir said this week. He was referring to the fact that electricity there is now supplied by an Israeli-owned company, rather than an Arab-owned one.

**SHAMIR BLOCKS INNER CABINET
VOTE ON U.S. PEACE PROPOSALS**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir used the prerogatives of his office Wednesday to block a vote by the Inner Cabinet on the counterproposals to the American peace plan he intends to take to Washington next week.

Demands for a vote came from both Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, and Housing Minister David Levy of Shamir's own Herut faction of the Likud bloc. But Shamir rejected them.

Under the rules governing secret meetings of the Inner Cabinet, which consists of five Labor and five Likud senior ministers, Shamir and Peres, who is vice premier, may propose agenda items. But only the prime minister can decide whether they will be voted on.

Shamir said the discussion would continue at the regular weekly meeting of the full Cabinet on Sunday, before he departs for the United States that evening. But a vote on the entire American peace package, which Secretary of State George Shultz presented to Shamir and Peres on March 4, will have to await his return, the prime minister said.

The Inner Cabinet met for only 30 minutes Wednesday and most of its discussion was devoted to the terrorist hijacking of a bus in the Negev on Monday, in which three Israeli civilians were killed and 10 wounded.

Political issues also were raised during the meeting. Peres argued that without a vote on the peace plan, Shamir will be speaking in Washington on behalf of the Likud party, not the government.

Levy made the same point, but while Peres is prepared to accept the Shultz peace package, Likud wants the government to reject it. Levy said a decision must be reached before Shamir leaves for Washington.

"We can't fool ourselves with the idea that the (Shultz) plan doesn't exist and that we can succeed in changing its principles significantly in Washington," Levy said.

'Panic-Stricken' By Peace

Peres, speaking in the Knesset later in the day, warned that by rejecting Shultz's proposals, "we may lose this historic opportunity. Neither we nor the next generations will be able to answer why we were panic-stricken by the idea of peace, why we rejected the hand outstretched to us."

It is clear that had a vote been taken Wednesday, the outcome would have been another Labor-Likud deadlock. Shamir apparently prefers to go to Washington without his government on record either way, rather than confront the Americans as the head of a divided government.

The ideas he plans to present to Reagan administration officials are not known outside Cabinet circles. So far, Shamir has publicly stated

his opposition to both an international conference and an accelerated timetable for Arab-Israeli negotiations, components of the Shultz package that the secretary of state says are inseparable.

Shamir also rejects the idea of trading territory for peace, which is implicit in the Shultz plan. Peres and the Labor Party are ready to consider territorial compromise.

Should the deadlock continue after Shamir's return from the United States, the leadership of both major parties is expected to seriously consider early elections to obtain a fresh mandate from the voters.

**IN WAKE OF SUPER TUESDAY RACES,
JEWISH VOTE IS STILL UP FOR GRABS**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA) -- The results of Super Tuesday may mean that large numbers of Jewish voters will find it hard to decide who to support in the November presidential election.

Vice President George Bush, who swept the Republican primaries, winning about half of the 1,139 delegates he needs for the nomination at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans in July, is viewed with suspicion by many in the Jewish community, despite his many statements of support for Israel.

On the Democratic side, the Rev. Jesse Jackson emerged with about 350 delegates, just behind Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, who won 360 delegates, and ahead of Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, who won about 320. This ensures that Jackson will have an important voice, if not the deciding one, at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta this August.

Jews who voted Tuesday did so mainly in the Democratic primaries and appeared to go overwhelmingly for Dukakis.

In Florida, which Dukakis won, exit polls found that eight out of 10 Jews voted for the Massachusetts governor.

Jews, who make up 4.7 percent of the Florida population, are concentrated in the southeast part of the state, from Miami to Palm Beach. The majority are retirees from the Northeast and they turn out in large numbers for any election.

Dukakis, who's wife, Kitty, is Jewish, also won in the two other Super Tuesday states in which Jews account for more than 4 percent of the population: his home state of Massachusetts and Maryland.

Whether Dukakis is the first choice of most Jewish Democrats could become clearer next Tuesday in the Illinois primary and especially in the April 19 New York primary.

Another sign would be if his victories Tuesday in the South bring in campaign contributions from wealthy liberal Jews in New York and Los Angeles, who have remained so far on the sidelines.

Gore is also making a concentrated effort in the Jewish community. He has a record of strong support for Israel, as do all the candidates, except for Jackson.

On the Republican side, the candidate with the most appeal to Jewish voters, Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, was virtually eliminated. Senate

Minority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas also has a record of a long rapport with the Jewish community, but unless he wins Illinois, the Republican nomination will be wrapped up by Bush.

Bush's Image Problem

Bush's problem with the Jewish community is more perception than reality. He has continuously echoed the Reagan administration's strong support for Israel and has backing in the Jewish community, including such important leaders as Max Fisher and Gordon Zacks.

But many in the Jewish community, noting the vice president's friendship with Saudi Arabia, fear that a Bush presidency could mean a return to the "even-handed" policy of the State Department Arabists.

Bush was critical of Israel during its 1982 invasion of Lebanon and after it bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. He was quoted as saying during the 1985 TWA hostage-taking incident that Israel should release "people being held against international law," a reference to Lebanese Shiite prisoners being held by Israel.

In defending his role in the secret U.S. sale of arms to Iran, Bush has seemed to place the blame on Israel.

At the same time, Bush has been a leading administration spokesman to the American Jewish community. When there were charges of dual loyalty because of Jewish opposition to the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia in 1981, it was Bush who publicly refuted the charges. It was also Bush who personally arranged the rescue of thousands of Ethiopian Jews in 1984 and 1985.

Bush's problem for the Republicans in the Jewish community may be offset by the problem that Jackson presents the Democrats.

No one expects that Jackson will be on the ticket, either as a candidate for president or vice president. But his showing Tuesday, and his possible victory in Illinois next week, means that he could decide who is.

What Does Jackson Want?

The big question everyone asks is "what does Jesse Jackson want?" -- a question which he refuses to answer for the present. If Jackson seeks influence only on domestic issues, then much of what he says poses no problem for the Jewish community and would probably find support among many Jews.

But if he wants influence on foreign policy, this could hurt the Democrats, and not only in the Jewish community. Jackson repeatedly says that he wants to bring about a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict through negotiations, although he appears to place the chief burden for talks on Israel. He is the only candidate who favors talking to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the creation of a Palestinian state.

But although Jackson has sought to reach out to the Jewish community, by toning down the rhetoric of his 1984 campaign and stressing his support for a secure Israel, many in the Jewish community distrust him.

They point to his anti-Israel statements of the past, his meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat, his remark labeling New York "Hymietown" and his ties during the 1984 campaign to Rev. Louis Farrakhan, the Black Muslim leader who has made several anti-Semitic remarks.

The other factor in the race is the Rev. Pat Robertson, whose position on social issues, including attacks on important provisions of the consti-

tutional separation of church and state, worry many Jews. Robertson, who did poorly Tuesday, said he plans to continue in the race.

Although he is not expected to win many delegates in the upcoming primaries, neither Bush nor Dole want to alienate his supporters.

The Jewish vote, which is not monolithic, appears to be up for grabs. For the rest of the primary campaign, issues important to Jews will play a more prominent part in the race than it has up to now.

REFUSENIKS WILL LEAVE SHORTLY, SAYS CHIEF OF MOSCOW OVIR

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 9 (JTA) -- A number of prominent refuseniks will be permitted to leave the Soviet Union in "a matter of weeks," at least according to the head of the Moscow OVIR emigration bureau.

Rudolf Kuznetsov, who is attending the annual conference of the United Nations Human Rights Commission here, made the statement during a conversation with David Litman, a Geneva-based Jew who claims to be a representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Litman presented Kuznetsov with a list of 155 refuseniks, among whom are several who have been waiting to emigrate many years.

(In New York, Martin Strelzer, North American director of the World Union, said Litman's status with the organization is "being held in abeyance." The World Union did not know of the origin of the list and did not have a copy of it.)

Among the names on the list of refusenik families were Kim Fridman of Kiev, a former prisoner of Zion, whose wife now lives in Israel; Tanya and Yuri Zieman of Moscow, whose daughter Galina lives in the Boston area; Yuli Kosharovsky, who is scheduled to begin a 17-day hunger strike Thursday, the 17th anniversary of his first refusal; and Abe Stolar, the Chicago-born Moscow resident whose Communist parents took him to the Soviet Union when he was a boy and who has been trying to leave for many years.

Kuznetsov, who reportedly had two conversations with Litman, looked over the list for a long time and then said, "In a short while you will not need to worry about all these people. We are going to let them emigrate to Israel."

When Litman pressed Kuznetsov for what he meant precisely, Kuznetsov said it would be "a matter of weeks."

Good Will Gesture

American diplomats attending the conference said they believed the Soviet Union will make a gesture of good will prior to the anticipated summit meeting in May between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and that Kuznetsov's statement might be based on this.

In New York, Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, said she was unaware of the meeting in Geneva and did not know about the list.

Singer said that four Jews were arrested Wednesday after a two-minute demonstration for emigration. Three men -- Joseph Lativsky, Sergei Kochecot and Sergei Labuzov -- were ordered to serve immediate prison sentences of 10 days. Olga Lativsky, arrested with her husband, was fined four rubles.

(New York correspondent Susan Birnbaum contributed to this story.)

U.S. DENIES VERNON WALTERS MET WITH PLO LEADER IN TUNISIA

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- A report that the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations met in Tunisia last Saturday with a senior leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization was denied Wednesday by the envoy, Vernon Walters, as well as the State Department and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

CBS News reported Tuesday night that Walters met a PLO leader in a private home in a coastal town near Tunis, the Tunisian capital. CBS attributed the information to top PLO officials.

Walters, arriving in Geneva Wednesday to address the U.N. Human Rights Commission, categorically denied the alleged meeting. "I deny it, it is a lie. I have not met a PLO representative in Tunis. I am not authorized to speak with the PLO," Walters said in response to questions by reporters here.

He added: "It's absolute nonsense. I never saw anybody in Tunisia but Tunisians and Americans. . . No Palestinians."

A woman who answered the telephone Wednesday at the PLO observer mission at the United Nations said no one was available to comment on the report.

In Washington, Charles Redman, a spokesman for the State Department, said the CBS report "is a complete fabrication. Somebody's been had."

A spokeswoman at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations here, Helene Mahoney, said that the report is "absolutely not true," and that the alleged meeting "did not happen."

The U.S. assured Israel in September 1975 that U.S. government officials would not meet or negotiate with members of the PLO. However, Andrew Young, then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, held a 15-minute meeting with a PLO official in New York in 1979. He subsequently resigned under pressure.

Walters conceded to reporters that CBS was accurate in reporting that he met in the 1970s with PLO representatives. "The report was correct in saying I spoke to them (the PLO) in 1975. They were killing Americans and I was sent to tell them to stop and they did. But that was 13 years ago," the 71-year-old Walters, who speaks fluent Arabic, said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organization, said in an interview that "We accept Walter's assurances that he did not meet with the PLO and we wait for further clarifications."

(JTA correspondents Tamar Levy in Geneva and Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REJECTS 3 ECONOMIC ACCORDS WITH ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, France, March 9 (JTA) -- The Parliament of Europe overwhelmingly rejected here Wednesday ratification of three economic agreements Israel signed last year with the 12-nation European Community.

Many of the deputies said afterward that their negative votes were cast as "a sanction" against Israel's policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and what they considered Israel's refusal to start negotiating peace agreements with

the Arabs.

The three protocols, negotiated over the last two years by Israel and the European Common Market Commission, needed 260 votes for ratification. The first of them, dealing with Israel's future trade relations with the E.C. and Israeli agricultural and industrial exports, was defeated by a vote of 207-149 with 20 abstentions.

The second protocol, providing E.C. financial aid -- including a first installment of some \$90 million -- was rejected by a vote of 205-143 with 22 abstentions.

The third protocol actually consisted of Israeli concessions to Spain and Portugal upon their admission to the E.C. in 1986. It won a majority of the votes cast -- 255 to 112 -- only five short of the number needed for ratification. The Spanish and Portuguese deputies complained they were held "guilty by association with Israel."

Apart from the economic damage Israel will suffer in its trade relations with the E.C., rejection of the protocols was a blow to Israel's prestige and an indication of how far its good standing has fallen since unrest began in the administered territories three months ago.

The Parliament of Europe, the E.C.'s legislative body, traditionally is one of the most pro-Israel international assemblies. It has regularly supported Israeli and Jewish interests and has taken a strong stand in favor of oppressed Jewish minorities in the Soviet Union and Arab countries. Though without political power, it carries heavy moral weight.

Four resolutions condemning Israeli policies in the administered territories and "refusal to start peace negotiations" are on the agenda for discussion Thursday. Several parliamentary groups, including the French Liberals and Conservatives, are trying to postpone a vote on the resolutions or soften their language.

HEBRON OBSERVES A QUIET STRIKE AS UNREST ENTERS FOURTH MONTH

By Gil Sedan

HEBRON, March 9 (JTA) -- An eerie quiet pervaded this largely Arab town Wednesday, in sharp contrast to eruptions of violence in the rest of the West Bank, as Palestinians marked the beginning of the fourth month of their uprising in the administered territories.

Hebron, in fact, has been the only major Arab population center that has not been torn by rioting these past three months. On Wednesday, the residents locked themselves in their homes in observance of a total general strike.

Their gesture seemed to be one of both defiance and despair. The streets were virtually empty, the busy vegetable stalls deserted. All shops were closed behind iron shutters. Only a handful of stands did business, by special permission of the nationalist underground, to supply necessities to the local population.

Even Israeli soldiers, whose presence has been a regular part of the Hebron scene, were hardly noticeable. As if by tacit agreement with local Arabs, they kept off the streets. A few kept watch on such "sensitive" points as the Hadassah building in the small Jewish enclave and the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine sacred to Moslems and Jews, where the two faiths have frequently clashed.

There was no public transportation and very few laborers employed in Israel dared to go to

their jobs.

The paradox is that Hebron, a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism and Islamic religious zeal, chose to go on strike rather than demonstrate. Its former mayor, Abdul Nabi Natshe, who was deposed by the Israeli authorities, told reporters, "We can continue like this for months on end. When it comes to dignity, economic hardships mean nothing."

Israelis have been puzzling over the economic endurance of the Palestinians, not only in Hebron but elsewhere in the territories, where total strikes have paralyzed business and commerce for days at a time.

A partial explanation is that a certain amount of trading is going on behind closed doors. Workers who depend on jobs in Israel for their wages sneak away early in the morning and return in the dead of night. A system of mutual help has developed. Better-off family members help relatives who have less.

But this is not the complete picture. Palestinians, particularly at a time of nationalist euphoria, appear able to do with very little in the way of material comforts. "If need be, we shall settle for bread and water," Natshe said.

Mahmoud Kawassmeh, a young Palestinian passing the empty marketplace Wednesday, told a reporter, "Nothing will change."

'Situation Will Continue'

He said "the situation will continue as it is for a long time to come." He had no faith in U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's intensive peace efforts in the region during the past two weeks. "It's all talk, nothing will come out of it," he said.

Natshe, too, was critical of the Americans. "Shultz is sending letters to Shamir, to (King) Hussein (of Jordan), to (President Hafez) Assad (of Syria). But where is the letter to Yasir Arafat?" the deposed mayor asked, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organization chief.

Conditions in Hebron were hardly typical Wednesday. At least six persons were reported wounded in disturbances in the Samaria district of the West Bank. One man was brought dead to a Nablus hospital, according to unconfirmed reports.

The Israel Defense Force used tear gas and rubber bullets to break up a violent demonstration at the Farah refugee camp and in Silwad village, in Samaria. The Tulkarm refugee camp was under curfew after rioting there. Shots were fired at a bus near the Jewish settlement of Eilon Moreh, close to Nablus. No one was hurt.

Hundreds of Arabs blocked the road from Biddu village, north of Jerusalem, to the neighboring Jewish settlement of Har Adar. Rocks were thrown at soldiers.

A post office bus was burned near the Kalandiya refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, and an Israeli bus was torched in Halhoul, near Hebron, when it came there to pick up laborers. There were no injuries.

Similar incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip, where a 14-year-old Arab girl was arrested on suspicion of throwing a Molotov cocktail.

Meanwhile, IDF soldiers had to contend with furious Jewish settlers from Ariel in Samaria, who raided the nearby Arab village of Kharas Tuesday night, in revenge for stone-throwing attacks on the main highway that crosses Samaria from Petach Tikva in Israel to Nablus.

The villagers countered with stones. Jewish vigilantes burned an Arab car and threatened

journalists at the scene. A large military force was rushed to Kharas to prevent the settlers from entering the village.

RESERVE OFFICERS STATE TWO VIEWS ON POLICY IN THE TERRITORIES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- High-ranking reserve officers of the Israel Defense Force seem to be as divided as the government over Israeli policies in the administered territories and how to deal with Arab unrest, now entering its fourth month.

A group of 96 reservists, holding ranks from majors to brigadier generals, have sent a letter to Premier Yitzhak Shamir urging him to choose peace over holding on to the territories.

But 50 other reservists of similar rank met this week to demand a harder line against Palestinian rioters and leftist Israelis who support their cause. They also urged politicians and the news media to "stop using the army as a political tool and allow soldiers and their commanders to do their jobs as they see fit."

The letter to Shamir was almost identical to one sent 10 years ago to Premier Menachem Begin by reserve officers who formed the nucleus of the Peace Now movement. The earlier letter stated that "ruling 1 million Arabs is liable to harm the Jewish democratic nature of the state." The current letter differs only by referring to "1.5 million Arabs."

Some 800 other officers, mainly of lower ranks, signed it. Most belong to elite units of the IDF and some hold various IDF decorations and commendations. Three members of one family signed -- Col. Yaakov Neria; his wife, Lt. Col. Zippora Neria; and their son, Col. Yuval Neria.

The meeting of the hard-line officers, who expressed sharply different views, was organized by Michael Ratzon, leader of the Herut party's "young guard."

Ratzon called on the IDF to take a tougher stand against Arab rioters to prevent "an indefinite continuation of the disturbances, which would lead to much greater loss of life among the Arabs."

Brig. Gen. Zvi Gov-Ari of the air force reserve said "the present situation, in which we crucify soldiers for actions arising from situations for which they are not responsible, is an intolerable one."

Brig. Gen. Zion Masuri urged the arrest of "traitors who distribute leaflets to soldiers at hitchhiking stations." He decried "the recent atmosphere in which patriots are considered idiots."

But the right-wing officers rejected a proposal by Ratzon to bar the news media from entering the territories.

UNREST HURTING ALIYAH, TRAVEL

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- Jews abroad who have filed for immigration to Israel are now reconsidering because of "the situation" in the administered territories, according to Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, Haaretz reported Wednesday.

In addition, some 3,000 of the 6,000 overseas Jewish youths who regularly attend the Jewish Agency's annual summer camp programs in Israel have not registered this year because of the ongoing disturbances, Haaretz said.

U.N. COMMISSION ADOPTS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PROSECUTION OF NAZIS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 9 (JTA) -- Overriding objections from several European countries, particularly West Germany, the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution by consensus Wednesday calling for the prosecution and punishment of all Nazi war criminals still at large.

It also condemned "the attempts made even today to deny the acts of genocide committed as a result of Nazi and fascist ideology and practices."

The resolution, sponsored by the United States, was initiated by Israel, which is not a member of the Human Rights Commission. It was the first time since 1970 that the subject was brought before the commission, which is holding its annual conference here.

The West Europeans were less than enthusiastic. The delegation from Bonn went so far as to appeal to Washington to abandon the resolution on grounds that the matter has been taken up before at other forums, including the U.N. General Assembly. But the United States did not waver.

The Israeli ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Pinchas Eliav, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resolution underlined the need for international cooperation to track down Nazi war criminals.

The resolution commended the cooperation among various member states that succeeded in bringing to justice major Nazi war criminals, such as Klaus Barbie, who was convicted in France last year of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life imprisonment.

It urged all states to ensure that this cooperation will continue and that war criminals will be prosecuted, preferably in the countries where their crimes were committed.

In the debate leading up to the resolution, Ambassador Eliav and Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld referred to one of the most notorious Nazis, Alois Brunner, who has found safe haven in Syria.

BELGIUM RECEIVES NAZI LIST

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, March 9 (JTA) -- World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman said he has given to the Belgian minister of justice a document from the United Nations war crimes archives listing the names of nine of the 244 Austrians wanted in Belgium for war crimes, including murder and torture.

Bronfman spoke at a press conference here Tuesday, accompanied by WJC executive director Elan Steinberg. Steinberg said it was not clear that the Belgian government was aware of these names.

He said the justice minister, Jean Gol, told Bronfman he would compare the names with Belgian lists of war criminals and decide if further action can be taken against them.

War crimes committed in Belgium fall under a statute of limitations. But if the nine persons on Bronfman's list are still alive, they could be barred from entering Belgium.

Bronfman also lashed out at Austria for perpetuating "this lie that they were the first victims of Nazi aggression." The matter has come up in connection with the 50th anniversary of the

Anschluss -- the absorption of Austria into the Third Reich on March 11, 1938.

"Austria has to face its past and recognize that it took part in the Holocaust if it wants to join the honorable society of civilized nations," Bronfman declared. He claimed that more Austrians than Germans served in the SS in death camps.

DIVIDED AUSTRIA TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANSCHLUSS

By Martha Halpert

VIENNA, March 9 (JTA) -- On March 11, an internally divided Austria will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss, the country's annexation by Hitler's Third Reich.

The year of the commemoration would have come anyway, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky told journalists last week, but he said the discussion about Austria's role before and during World War II is fiercer than anyone could have predicted two years ago.

Then, Austria's image was largely of prancing stallions, apple strudel and waltzes. But former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's successful run for the presidency split the country and changed its image abroad.

The president is becoming increasingly embarrassing for Austria, as he is on the U.S. "watch list" of undesirable aliens and will not be received by any Western country.

The fact that Waldheim lied about his wartime activities has caused many Austrians to ponder their own behavior during the Nazi era. Younger Austrians have become increasingly critical of their fathers and forefathers.

Critics accuse Austria of not accepting its share of guilt in Nazi war crimes after the annexation, which was welcomed by many Austrians.

Yet, the country will commemorate the destruction of Austrian state and sovereignty in a dignified way. For the first time, Austria will hold a nationwide minute of silence, during which work, traffic and school lessons will stop. At 11:10 a.m. Friday, the church bells will ring to commemorate when Austria became the Ostmark and was wiped off the map for seven years.

The central and official acts of commemoration will be held in the Austrian Parliament and the Hofburg Palace. Waldheim will be present at both events, but government, political parties and the National Assembly agreed that he would not utter a word at these occasions.

Ongoing Educational Activities

Activities dealing with the problems of the Anschluss began weeks ago and will continue throughout 1988 -- evidence of an internal re-evaluation of Austria's role in the Nazi-period.

They include symposia probing the historical, military and political background of the Austrian trauma of 1938.

"Forgive Us Our Sins" is the theme of an ecumenical gathering and religious service to be held outside the former Gestapo headquarters here. This is only one of the many activities organized by the Catholic Church, whose leaders back in 1938 openly welcomed the Third Reich.

"Youth Under the Swastika" and "Catholic Church and National Socialism" are two other projects by the official church of Austria these days.

Austrian radio and TV have produced a number of high-quality documentaries dealing with

the period.

Viennese theaters have planned special dramas dealing either with persecution of Jews, anti-Semitism or the rise of Hitler.

The Socialist Party and the trade unions are commemorating the killing of many prominent socialists.

The Union of Austrian Students has created a 10-day-program that they call "1938-1988: History and Responsibility." The students will present an exhibition about the history of the University of Vienna, where anti-Semitic riots began.

Jews Disenfranchised, Murdered

"Economy without Jews" is the March 1988 cover story of the largest Austrian business magazine, *Trend*.

The article deals with the fate of Jews after March 11, 1938, when wild, unorganized looting was followed by organized bureaucratic repression. The history of the Jews in this country is documented as is the financial benefit of their disenfranchisement for Austrians and consequently Germans.

Some 26,236 Jewish factories and shops were registered in order to be taken over legally by the Nazi authorities. Any wealth exceeding 5,000 Reichsmarks had to be reported.

While 47,768 Jews registered their property, some 40,000 needy Jews were lining up for poor-house soup.

The financial loss of the Jewish community was estimated at \$1.2 billion (1938 rate), not including art objects and jewels.

Two thirds of Austrian Jewry, 128,500 people, left the Ostmark primarily for New York, London, Shanghai, Buenos Aires and Jerusalem. But 65,459 Austrian Jews perished in the Holocaust.

CONSERVATIVE JEWS DRAFT FIRST COMMON STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- A commission representing the major institutions of Conservative Judaism has issued the first common statement of principles in the movement's 143-year history.

The document, "Emet Ve-Emunah" (Truth and Belief), includes the movement's positions on belief in God, the role of women in Judaism, religious pluralism and the Conservative approach to halacha, or Jewish law. It essentially reaffirms declared individual positions of the movement.

Drafted over the past two-and-half years, the document was issued jointly by the Rabbinical Assembly, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue of America, the rabbinical, seminarian and congregational institutions, respectively, of the movement, with an estimated 2 million adherents in the United States.

Among its highlights is a statement of Conservative Judaism's position toward Israel, which maintains that Israel is not the center of modern Jewish life, but rather plays an essential role in a partnership with the diaspora.

"We do not believe that Jewish identity can be replaced by Israeli identity or the ability to speak Hebrew," the document states.

Israel and diaspora Jewry "must aid and enrich the other in every possible way; each needs the other."

The document also calls on the State of Israel to change its existing laws recognizing the

religious authority only of Orthodox rabbis.

"The discrimination practiced by the State of Israel against non-Orthodox Judaism is morally intolerable and pragmatically dangerous," the statement reads.

Also related to the discussion of religious pluralism is a proposal for an increase in intra-Jewish cooperation.

The statement proposes the formation of more local boards of rabbis and of a national, as well as local, intra-Jewish "batei din," or religious courts, to decide issues such as conversion and the granting of religious divorces.

On Women

While the statement of principles "pays tribute" to the expanded role of women in Conservative Judaism, it acknowledges that their functioning as rabbis and cantors has not been universally accepted among Conservative leaders. The JTS decided to ordain women as rabbis in 1983 and to grant women cantorial degrees beginning in 1987.

"Many believe that women should be encouraged" to become rabbis and cantors, the statement notes, "while others believe that women today can find religious fulfillment within the context of traditional practice."

Concerning theology, the statement maintains that belief in God is essential to Conservative Judaism, although individuals have the right to challenge God's existence and actions. Faith in a messianic age is strongly affirmed by the statement.

Concerning halacha, the statement reaffirms both the movement's "loyalty to rabbinic tradition" and "the ongoing development of Jewish law," which includes adaptation to technological and social changes. In other words, the interpretation of the God-given Torah may evolve.

The document was prepared by a 35-member commission drawn from the three major institutions as well as the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, the Cantors Assembly and the Jewish Educators Assembly.

Robert Gordis, a faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly, chaired the commission.

The statement of principles will be distributed in booklet form to the 850 Conservative synagogues around the world.

SURVEY FINDS ANTI-SEMITISM IN ZURICH

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 9 (JTA) -- A secret survey which found that 30 percent of the population of Zurich holds anti-Semitic prejudices in varying degrees has shocked the 8,000-member Jewish community of Zurich, the largest in Switzerland.

The survey was made by a private organization that helps minorities in Switzerland. It was for internal use only. But the magazine *Zuriwoche* obtained the results and published them this week.

According to the findings, 9 percent of Zurich residents questioned admitted they were anti-Semites; 11 percent said they had anti-Semitic tendencies and another 11 percent acknowledged they sometimes had anti-Semitic feelings.

Swiss living in neighborhoods with ultra-Orthodox Jews tended to be more anti-Semitic, the survey found. Zurich is the largest and most prosperous city in Switzerland.

**ISRAEL AND HUNGARY ESTABLISH
RECIPROCAL INTEREST SECTIONS****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Israel and Hungary established interest sections in Budapest and Tel Aviv respectively Monday. It is the lowest level of diplomatic representation, but nevertheless marks a resumption of diplomatic ties broken by Hungary during the 1967 Six-Day War.

A Hungarian representative, Jerri Genish, handed his letter of appointment to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem, while Shlomo Merom, an Israeli diplomat with the rank of ambassador, did the same at the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Israel's Budapest office will operate from the Swiss Embassy there. The Hungarian section in Israel will be located at the Swedish Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Genish told Israel Radio that the opening of a Hungarian mission here was a step toward full diplomatic ties. He said that event would be hastened if Israel entered into peace negotiations with its Arab neighbors and the Palestinians.

The freeze between Israel and the Communist bloc countries seems to be thawing. Israel and Poland established interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv last year. A Soviet consular mission has been in Israel since last June and an Israeli mission of similar rank will be going to Moscow in about three weeks.

But Israel and the Soviet Union have not re-established ties, even on the interests section level. Israel has full diplomatic relations with only one Eastern bloc nation: Romania.

**SHULTZ RESTATES U.S. COMMITMENT
TO ISRAEL IN MEETING WITH SHAMIR****By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz assured Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir Monday that the U.S. commitment to Israel is "unshakable," according to a senior Reagan administration official.

Shultz met with Shamir for 30 minutes immediately after his arrival here for four days of talks, including a White House meeting scheduled with President Reagan on Wednesday.

The official told reporters that neither Israel nor any of the Arab states have submitted their formal reaction to Shultz's proposals for a Middle East settlement. Shultz asked for responses to his plan by March 15 when he presented it March 4.

It proposes an accelerated timetable for Arab-Israeli negotiations, to be preceded by an international conference as early as next month, and implies trading territory for peace.

The official refused to say whether Shultz's proposal is a "like-it-or-leave it" one, explaining that the parties to the conflict "have reservations about it."

But he pointed out that "no one has said no to us" and emphasized that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's strong positive reaction.

Shamir has already voiced his strong objections to the proposals and said he has brought his own suggestions for moving the peace process ahead.

However, the Israeli premier "will not bring the decision with him," the official said. "We are not pressing Israel. It is the situation in the area that is pressing Israel and all of the parties in the area."

Diplomatic 'Assurances' Hinted

The official added that the United States could provide additional diplomatic "assurances" to Israel to encourage it to accept the plan, but refused to elaborate. "We will have to see how the talks develop. Assurances have been a facet of our diplomacy in the region over the last many years," he said.

Asked how he could reassure Shamir that the United States is not favoring Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has indicated acceptance of the U.S. suggestions, the official said, "what we have been very intent on doing from the beginning of this proposal is not get into the ins and outs of Israeli domestic politics."

Shamir refused to allow the 10-minister Inner Cabinet to vote on the Shultz proposals, and the issue has divided the national unity government of Labor and Likud. Speculation has grown that the deadlock could result in an early Knesset election.

Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, went to Moscow last week to brief Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the Shultz plan.

The official said that Shevardnadze said he appreciated hearing about the new initiative straight from a U.S. official. Shevardnadze will continue those discussions with Shultz when he visits Washington the week of March 21, the official said.

**SHAMIR MUM ON PEACE IDEAS
UPON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK****By Andrew Silow Carroll**

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met with reporters and Jewish leaders upon his arrival in New York on Monday, but declined to disclose details of the counterproposals he plans to present to Secretary of State George Shultz during their discussions of the Middle East peace process in Washington this week.

Some two dozen representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York met at dawn with Shamir as he arrived at John F. Kennedy Airport.

During the session and earlier at a brief news conference, the prime minister would only say, "I have many proposals, many plans of my own" concerning the peace process.

Shamir is on record as being opposed to a peace plan formulated by Shultz, because it includes proposals that Israel trade land in the Gaza Strip and West Bank for peace.

In response to a reporter's question concerning the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in possible peace negotiations, Shamir said, "I don't think Israel will ever talk with the PLO."

Outside the El Al Israel Airlines terminal, about 100 supporters of Shamir gathered to greet

the prime minister, waving small Israeli flags and chanting "Israel yes, Palestine no" and "not one inch," a reference to Shamir's refusal to trade land for peace.

A smiling Shamir briefly joined the crowd, which burst into "Hatikvah," the Israeli national anthem.

According to Kenneth Kelner, president of the Manhattan region of the Zionist Organization of America and an organizer of the rally, participants included members of the Jewish Political Caucus, Herut-USA, Emunah Women, Americans for a Safe Israel and other groups supporting Shamir's Likud bloc and the Israeli government's right wing.

Following his airport appearance, Shamir proceeded directly to Washington, where he met Monday morning with Secretary of State George Shultz. He was to join the secretary for breakfast Tuesday and again on Thursday.

Shamir is scheduled to meet with President Reagan late Wednesday morning and will stay at the White House for a working lunch with the president. Vice President George Bush will host a state dinner for the premier that night.

The Israeli leader was to meet with Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci late Monday afternoon and with Treasury Secretary James Baker on Wednesday morning.

He will confer with the Senate leadership Tuesday afternoon, with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday and with the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus on Thursday.

He was scheduled to address the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference Monday night and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles on Thursday.

SHAMIR RECEIVES A WARM SEND-OFF AS HE SOUNDS CONCILIATORY NOTE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir sounded a conciliatory note on the peace process as he left for the United States shortly after midnight, following a massive outpouring of support for his tough stand on the American peace plan.

The rally took place Sunday night in Malchei Yisrael Square, outside the Tel Aviv City Hall, where speaker after speaker urged the premier not to waver in his talks with Reagan administration officials.

Organizers of the rally claim it drew between 200,000 and 250,000 people, who packed the broad square and overflowed into side streets. Other observers questioned that estimate, but agreed the rally was twice as large as the one organized by Peace Now that filled the same square Saturday night.

The Peace Now demonstration backed the American plan and the formula of exchanging territory for peace. But that idea got a resounding "no" from the throngs gathered Sunday night. They represented Israel's right wing, what is loosely termed the "nationalist camp," consisting of supporters of Shamir's Likud bloc and the Tehiya, Tzomet and Morasha parties.

The rally was originally organized by the Gush Emunim, the militant Jewish settlers in the West Bank. But it was taken over by the Likud, which sent its heavy artillery in the persons of Housing Minister David Levy and Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon.

The demonstrators carried placards reading: "Land for Peace -- On No Grounds"; "Peace Yes, Retreat No"; "No to Shultz and No to Autonomy"; and "We Won't Return Territory Because of Knives and Stones."

In his remarks before taking off, Shamir told reporters he was going to Washington on a peace mission within the context of the friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States.

"Our relationship with the U.S. has always been based on mutual understanding, common values and identical strategic and political interests," Shamir said. "This time, the effort to bring nearer the peace between us and our neighbors will be on top of our agenda."

No People Wants Peace More

Shamir said Israel "was, and is, always ready to stretch itself and to participate in negotiations about establishing peace in its areas, and no other people desires peace like us."

"We always welcome the readiness of the U.S. to assist us in getting this noble goal of peace. We are always ready to cooperate with the U.S. in efforts for peace, knowing that the way of the United States in its relationships with its allies and partners is not by pressure, but always by mutual understanding and friendly persuasion," Shamir said.

Asked if he still stood by the Likud party platform not to give up any part of the administered territories, the premier replied, "The binding documents for our efforts to get peace are the Camp David agreements, and in those agreements we have committed ourselves to negotiations, at the end of the first stage of autonomy, about the final status of the territories of Gaza, Judea and Samaria."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who accompanied Shamir to the airport, told reporters later he would refrain from attacking him while he was abroad on his mission. He hinted that this was in contrast to Shamir's attacks on him when he was on an official visit to Washington some months ago.

But on Monday, Peres accused Shamir's Likud bloc of sabotaging every effort to persuade King Hussein of Jordan to enter into peace negotiations with Israel.

TWO SIDES PROTEST IN WASHINGTON By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Close to 2,000 people protested for Palestinian rights Sunday near the White House, while a few hundred Jews protested across the street from ABC News to protest media coverage of recent violence in the territories.

The protest at Lafayette Square, across from the White House, was held following the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's Washington conference and a "teach-in" sponsored by Friends of Peace Now at American University.

The rally near ABC News was organized by the Greater Potomac Region of the Zionist Organization of America. Demonstrators at the rally wore yellow ribbons to protest what they consider "yellow journalism" by the major television networks.

Winifred Meiselman, director of the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, said that all of the networks provide skewed coverage, but that ABC is the "most egregious" offender.

AUTHORITIES PLAY DOWN RESIGNATION OF ARAB POLICE IN THE WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities have dismissed the mass resignation of Arab police officers in West Bank towns and villages as inconsequential.

But they have taken measures to punish the Palestinian population for mounting a war of attrition against the Israeli civil administration, which appears at the moment to have replaced the violence of the past three months.

Under the pressure of unwritten orders from nationalist elements, Arab police officers began handing in their resignations over the weekend. According to official figures, 250 have resigned so far. Arab sources put the number at 450.

Senior Israeli police officers and Police Minister Haim Barlev have stressed that Arab police function mainly on the local level, dealing with traffic infractions and civilian complaints. They have nothing whatever to do with security measures.

Although some Arab police officers reported for duty in the West Bank on Monday, sources at the civil administration said the actual number who resigned was not important, because Arab police have not been performing well for the past two months, in any event. They said they would try to persuade others to return to work, but are preparing for an extended period without their help.

Local Arabs seem satisfied with the resignations, but have little respect for the Arab police. One woman outside the Dahiya refugee camp, near Bethlehem, claimed the Arab cops "would not have lifted a finger if they saw a Palestinian being beaten by Israeli soldiers."

Another woman said, "By their mere presence they freed Israeli soldiers to do other jobs."

Other Resignations

In addition to the police officers, several Arab town council members have resigned and local Arabs are threatening not to pay their taxes. About two weeks ago, Arab employees of the civil administration's income tax collection department in the Gaza Strip quit their jobs.

As a countermeasure to the civil disobedience -- though it was not identified as such -- the Israeli authorities cut off the supply of gasoline throughout the West Bank on Sunday, causing long lines at gasoline stations. The official explanation was attacks on the tanker trucks that supply the territories.

Fuel is still being delivered for vital services, such as use in hospitals, and shipments continued Monday without interruption.

So far, Arab nationalist circles have not called on the 18,000 Arab employees of the civil administration to resign. The problem is how to pay their salaries with little tax revenue coming in. Several hundred teachers remain idle as a result of the school strike.

Other employees, including tax collectors, are reported to be under pressure and nervous. Their work has been seriously affected in the past few weeks, according to civil administration sources.

An Arab general strike has been called for Tuesday and Wednesday. Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers tried to force shopkeepers in Jericho to open for business during the official daily strike hours, which start at noon.

They are forcing other merchants to close during the morning hours, when nationalist elements allow them to remain open to serve the needs of the local residents.

SOME 600 AMERICANS TO HELP ISRAEL AS TWO-WEEK VOLUNTEERS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Some 600 North Americans were scheduled to depart for Israel at midnight Monday to perform various chores for two weeks at Israeli military bases and hospitals -- voluntarily.

"The fact that hundreds of volunteers are going to Israel now is a significant statement of solidarity with the people of Israel, precisely at a time when so many are criticizing and backing away from supporting the Jewish state," said Sampson Giat of New York, president of Volunteers for Israel, which is sponsoring the undertaking.

According to Giat, this group of volunteers is the largest ever to go to Israel at one time. Four hundred sixty-one of them will fly aboard a chartered El Al jumbo jet, and 35 more people whom the jet cannot accommodate will travel on a regularly scheduled flight. Another 50 left Sunday night and 40 are to fly directly from Los Angeles.

Giat said at a news conference here Monday that his organization has sent some 8,000 volunteers to Israel from the United States over the past five years and more than 12,000 worldwide.

"This is our way of showing the Israeli people that we are with them all the way at this time of crisis," said Alexander Goldberg of Hempstead, N.Y., a 75-year-old aeronautical engineer who will make his 14th visit to Israel as a volunteer. He was referring to the more than three months of Palestinian unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mayor Saul Hornick of Marlboro Township, N.J., is bringing eight of his constituents with him to volunteer, including non-Jews and his 13-year-old son.

"This trip of volunteers to Israel is a statement that says we support the State of Israel as the greatest and single ally of the United States in the Middle East," the mayor said.

Hornick told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he raised more than \$75,000 in the last three weeks to help subsidize the trip. Each volunteer pays \$275 as a contribution toward the cost of room and board and round-trip airfare. The volunteers raised \$100,000 for the trip.

Florence Cohen, national coordinator of Volunteers for Israel, said the flight was oversubscribed within 72 hours of the announcement and marks the first time that the organization ever chartered a plane.

Cohen, a registered nurse, and Giat, a musician, are going, too, to take part in activities such as cleaning army latrines, repairing flat tires and typing orders. The group will return on March 30.

ISRAELI SOCCER TEAM DEFEATS TAIWAN

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Israel's national soccer team defeated Taiwan 5-1 in Australia on Sunday, ending the first round of the four-nation Oceania region elimination tournament to determine which country will participate in the 1989 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

FINAL PHASE OF TABA ARBITRATION OPENS WITH ISRAELI PRESENTATION By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 14 (JTA) -- The final phase of the arbitration process that will determine ownership of 14 disputed sites along the Israeli-Sinai border, including the half-square-mile Taba resort area on the Red Sea, opened here Monday.

The preliminary session was brief. Israel displayed a videotape film of the Taba area. There was a short procedural discussion after which the meeting was adjourned to reconvene Tuesday.

Egypt will present its case for the next three days, and after a three-day interval, the Israelis will present theirs, which is expected to last four days. Both sides will present witnesses. Their names have not yet been released to the press.

Israel and Egypt will both present visual arguments, including slides, maps and, in Israel's case, a plaster scale model of the Taba area.

The presentations will last until March 28, to allow a break for the Passover-Easter holidays. The sessions will resume April 12 for one week. After that, the arbitration panel will adjourn to deliberate and write its report, which may take several months.

The panel, made up of five distinguished international jurists, is headed by Judge Gunnar Lagergren of Sweden.

The other members are Pierre Bellet of France, Dietrich Schindler of Switzerland, Ruth Lapidot of Israel and Hamdi Sultan of Egypt. The Israeli delegation includes 28 experts and legal advisers headed by Robi Sabel, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

Binding arbitration is one of the means of settling disputes between Israel and Egypt under the terms of their 1979 peace treaty. So is conciliation -- compromise. But after a year of failed attempts at conciliation, Israel went along with Egypt's insistence on arbitration.

IN VIENNA, JEWS SOLEMNLY REMEMBER THE ANSCHLUSS By Marta Halpert

VIENNA, March 14 (JTA) -- Viennese Jews solemnly mourned the victims of the Holocaust here Monday, two days after Austria commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss--the absorption of Austria into the Third Reich on March 12, 1938.

The Jewish event was low key and non-political. An hour of prayer preceded a march to the Morzinplatz, once the site of the dreaded Gestapo headquarters in Vienna. Some of the Jewish participants were Holocaust survivors, others were born long afterward.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, one of many non-Jews who attended, appealed to the Austrian people to apply the lessons of history to the present and future.

Paul Grosz, president of the Jewish community, called for more tolerance and for the right of Jews to live in peace according to their own understanding of freedom and to observe their religion and culture.

Remembrance of the Nazi era was the theme of other Anschluss anniversary events. The Academy Award-winning film "Genocide" was shown at a private screening Saturday night for civic and government leaders, educators and other public figures.

The screening was given under the patronage of Dr. Hilde Hawlicek, minister for education, and Dr. Helmut Zilk, mayor and governor of Vienna.

"Genocide" was produced by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center and won the 1982 Oscar for best documentary. Nazi-hunter Wiesenthal appeared in person to introduce the film. It also will be shown at the Vienne film festival.

Another event is "The Courage to Remember," an exhibition of the Wiesenthal Center which had its international opening here Sunday. It explores in words and images the historical setting, events and the aftermath of the Holocaust. It will be on display at the Palais Palfy until March 27.

Meanwhile, demonstrations continued demanding the resignation of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim because of revelations of his role in Nazi atrocities committed when he served in the German Army in the Balkans during World War II.

Austrian intellectuals, writers, artists and many former concentration camp inmates expressed dismay over Waldheim's refusal to step down. Rosa Jochmann, an 80-year-old former Socialist resistance fighter and inmate of the Ravensbruck concentration camp, said, "Waldheim is not representative of this new generation. He is not worthy to be your president."

Waldheim, whose controversial history led to the prohibition against his speaking at any official event marking the Anschluss anniversary, gave a five-minute television address Thursday night in which he called for reconciliation and insisted that Austria was the first victim of Hitler's aggression.

REFORM RABBIS AFFIRM ZIONISM IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT ALIYAH

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- The 99th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis ended here Sunday with a spirited defense of the principle that one can be a true Zionist without living in Israel.

The CCAR is the rabbinical organization of Reform Judaism in the United States. Its convention created a stir here, and an angry reaction from some government circles, when the rabbis delivered a letter to Premier Yitzhak Shamir deploring "the policy of deliberate beatings ordered by Defense Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin as beyond the bounds of Jewish moral values."

The protest was against the Israel Defense Force policy of pursuing and beating Palestinian demonstrators in the administered territories. In recent weeks, the policy has been greatly modified to forbid using beatings to punish demonstrators after a riot takes place.

Rabbi Eugene Lipman, president of the CCAR, stated in his address that it is not necessary to live in Israel to be an authentic Zionist. Rabbi Simeon Maslin of Philadelphia differentiated between "galut" and diaspora.

"Galut is not a place, galut is the abandonment, willingly or unwillingly of the Jewish mission" and therefore, authentic Jewish life in America is not necessarily galut, he said.

Among the resolutions adopted at the closing session was one calling for "the pursuit of peace in the Middle East." It states, "We urge all peoples involved in the current struggle to join in the active search for a fair, enduring, all-embracing peace."

SHULTZ SAYS HE'S UNABLE TO SATISFY SHAMIR'S CONCERNS ON PEACE PLAN**By Howard Rosenberg**

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday that he has so far been unable to alleviate Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's concerns about the Reagan administration's peace initiative.

"We have discussed all of the various elements and we have not found a way to bridge all of the differences," Shultz said as he and Shamir spoke to reporters after their 90-minute meeting at the State Department.

But, he added, "I see quite clearly what the nature of the differences are" between the U.S. plan and Shamir's analysis of it.

The discussions will resume Wednesday when Shamir meets with Reagan at the White House. Shamir and Shultz will meet at least one more time before the premier leaves Washington on Thursday.

The new U.S. plan, which was submitted by Shultz to Israel and the Arab states, calls for negotiations to begin as early as May 1 between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on autonomy arrangements for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The negotiations, which would last no longer than six months, would be followed in the seventh month by negotiations on the final status of the territories. Final-status talks would last no longer than an additional 12 months.

An international peace conference would be held two weeks before the start of the initial negotiations, presumably next month, but would not be able to impose solutions.

Opposed To Peace Conference

One of Shamir's aims during his talks in the United States is to raise his objections to certain aspects of the plan, including the convening of an international peace conference.

Shamir said again Tuesday he does not "see any positive role for an international peace conference."

It is unclear whether the plan could be modified at the request of Shamir or any Arab country that objects to certain components of the proposal.

Shultz told Shamir in a March 4 letter that the plan "is an integral whole" and "acceptance is dependent on the implementation of each element in good faith."

However, a senior administration official refused Monday to call it a "take-it-or-leave-it" plan, though he hoped the parties would be persuaded to accept it as a whole.

In addition to discussing the peace process, Shamir and Shultz talked about economic aid, strategic cooperation and Soviet Jewry, Shultz said.

Shultz described the meeting as "very constructive and worthwhile," and enthusiastically said the two have "important things to work on."

Shamir said he encouraged Shultz to advance the peace process. "Israel is always interested, always ready to make moves" toward peace," he said. He complained, though, that Israel has yet to find "appropriate parties" to negotiate with.

At breakfast Tuesday at Shultz's home, Shultz's wife, Helena, cooked blueberry pancakes for Shamir, as she did for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres when he last visited the United States. The secretary appeared to be symbolically keeping his pledge to give Labor and Likud equal treatment.

RIOTING IS AIMED AT DESTROYING ISRAEL, SHAMIR TELLS UJA CROWD**By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, in a message aimed directly at American Jews, declared Monday night that the rioting on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not a struggle for Palestinian rights, but a new stage in the Arab war to destroy the State of Israel.

"I know you are disturbed by what you see on television," Shamir said in a speech to the sixth National Young Leadership Conference of the United Jewish Appeal.

"Make no mistake about it, what you see is not demonstrations. . . it is not civil disobedience, it is war," he said. "It's not a war for Judea, Samaria and Gaza. . . . It is a war against Israel, against the existence of the State of Israel."

Shamir said that during Israel's 40 years of existence, the Arabs have tried and failed to defeat Israel through five wars, economic boycotts and terrorism. He said they now have resorted to violence in the streets by teen-agers and "I promise you they will fail again."

Shamir is in Washington for intensive talks with President Reagan, whom he will meet with Wednesday, and Secretary of State George Shultz on the latest American proposals for a Middle East peace settlement. He called both leaders "great friends of Israel" who have "demonstrated this friendship in words and deeds."

"We are coming with an open mind to listen to what our American friends have to say," Shamir said. But he indicated that he still does not accept the basic Shultz formula of "territory for peace" and instead will try to convince the Reagan administration of his own proposals.

"We are told that the only thing needed to achieve a true and lasting peace is for us to proclaim our willingness to give up territories in Judea, Samaria and Gaza," Shamir said.

"I am astounded by some people's short memories. Did we have peace when we did not have these territories?" he asked. "We are always open to new constructive ideas. We have made many sacrifices for peace and we shall always remain committed to peace with security."

Those Who 'Shed Blood' Must Decide

But Shamir stressed that Israel cannot be pressed to act against its interests. "To us these matters are questions of life and death, of our very existence," he said. "We believe that only those who must bear the consequences of agreements on their flesh, those who must shed their blood to defend our country, can decide what risks to take in the pursuit of peace."

At the same time, Shamir expressed his belief that the Arabs will eventually realize that "violence will not defeat us and they will make

peace with us. I hope that our visit here will bring the day of peace closer."

If Shamir's tough stance is unpopular with American Jewry, it was not evident at the UJA dinner. His entrance into the ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel was greeted with loud and sustained applause and cheers from the 3,000 delegates to the conference. He received lengthy applause again when he was introduced and throughout his speech.

Earlier in the day, UJA President Stanley Horowitz called for increased support and understanding for Israel during these "difficult and troubled times."

Horowitz said UJA is determined to rally American Jews behind Israel, not only "during a Six-Day War or an heroic Entebbe action, but also during tough times like now." He stressed that "now is the time to recognize Israel's yearning for peace."

The situation in the territories has not hurt UJA's fund raising, according to Horowitz. "Our 1988 campaign, over half completed, is \$40 million ahead of 1987," he said. "Our Super Sunday campaign, which took place in many communities throughout the country right in the midst of the Palestinian uprisings, is already up 22 percent from last year's total."

The dinner Monday night was also UJA's major celebration of Israel's 40th anniversary. Shamir and the audience viewed a short musical play, called "An Israel Tapestry," which described the history of Israel from the early settlers to the present.

Shamir called for a renewed commitment to aliyah as part of the 40th anniversary celebration. "It is the main purpose of the state," he noted.

But he also urged "Jews from all over the world, especially those who have never been in Israel, to join us in the festivities" by visiting the Jewish state during the anniversary celebration.

PALESTINIANS, ISRAELIS TESTING LIMITS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA) -- Palestinian nationalist circles were apparently caught this week in an internal debate on just how far their civil disobedience campaign should go.

The mass resignation of some 300 police officers seemed to have struck some parts of the Palestinian political community as going too far, leaving the streets to the rule of the underworld.

An influential Palestinian, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip, went as far as to say that the resignation act should be the prerogative of each and every individual. Some 40 police officers in the Hebron region reversed their earlier decision to resign and showed up for duty.

But at the same time, seven Arab officers in the Jerusalem Temple Mount police force announced their resignation Tuesday, saying others would follow suit.

Local inhabitants questioned on the Voice of Israel Radio said they could do without the Arab police and could take care of themselves -- further affirmation of rumors that nationalist circles are trying to establish in the territories alternative services to those provided by the government.

Shmuel Goren, coordinator of government affairs in the administered territories, warned

Monday that the defense establishment would not allow any alternative frameworks to operate.

The question remained whether the Palestinians would force a showdown, which would probably entail further sanctions by the authorities against the local population.

Some of the measures taken by the authorities in the past few days include reducing the fuel supply to the territories, preventing exports to Jordan, preventing trips to Jordan and visits from the Arab countries to West Bank trouble spots, forcing merchants to open up businesses during strike hours and close them during business hours.

Overnight Curfew In Gaza

In addition, for the first time since 1967, the army on Monday announced a general overnight curfew over the entire Gaza Strip, between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., "until further notice."

The army said the move was aimed at preventing the infiltration of agitators into the area and overnight crime, in the wake of the mass police resignations.

The army enforced the curfew fully. Arab workers who returned from work after 10 p.m. Monday were forced to sleep in their cars in front of military roadblocks.

This measure was seen as yet another attempt by the authorities to regain control over the areas, the scene of Arab unrest since Dec. 9.

Though the order came at a period of relative calm in the Gaza Strip, it coincided with the mass resignation of almost the entire Arab police force in the territory and the call by Moslem religious circles for a general strike in the territories on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The strike was to mark the holiday of Israa Wal Miiraj, when the prophet Mohammad, according to tradition, ascended to heaven from Jerusalem. The strike was also seen as an act of protest during Premier Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington.

It was fully observed Tuesday. Stores were closed, public transportation ceased and children did not go to school.

Ramallah was a ghost town Tuesday morning. The streets were virtually empty of traffic or pedestrians. But by noon, youths began burning tires in the streets, a Palestinian flag was raised, and stones were thrown at Israel Defense Force soldiers.

Two More Palestinians Killed

The rioting spread to the nearby Al-Amari refugee camp and to other major West Bank towns, particularly Kalkilya and Jenin. Two Palestinian Arabs were killed in the violence. One was shot in the head in Deir Jarir village, near Ramallah.

The other was killed in Jarba village, near Jenin, where no disturbances were reported. The army was unable to determine the cause of death.

The IDF imposed a curfew on the town of Kalkilya, following heavy rioting there. Initial reports said a number of people were injured in the clashes with security forces. The rioting triggered angry reprisals from Jewish settlers, who stoned Arab cars on the Kalkilya-Nablus road.

The tires of nine Arab-owned cars, parked in the it it ina area, in north Jerusalem, were found slashed Tuesday morning. A group calling itself "The Committee For Security On The Roads" claimed responsibility.

IDF TO PUNISH JOURNALISTS WHO FALSELY REPORT ON UNREST

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force plans to take punitive action against journalists who file what it contends are false reports of events in the administered territories.

This was confirmed Tuesday by the IDF's chief spokesman, Brig. Gen. Ephraim Lapid, who said the measures would be applied against both Israeli reporters and foreign correspondents.

But the National Federation of Israeli Journalists has vowed to fight any government attempt to punish reporters whose copy it dislikes.

The federation noted Monday that the IDF has recourse to the Press Council or the federation's own ethics committee if it feels there has been a misrepresentation of facts. But the journalists professional association said it would not allow the government to be "both the accuser and the judge."

According to Lapid, the IDF's purpose is to combat what it claims is an increasing number of false news reports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip that do damage to its image.

An example cited was a report that Palestinians have been thrown out of helicopters. The IDF spokesman said there is "absolutely no truth" to such reports. He said there have been exhaustive investigations of every rumor.

The question of local press coverage may become moot if the Press Workers Union carries out its announced plans to strike Israeli newspapers "for an indefinite period" beginning Friday.

The issue is a threat by the Publishers Association to insist on separate wage negotiations at each newspaper, instead of the collective bargaining in force until now.

UNREST LINKED TO CANCELLATION OF OPERA PERFORMANCE IN ISRAEL

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, March 15 (JTA) -- Opera director Vittorio Rossi expressed dismay over the cancellation of his production of Verdi's "Nabucco," which was to have been a centerpiece of Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations in Jerusalem from May 15 to 29.

"But many feel that 'Nabucco,' in this situation, might have played a disruptive role, because of its message of liberty, and some fear that what they call unpleasant incidents could have happened," Rossi said in an interview published Tuesday in the Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

The situation he referred to was the ongoing strife in the Israeli-administered West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli government canceled the performances, citing financial, organizational and artistic difficulties. But speculation is rife that the unrest in the territories and mounting tension were the decisive factors.

Box office sales have dropped and reservations have been canceled. Opera On Original Site Inc., a Geneva-based company that stages operas on the sites where their stories take place, blamed abandonment of the \$11.5 million production on the cancellation by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of a concert tour in Israel in honor of its 40th anniversary.

The London-based orchestra was to have

performed "Nabucco" and provided the choral climax, the immortal "March of the Hebrew Slaves," sung in Hebrew by a British choir of several hundred. But it announced March 10 that it was pulling out, ostensibly because of contractual differences with its musicians.

Michael Ecker, president of Opera On Original Site, is suing the Royal Philharmonic for breach of contract. "The last minute cancellation leaves no choice in the matter of replacing them with another world class orchestra," he said.

"Nabucco" tells the story of Jews being carried off to slavery in Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar 2,500 years ago.

PLO REFUSES TO CLOSE U.N. MISSION; ORDER MAY TAKE MONTHS TO ENFORCE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 15 (JTA) -- Israeli and other diplomats here conceded Tuesday that it may be a long time before the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations is shut down, despite an order by the U.S. Justice Department last Friday that it be closed by March 21.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III, acting in compliance with legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan last Dec. 22, had the order hand-delivered Friday to Zehdi Terzi, the PLO representative at the United Nations.

But Terzi is defiant. He told a news conference here Monday that the PLO does not intend to leave. "We have the right to stay here and we will stay here," Terzi said, adding, "The only way they (the U.S.) can make me leave is just to put me behind steel bars somewhere and take me away."

The Justice Department stated in its announcement that if the PLO did not comply with its order, it would seek an injunction in federal court to force compliance. Diplomats here said they believe the Justice Department will follow the scenario, but it will take "a long time" to unfold.

The Arab states, meanwhile, are pressing for a special session of the General Assembly later this week to condemn the United States for its move against the PLO.

That would be redundant inasmuch as the General Assembly voted 143-1 on March 2 for a resolution calling on the United States to "abide by its treaty obligations" under the Headquarters Agreement. Israel cast the only negative vote. The United States did not participate in the voting.

Envoy Confident Of Closure

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday that although the court proceedings against the PLO may take "many months," he is certain that in the end, the PLO mission will be closed.

Netanyahu noted that U.S. law takes precedence over international law. That same point was made by Charles Cooper, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, when he announced the decision Friday to enforce the closure order.

According to observers here, it is not clear whether the United States will have to sue the United Nations to settle the dispute. The litigation could take even longer than the "many months" diplomats say it would take to enforce an injunction against the PLO.

PANAMA'S JEWS FEAR ANTI-SEMITIC REPRISALS IN FACE OF CRISIS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Panama is wary of the potential of an anti-Semitic backlash to the political and financial crisis boiling in the Central American country, according to Jewish officials who have been in touch recently with some of the 1,800 Jews there.

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, Latin American affairs director for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said a dozen congregational leaders told him last week during his fact-finding mission there that they feared a recurrence of the events of last June and July.

The National Civil Crusade, the Panamanian opposition movement, called a general strike in June, which many Jewish store owners in Panama City declined to honor, Rosenthal said.

Although non-Jewish shopkeepers also failed to comply, a campaign of anti-Semitic leaflets and death threats followed in July. The rabbi said Crusade leaders tacitly conceded to him last week that members of their group mounted the drive.

Rosenthal said the Crusade has since instituted controls to identify fliers that were authorized by their members. The Crusade leaders "assured us that they opposed anti-Semitism and would take steps to stop its recurrence from within their ranks," he added.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, international affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, agreed in a separate interview that "Given the history of anti-Semitism there, and the ease with which people move to single Jews out, now it can be much more serious."

The AJCommittee assessed the situation based on information obtained from Sergio Nudestejer of Mexico City, a staffer in charge of Central American Jewish affairs for the organization who has made several recent visits to Panama and has continual telephone contact with Jews there.

Tanenbaum said that in addition to Jews' "disproportionate percentage" among the merchant and professional ranks, Jews are involved in various ways in running the Panama Canal. The United States has placed in escrow \$7 million earmarked to Panama from canal revenues.

Cooperating With Crusade

Rosenthal said he learned that Jews are cooperating with the Crusade, which supports deposed Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle and calls for the ouster of military leader Manuel Noriega.

He said that the ADL representatives met with Jewish business people who are "taking a very active role in the Crusade. The Jews are supportive of a return to democratic government."

The ADL official added that the Jewish community would donate to a food relief program recently established by the Catholic Church.

Rosenthal and Tanenbaum differed in their emphasis on Delvalle's Jewishness. The ADL official said that Delvalle attends a Reform synagogue in Panama City, but that "You hear virtually no mention of the fact that Delvalle is Jewish."

But Tanenbaum said, "In the face of a crisis, there is no telling if Delvalle's Jewishness might become a focus of anti-Semitism." Rosenthal agreed, however, that there could be no

overall discounting of future references to Delvalle's Jewishness.

Tanenbaum said that based on the potential for conflict, and the fact, for example, that "Jewish landlords were attacked after the Mexican earthquake," the AJCommittee had alerted the (U.S.) State Department to "the possibility that Delvalle might be scapegoated."

Panama has been politically tense for more than a year, but the situation was exacerbated in the last two weeks with the deposal of Delvalle by Noriega. It followed Delvalle's attempt to depose Noriega, who was indicted in the United States for drug trafficking.

COURT WILL RECONVENE TO HEAR NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT DEMJANJUK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem district court will reconvene in special session Monday to hear new evidence by the defense in the case of accused war criminal John Demjanjuk, whose year-long trial ended officially last month.

The three-judge panel, which is now deliberating its verdict, agreed to a request by chief defense counsel Yoram Sheftel to be allowed to introduce new written evidence obtained from the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. The prosecution assented.

The evidence is a series of reports prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice. They relate to evidence presented in American courts at hearings over a period of years that led to the stripping of Demjanjuk's U.S. citizenship and his extradition to Israel in 1986 to stand trial for war crimes.

Demjanjuk, 67, a Ukrainian-born, retired automobile worker, is accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the terrible," who brutalized Jewish inmates and operated the gas chambers. The defense claims he is a victim of mistaken identity.

The new evidence is said to include the testimony of 15 former inmates of Treblinka and six from other camps, who either failed to identify Demjanjuk as "Ivan" at the American hearings or testified they knew him at other camps during the time he was alleged to be at Treblinka.

MAPAM LEADER RETURNS FROM CHINA; PARTY KNESSET MEMBER RETIRES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- The Mapam party's secretary general, Elazar Granot, returned from a 10-day visit to China claiming, "We have opened the door and taken the first step."

Granot was the first member of a Zionist party ever invited to the People's Republic of China. He was accompanied by Marek Gefen, editor of the Mapam newspaper Al Hamishmar. They were the guests of the Association for Improving International Relations, an organization formed by the Chinese Communist Party in 1981. China has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Granot said they had been "treated like kings" and with exceptional warmth.

Meanwhile, Mapam Knesset member Victor Shemtov announced his retirement from the Knesset Monday, ending a 26-year career as a parliamentarian and government minister. His Knesset seat will be taken by Gad Yatziv, a Jerusalem sociologist and former Mapam political secretary.

REAGAN, SHAMIR UNABLE TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES ON U.S. PEACE PLAN

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President Reagan ended two hours of talks at the White House Wednesday with Reagan stressing that the U.S. peace plan cannot be "sliced" up, while Shamir reiterated his opposition to the international peace conference.

"The United States will not slice this initiative apart and will not abandon it," Reagan said during the departure ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

"And those who will say 'no' to the U.S. plan -- and the prime minister has not used this word -- need not answer to us. They will have to answer to themselves and their people as to why they turned down a realistic and sensible plan to achieve negotiations," the president said.

But Shamir, repeating the remarks he made Tuesday after his meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz, said, "I have strong reservations concerning the proposed international conference, which in my view is not conducive to peace."

Shamir, in an apparent effort to encourage modifications of the plan, said Wednesday that months ago he accepted a Shultz proposal to launch direct negotiations under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union. "Unfortunately, it was rejected. Nevertheless, I shall be ready to consider a similar proposal," the Israeli premier said.

Shultz made the proposal on his way to meetings in Moscow, but it was rejected by King Hussein of Jordan.

Plan 'Satisfies Nobody Completely'

A senior administration official, who briefed reporters after the White House talks Wednesday, said the new U.S. plan "satisfies nobody completely, but we think it satisfies everybody's essential needs." He said Shamir's opposition to a peace conference did not constitute a "slamming of the doors."

"We will always, in describing our proposal, describe it as workable. And (if) you start pulling it apart, selecting elements from that proposal, it is not going to be workable. It's as simple as that. It's an integral whole. And we will continue to stand on that position," the official said.

The official reiterated the goal of starting negotiations on interim measures for the West Bank and Gaza Strip as early as May. Six months after those negotiations begin, up to 12 months of final-status negotiations would occur. The international peace conference would occur two weeks before interim negotiations commenced, presumably in mid-April.

Israel will formally respond to the U.S. plan next week, after a Cabinet debate on the proposals, Shamir announced at a news conference Wednesday afternoon.

In his remarks at the East Room departure ceremony, Reagan called for "real progress" to "break the deadlock that has lasted far too long."

"We have seen a new sense of urgency on the part of many in the region and a wide recog-

nition of the reality that the status quo is unacceptable," the president said.

Shamir stressed the close cooperation between Israel and the United States and said that it will continue despite any differences between the two countries.

'We Shall Succeed' In Peace

"I return to Jerusalem confident that with the friendship and understanding of the United States government and its people we shall succeed" in the peace effort, the Israeli leader told Reagan.

According to an administration official, Reagan told Shamir in private conversations that the Palestine Liberation Organization is "once again revealing its real intent: It says no to peace and yes to terrorism."

The president also told Shamir they must find a way "to get moderate Palestinians and Arab governments to take a stake in the process, in becoming assertive," the official said.

The two leaders also discussed Soviet Jewry, economic issues, Lebanon and quality of life for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

During the White House ceremony Wednesday, Reagan said Soviet Jewry is "at the top of my agenda in my discussions with (Soviet) Secretary (Mikhail) Gorbachev." The president is scheduled to go to Moscow later this year for his fourth summit with Gorbachev.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will be in Washington the week of March 21 and will discuss the Middle East peace process with Shultz.

The departure ceremony was held in the East Room, rather than outside as planned, because of the cold. In his concluding remarks, Reagan wished Shamir and Israel a happy 40th anniversary.

U.S. WON'T IMPOSE PEACE SETTLEMENT ON ISRAEL, REAGAN ASSURES UJA LEADERS

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan declared Tuesday that the United States will not impose a peace settlement in the Middle East against Israel's will.

"Peace will not be imposed by us or by anyone else," the president said during a meeting with members of the United Jewish Appeal Prime Minister's Council at the White House.

"It will and must come from the genuine give-and-take of negotiations. That's what we are working to set in motion now," he said.

The president's remarks to the group of some 200 Jewish leaders came as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel was meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz to discuss Shultz's new peace proposals for a settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir and Shultz said after their meeting that they made little progress and that major differences between them remain. The premier has welcomed the U.S. initiative, but is firmly opposed to several elements of the plan, which advocates Israeli withdrawal from the territories in return for peace.

In his speech to the UJA leaders, Reagan vowed that American support for Israel is un-

shaken and declared that "no wedge will be driven between the United States and Israel."

"Our commitment to close relations and to Israel's security," he said, "has been reflected in our foreign aid levels, our commercial cooperation of research and defense, and the vital and historic free-trade agreement that we have signed."

The president asserted that America's commitment to Israeli security is reflected in Shultz's new peace initiative. "Making progress toward peace in the Middle East not only serves mutual interests, it is urgent. It's in America's and Israel's interest to develop a credible basis on which to make progress -- one that promises to overcome stalemate and make genuine reconciliation possible. That's why I am delighted that Prime Minister Shamir is here," Reagan said.

Continuing, the president said to the applause of the Jewish leaders: "And let me underscore one point that I hope needs no underscoring: Our policy has as its basis -- and this is a first principle in any negotiation -- the assuring of Israel's freedom and security. We will not leave Israel to stand alone. Nor will we acquiesce in any effort to 'gang up' on Israel."

BELGIAN FORUM ON MIDEAST TO INCLUDE EBAN, SINIORA

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, March 16 (JTA) -- Brussels' Secular Jewish Community Center has arranged a meeting here next week between about 30 prominent Israeli and Palestinian public figures to discuss a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the center announced Tuesday.

The theme will be "Give Peace a Chance" and the participants will include Abba Eban and Hanna Siniora, according to David Susskind, honorary president of the Jewish center.

Eban is a dovish Labor Party member of the Knesset and chairman of its Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Siniora is editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic newspaper Al-Fajr and an outspoken Palestinian nationalist close to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But the planned forum has drawn strong opposition from another Jewish community group here, the "Cercle Ben-Gurion" (Ben-Gurion Club), which has started a campaign to get signatures on a petition rejecting any criticism of Israeli policies.

Susskind said the meeting will be chaired by former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and would include the participation of several Belgian political leaders.

CHINA ISN'T READY TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- The People's Republic of China will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until it alters its policies, Haaretz reported from London Wednesday, quoting the Chinese foreign minister, Wu Xueqian.

"The time is not right at present to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, given the existing situation," the minister said Tuesday, according to Haaretz's London correspondent.

He said China is interested in participating in an international conference as a solution to the Middle East conflict. But he would not say whether the Peking government would recognize Israel as a precondition for its participation, Haaretz reported.

PEACE NOW ACTIVIST URGES ISRAELI COMPROMISE, U.S. JEWISH DISSENT

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Israeli writer and politician Yael Dayan is urging American Jews to take sides in Israel's internal debate on the future of the administered territories.

Otherwise, said Dayan, 49, daughter of the late Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, "I have to come to American Jews and tell them to compromise on everything they stand for in order to produce the facade of solidarity."

Dayan, Brig. General (Res.) Giora Furman and Mark Rosenblum, director of North American Friends of Peace Now, spoke with reporters Tuesday morning.

Along with Menachem Brinker, a literature professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, they are trying to spread the message of the 10-year-old Peace Now movement, which calls for territorial compromise and mutual recognition by the Israelis and the Palestinians as a solution both to the present unrest and Israel's long-term security concerns.

Their visit coincides with the talks in Washington between U.S. leaders and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who is opposed to proposals calling for territorial compromise.

"There isn't a unified Israel, and why should they (Americans) support everything but what they believe in?" said Dayan, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Labor Party and a candidate for the Knesset.

"There are two options, and Israel is facing them, the Jewish world is facing them, the State Department is facing them, Arafat is facing them. You take a position according to your political stance," she said.

Dayan argued that Israelis who accept American financial support and political backing cannot demand an end to other forms of "interference."

Beyond the question of taking sides, Dayan defended Peace Now's position that Israel's security needs can be reconciled with Palestinian self-determination.

No Threat To Israel, She Says

She urged Americans to discount the claims of Shamir that relinquishing all or part of the territories would present a threat to Israel's survival.

She said that argument "is really taking away our tremendous military achievement of '67 and not counting the enormous development that we have undergone since then militarily." Dayan served in the Six-Day War as an officer and war correspondent.

However, she also voiced regret that there is no Palestinian counterpart to Peace Now.

The Israeli movement had its greatest success in 1982, when its demonstration against Israel's Lebanon war drew an estimated 400,000 Israelis to Tel Aviv.

Rosenblum said that Friends of Peace Now has a mailing list with 20,000 names and a list of donors that has increased from 6,000 to 10,000 in the past three months.

Besides arranging press briefings and speaking appearances for Dayan, Furman and Brinker, the group is collecting signatures for a petition urging 70 U.S. senators to sign a letter asking Shamir to accept a land-for-peace compromise.

Thirty senators signed the original letter, which was delivered to Shamir March 7.

IDF SEVERS PHONE SERVICE TO TERRITORIES AS PALESTINIAN DIES IN NEW VIOLENCE**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities cut off direct overseas telephone communications from the West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday night, the latest in a series of punitive measures against Palestinian civil disobedience.

But violence continued unabated in the territories Wednesday. One Palestinian died and at least six were injured when the Israel Defense Force acted to break up a riot in the Nur esh Shams refugee camp, near Tulkarm in the West Bank.

The fatality was identified as a man in his early 60s, who reportedly suffocated from tear gas fired at the rioters. The riots began when local residents tried to dismantle a fence the IDF erected along the main road to prevent stone-throwing at Jewish vehicles. The riots spread to Tulkarm.

A curfew was imposed on the Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah after violent demonstrations.

Curfews also were clamped on refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, after rioting broke out Wednesday. The entire territory was placed under a 24-hour general curfew Sunday and Monday.

Israeli sources claimed that as a result, there were fewer robberies and fewer complaints that nationalist activists were intimidating Arab laborers going to their jobs in Israel.

Israel, meanwhile, is resorting increasingly to punitive sanctions against Palestinians who are in the second day of a total general strike in the West Bank. Last week they cut off gasoline supplies to the territories, barred visitors from Jordan, halted export licenses and tightened road checks on cars traveling from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

The authorities said the cutoff of overseas telephone connections was a way to prevent instructions from the Palestine Liberation Organization abroad reaching Palestinian activists in the territories.

Meanwhile, the IDF is investigating the possibility that a young Palestinian, Arafat Abdul Aziz Hayouh of the West Bank village of Ein Yabrud, was killed by Jewish settlers.

His body was found in the nearby village of Deir Jarir, near the settlement of Ofra. According to military sources, he was killed by an Uzi machine gun, a weapon used by Jewish settlers. There have been no arrests.

ISRAEL DISMAYED BY EUROPEAN MOVES, BUT SAYS IT WILL HONOR TRADE PACT**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset Wednesday that Israel will honor its trade agreements with the 12 member-states of the European Community, despite the Parliament of Europe's refusal to ratify them.

Peres spoke in response to seven agenda motions denouncing resolutions adopted March 10 by the Strasbourg-based parliament, which serves as the E.C.'s legislative body.

The motions condemned Israel for inhumane treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, citing "torture, arbitrary arrests, reprisals and other acts of violence."

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel has in fact

cabled the parliament's president, Lord Plum of Britain, charging that "outside political considerations" intervened in Israel's relations with the E.C.

He protested the "encouragement" the parliament has given the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Peres called the resolutions "a blow to the peace process," but insisted Israel would keep its side of the economic bargain with the E.C. He noted that Israel purchased European goods valued at \$6 billion a year and had a \$2.5 million trade deficit with the Europeans.

He suggested that the E.C.'s lawyers examine the agreements with Israel under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) protocols to explain the gap between the E.C.'s principles and its actions last week.

Although the agreements were signed with all 12 E.C. members last year, after two years of negotiations, the European Parliament on March 9 voted overwhelmingly against ratifying them.

ISRAEL HAS NOT YET CLOSED ITS CASE ON JOSEF MENGELE**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Israel is still not satisfied that human bones exhumed in Brazil on June 6, 1985 are the remains of Josef Mengele, the notorious Auschwitz death camp doctor, a Justice Ministry official said Wednesday.

The ministry's director general, Haim Klugman, said it has not yet been accepted here that the remains have been conclusively identified as Mengele's and as long as some doubt exists, the case of the Nazi war criminal will not be closed.

Klugman spoke in response to a New York Times story Monday that Israel has closed its file on Mengele. He denied the newspaper's report that an Israeli pathologist, Dr. Maurice Rogev, concluded during a visit to Brazil last year that the bones were, in fact, Mengele's.

Klugman said Israel would continue its contacts with Brazil, the United States and West Germany on the matter. Those countries, along with Israel, sent teams of pathologists and forensic experts to Brazil to examine the skeleton buried at a cemetery in Embu, near Sao Paulo.

The bones were unearthed after a German couple living in Brazil, Wolfram and Liselotte Bossert, claimed they had sheltered Mengele for 10 years, during which he assumed the name of Wolfgang Gerhard. Gerhard was drowned while swimming in 1979.

The experts determined, mainly on the basis of dental records, that Gerhard was Mengele. But those records have been called into question recently. Moreover, the bones showed no evidence of treatment for osteomyelitis, an infection Mengele is known to have had in his youth.

Mengele's family, which runs a prosperous farm machinery business in Gunzburg, the Bavarian town where Mengele was born in 1911, admitted after the exhumation that it had been in touch with Mengele in Brazil over the years and that his son, Rolf, had visited him there in 1977.

But the family has refused to have the remains brought to West Germany for reburial. Some sources said they feared his grave would become a neo-Nazi shrine or a target for thieves.

Mengele, who joined the Nazi party in 1933, the year Hitler came to power, earned the sobriquet "angel of death" for his inhuman medical experiments on Auschwitz inmates.

EX-REFUSENIKS ABRAMOVICH, PRESTIN ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Two longtime Moscow refuseniks, Pavel Abramovich and Vladimir Prestin, arrived Monday in Israel, on a direct flight from the Soviet Union via Bucharest.

Abramovich, who will be 49 on March 24, was accompanied by his wife, Marta; brother, Grigory; and Marta's mother, Ida Mendelevna Balashinskaya, 84, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

They were greeted at the airport by their son, Felix, 23, who arrived in Israel in August and is now a student at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

Prestin, 53, who is Abramovich's brother-in-law, arrived with his wife, Elena; and son, Mikhail, 23. Elena Prestina's sister, Inna Levin Yakhot, lives in Beersheba.

Abramovich and Prestin are both electronics engineers, each refused since 1971 on the basis of "state secrets." Prestin also has worked as a computer scientist and geophysicist.

Abramovich organized a seminar on "secrecy" in November that attracted more than 100 refuseniks and international journalists. He is the author of two journals of articles on the issue of "state secrets."

Abramovich received permission to emigrate Dec. 3, on the eve of the summit meeting in Washington between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

But that permission was placed in doubt in January, when emigration authorities told him they were missing necessary documents for his mother-in-law. They also told Grigory, a six-year refusenik, that his invitation was no longer valid.

Abramovich staged a demonstration Jan. 20 in Moscow, and since then his family's problems apparently have been reconciled.

(Reporter Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this story.)

4,000 JEWS EXPECTED IN WARSAW FOR 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPRISING

By Milton Jacoby

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Up to 4,000 Jews from some 20 countries are expected to converge on Warsaw during the third week of April for observance of the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Zbigniew Unger, director of the Orbis Congress Bureau in Warsaw and a major organizer of the convocation, estimated during a recent visit here that Israel would send more than 1,000 delegates and that Jewish youth groups would send more than 1,500, including 300 from the United States and Canada.

Soviet Jews also have been invited, he said, and groups from Australia, Eastern Europe, South Africa and South America also will attend.

About 2,000 people attended the 40th anniversary commemoration in 1983.

The major events of the anniversary are planned for April 18 and 19, the Polish official said.

A monument paying tribute to the ghetto heroes, who killed hundreds of better-armed German troops over two months, will be dedicated. The monument is being completed at the site of the Umschlagplatz, where the Nazis put 300,000 Jews on trains bound for the Treblinka

death camp.

At the commemoration, buses will take the visitors 90 miles north to Treblinka, where a vast plain now covers the bodies of the victims, for recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish.

The April 19 ceremonies will include the laying of wreaths at the Warsaw Ghetto Monument and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by Jewish visitors and non-Jews.

Officials from the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem will honor more than 100 Polish citizens for risking their lives to aid Jews fleeing the Nazi forces.

Leaders of Poland and other nations will speak about the commemoration at the Congress Hall of the Palace of Culture and Science.

Polish Jewry numbered 3 million people before the Holocaust, and the community now comprises 5,000 to 10,000 Jews. Yet, the government sponsors the Warsaw Ghetto commemorations every five years and protects the remnants of Jewish life in Warsaw, Lublin and Krakow.

The Eastern bloc nation has sponsored a variety of activities for Jews over the past 10 years, according to Unger. The national government is the primary funding source for a weekly Jewish newspaper, the Yiddish State Theater, Jewish cultural societies in major cities, university courses in Hebrew, the rebuilding of synagogues and restoration of Jewish archives and a Jewish museum.

The citizens and municipality of Warsaw contributed funds for the ghetto memorial.

Kalman Sultanik, president of the Federation of Polish Jews, complimented "the government and people of Poland" for their "remarkable work in giving archives and memorabilia to Yad Vashem and other Israel institutions."

He also referred to the Auschwitz Exhibit, a Polish-prepared examination of the notorious concentration camp. The exhibit is on tour in North America.

Sultanik complimented Poland for "having made great strides recently in forging warm and close ties between itself, the State of Israel, and our own American Jewish community."

Other anniversary events planned include an International Youth Quiz on the "Struggle for Survival and the Martyrdom of the Jewish People during World War II"; nightly presentations by the Yiddish State Theater of "Songs of the Perished Nation"; and the Chamber Opera's premiere performance of "King of Atlantide," which was written by a Jewish inmate of the Terezin death camp and is based on Hitler's tyranny.

ISRAELI DOCTORS APPEAL FOR ANNE POLLARD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- The Israel Medical Association has appealed to the American Medical Association to ensure proper medical care for Anne Henderson Pollard, wife of Jonathan Jay Pollard, an American convicted last year of spying for Israel.

Anne Pollard, serving two concurrent five-year prison sentences as an accessory to her husband's espionage, is reportedly seriously ill with a stomach disorder. Dr. Ram Ishai, chairman of the Israel Medical Association, has written to Dr. James Sammons, chairman of the AMA, describing her condition.

According to Ishai, she has developed severe breathing problems, in addition to serious internal bleeding, and is very weak.

**ARAB STRIKE, RIOTS CONTINUE
AS THREE ARE TRIED FOR BEATINGS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force's attempts to break a general strike in the West Bank appeared to have backfired Thursday.

The strike, which was called for two days ending Wednesday, continued Thursday in various parts of the territory. On instructions from Palestinian nationalist activists, merchants were ordered to open their shops in the morning until noon to allow local residents to purchase essentials.

The IDF over the past two days has been forcing shop owners to do the reverse: close in the morning and open for business at noon. Civil administration sources said that measure was taken to break the power of the underground Palestinian leadership.

But local merchants responded by keeping closed all day. Bethlehem, for example, which usually buzzes with activity in the morning, was completely paralyzed by the strike Thursday.

A curfew, imposed on the town of Tulkarm after rioting Wednesday night, was lifted Thursday. Security forces made arrests during the night at several trouble spots, including Tulkarm, Jenin and neighboring refugee camps.

Curfews were still in effect in the Jenin and Jalazoun refugee camps, and the towns of Kalkilya and Azoun, all scenes of heavy rioting this week.

Several Molotov cocktails were thrown at Israeli vehicles in parts of the West Bank during the past 24 hours, but there were no casualties or damage. A border police patrol was stoned Thursday as it passed Herod's Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. One police officer suffered a slight head injury.

Soldiers Go On Trial

Meanwhile, three IDF soldiers charged with aggravated assault went on trial in the Jaffa military court Thursday. Their commanding officer is accused of inappropriate behavior. All pleaded not guilty.

The soldiers were filmed by a CBS television camera crew kicking and beating two handcuffed Palestinians near a military prison in Nablus on Feb. 5.

Three other soldiers involved in burying an Arab youth alive in a West Bank village were also scheduled to go on trial Thursday.

The sharp divisions in the country over the IDF's handling of unrest in the territories has spread to the army. About 250 reservists, up to the rank of brigadier general, signed a petition supporting IDF policy in the territories and strongly rejected criticism of the military. It was sent to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

The reservists, who said they did not represent any political party or movement, stated in their petition that they stood behind the soldiers who must "struggle with agitators who humiliate and attack them."

Meanwhile, a delegation of five members of the Greek Parliament who completed a tour of the

West Bank and Gaza Strip sharply condemned Israeli policies there Thursday. They told reporters they found hunger and a shortage of medicine and said they would try to raise money and recruit volunteer doctors for the Palestinians.

They said that under present circumstances they could not see any way to "normalize" Greek relations with Israel. The two countries have diplomatic representation only on the consular level.

Yuval Neeman, leader of the ultranationalist Tehiya party, denounced the Greek parliamentarians. He charged that they spoke out of hatred for Israel, not sympathy with the Palestinians.

**KNESSET DEBATE TURNS VERBAL BRAWL
AS LABOR, LIKUD CLASH ON PEACE**

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA) -- An angry Knesset debate over the European Community's refusal to ratify its new trade agreements with Israel turned into a verbal brawl between Labor Party and Likud members Wednesday that came close to an exchange of blows.

Likud and other right-wing Knesset members blamed the Laborites for everything from Israel's troubles in Europe to the stalled peace process and the unrest in the administered territories.

Their main targets were Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, and his colleague, Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. They apparently took their cue from Likud Herut hard-liner Ariel Sharon, the minister of commerce and industry, who has verbally savaged both men in recent days.

Eban in particular raised the hackles of Likud for going to the United States at the same time Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, is in Washington voicing his opposition to the new American peace initiative.

Uzi Landau of Likud introduced a motion to condemn "Labor's attempts to create American pressure on the prime minister during his visit to the U.S." Peres retorted by denouncing right-wing slurs on his peace policy and his staff as the "slander brigade."

Aharon Nahmias of the Labor Party shouted across the chamber to Landau, "You are a master of vilification, of slander," and Peres added for good measure, "You are dust beneath Eban's feet."

Likud's David Magen countered by saying, "It seems that the foreign minister is rattled." The foreign minister, in turn, reminded Likud of the fiasco of its 1982 war in Lebanon, where 650 Israeli soldiers were killed and 4,000 wounded, according to Peres, without achieving a single objective.

'Leading The Nation Astray'

Likud party whip Yehoshua Matza accused Peres of "leading the nation astray with fakery. You are dissension within the nation," he said.

Yossi Sarid of the left-leaning Citizens Rights Movement, called out to the Likud benches, "What dreadful rabble you are."

Despite the din, Peres upheld his policy of trading land for peace, a formula greeted by

shouts of derision from Likud. Israel must have peace, must refrain from ruling 1.5 million Arabs and must speak out clearly, the foreign minister said, a reference to the divided Labor-Likud coalition government, which remains deadlocked over the peace process and unable to make any decisions.

During the verbal slugfest, members of both parties mounted their seats or stepped into the aisles and approached one another with raised fists.

Order was restored only when Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel of Labor, who had left the chamber for awhile, returned and took over from Deputy Speaker Dan Tichon of Likud.

SECURITY FOR PERES STRENGTHENED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA) -- Security protection for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been beefed up because of reportedly "clear signs that right-wing extremists will attempt to attack the head of the Labor Party," it was reported Wednesday.

Peres may be in danger of physical assault because of his political stance in favor of an international peace conference and territorial compromise, which is in direct contradiction of the position taken by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc.

Peres has been called a "traitor" by Likud and other right-wing opponents and accused of "serving the Arabs' interests."

Agencies responsible for protecting leading Israeli public figures are said to believe that verbal attacks on Peres could incite people with an "extremist nationalist outlook" to assault him directly.

VILLAGE VOICE PHOTOGRAPHER DENIES HE THREW ROCKS AT IDF SOLDIERS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- A New York free-lance photographer denied charges Thursday that he was throwing stones at Israeli soldiers who grabbed him by the hair, broke his cameras and seized a roll of film during demonstrations in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus on March 7.

William Biggart, 40, told reporters that he had been taking photographs during a 45-minute demonstration when Israeli soldiers closed in on rock-throwing rioters. Biggart stumbled while running from the soldiers, he said, and was detained by three soldiers who "went a little crazy."

At a news conference at the offices of the Village Voice, the weekly newspaper for which Biggart had been under assignment prior to the incident, the photographer displayed two damaged cameras, one with the back torn off. He also displayed some of the pictures of Palestinian boys and women he took before and after the incident.

"They knew I was press and they just wanted to intimidate me," Biggart said of the soldiers.

But the officer who apprehended Biggart, Ziyad Abu Yamin of the Combat Engineers Corps, told the Israeli daily Maariv on Wednesday that he started chasing "someone" who threw a rock that hit the leg of a fellow soldier.

"I started chasing after him and he ducked into the alleyways. But there were puddles there and lots of mud, and he slipped and fell into

one," said Abu Yamin. "I came up to detain him, and was amazed to see a number of cameras dangling around his neck."

Biggart denied the officer's account and other reports that he had been wearing a kaffiyeh, the checkered headdress worn by Arabs.

No charges have been brought against Biggart by the IDF or civilian authorities in Nablus, although they are continuing to investigate the incident, according to Barukh Binah, spokesman for the Israeli Consulate in New York. Binah said Biggart did not appear for questioning after being summoned to civilian court in Nablus.

Biggart said that he had given his own account to an IDF major at military headquarters, but the summons to appear in civilian court did not arrive until the day before he was scheduled to leave the country, five days after the incident. Biggart said he consulted the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem and they approved of his decision to leave the country March 13.

Editor Sends Protest Letter

Martin Gottlieb, editor in chief of the Village Voice, sent a letter Thursday to Israeli Consul General Moshe Yegar protesting the incident. In the letter, Gottlieb asked for a withdrawal of the allegations against Biggart, the return of a press pass that was seized in the incident and an apology "for the unprovoked physical attack and the destruction of his film."

Gottlieb told reporters at the news conference that the incident was "an act of misportrayal that will further a bad government policy" on press access.

Binah said Thursday afternoon that the consul general had not yet received the letter, and that it was "typical that the paper did not wait before a response came to gain support on an unfounded base."

(Tel Aviv correspondent Hugh Orgel contributed to this story.)

ISRAELI AIR FORCE RAIDS TERRORIST STRONGHOLDS SOUTH OF BEIRUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA) -- The Israeli air force attacked terrorist bases in the hill country south of Beirut on Thursday morning, a military spokesman announced. All aircraft returned safely to their bases.

It was the second Israeli raid on Lebanese territory within a week. On March 21, Israeli air force jets bombed targets in two refugee camps east of Sidon.

--The spokesman said the targets of Thursday's raid were bases used by terrorists to plan and launch attacks on Israel. Sources in Beirut said the raid on the Shouf mountain area south-east of the Lebanese capital hit bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist group headed by George Habash that broke away from the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organization years ago.

The sources said the target area is also the turf of Walid Jumblatt's Druse militia. Its bases as well as a multi-story building used by the Popular Front were hit. Beirut's airport was closed for 15 minutes during the air raid.

According to the Beirut sources, the attack was retaliation for two Katyusha rocket attacks on Galilee this month. The latest occurred Wednesday morning, but caused no casualties and only minor damage.

**SAFEWAY SETTLES BOYCOTT CASE,
WILL PAY MILLION-DOLLAR FINE****By Winston Pickett****Northern California Jewish Bulletin**

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17 (JTA) -- Safeway Stores Inc. is claiming a victory in agreeing Tuesday to pay \$995,000 to the U.S. Commerce Department to settle charges that the supermarket chain cooperated with the Arab boycott against Israel.

But an American Jewish Congress boycott expert is calling the record settlement the actual victory as well as further proof that the government's Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance is doing its job.

Peter Magowan, board chairman and chief executive officer of Safeway, based in Oakland, Calif., said the cash settlement, a fraction of the one originally levied, "is a victory for us and in no way constitutes an admission by the company that we violated the law."

Moreover, he said, Safeway's conduct has been vindicated by the fact "that its practices did not merit the harsh penalties the government previously sought."

Last August the Commerce Department charged Safeway with 449 violations of the Export Administration Act of 1977, imposed a \$4.5 million fine on the supermarket chain and sought a two-year suspension of the company's export privileges.

Besides reducing the fine in Tuesday's settlement, the government dropped its demand to keep Safeway from doing business overseas.

Nevertheless, the penalty is the largest of its kind. Will Maslow, AJCongress legal counsel and author of its monthly Boycott Report, called the agreement "a victory for the OAC (Office of Anti-boycott Compliance) and shows how strong its case was from the very beginning."

The Commerce Department originally charged Safeway with supplying approximately 10 stores in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia between 1981 and 1986 with a list of the company's suppliers, some of whom were Israeli. According to the OAC, that list subsequently enabled the Arab-run grocery stores to boycott certain Israeli-manufactured products.

The Arab stores were licensed to operate under the Safeway name, but were not owned by the company. Safeway claims it no longer sells products to the Arab stores.

Safeway also was accused of requiring one of its wholesalers to submit the names of its manufacturers to an office in Kuwait for boycott clearance and of answering a Kuwaiti government questionnaire regarding its relationship with Israel and Israeli companies.

Denied Wrongdoing

At the time, Safeway vigorously denied any wrongdoing and charged the government with over-zealous application of technicalities within the boycott law.

Bernat Rosner, Safeway's chief legal counsel, said this week that Safeway was "so confident of our case, that had we chosen to pursue it to the finish, not only would we have won, it would have forced a re-evaluation of the way in which the anti-boycott law is administered."

Maslow disagreed. "The fact that Safeway denies it's guilty is meaningless, because no company is required to do so," he said, calling the company's response the equivalent of a no-

contest plea.

Moreover, Maslow contended that the settlement "is yet another indication of how well-prepared the OAC cases are, that they can prove them to the hilt, and that companies, when faced with the evidence, are always willing to settle."

Safeway's own decision to settle may have been based in part on the number of Jewish shoppers that patronize the store. The company is one of the largest grocery store chains in the United States and the firm has corporate and personal ties to Israel and the Jewish community here.

**POSSIBILITY OF MISTRIAL LOOMS
IN TRIAL OF WHITE SUPREMACISTS****By Susan Birnbaum**

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- The trial of 14 white supremacists in Fort Smith, Ark., could end in a mistrial, the federal judge trying the case has warned.

U.S. District Court Judge Morris Arnold last week told the federal prosecuting attorneys in the case, Michael Fitzhugh and Steven Snyder, that much of the evidence being presented in court is "hearsay" and that he has been allowing its presentation to continue because the prosecution promised to corroborate it later, according to Larry Lee, a reporter for the Southwest Times Record in Fort Smith who has been covering the trial.

Lee explained that hearsay evidence is normally not allowed, but that exception is made in the case of conspiracy. The white supremacists indicted for attempting to overthrow the United States government are standing trial on the charge of seditious conspiracy.

Arnold reportedly has had to instruct the jury repeatedly to ignore evidence as hearsay, and said that if he has to instruct the jury to ignore evidence too frequently, he will have no choice but to declare a mistrial, Lee reported.

The trial was slowed down early this week with the death of Arnold's father on Saturday. About two days' proceedings were canceled because of this.

Lee also said that several defense attorneys told him there probably will be a direct acquittal for two of the defendants in the case, William Wade and Robert Smalley, because there was reportedly no evidence against them that they had participated in any plot to overthrow the government.

Prosecution attorneys could not be reached for comment. But according to Lee, the prosecution was expected to rest its case as early as Friday or Monday.

Wade is charged with attempting to kill federal Judge H. Franklin Waters and FBI special agent Jack Knox for their roles in the trial of an Arkansas couple who had been convicted of harboring Gordon Kahl, a fugitive member of the white supremacist group Posse Comitatus.

Smalley is charged in the plot to overthrow the federal government by force.

The possibility of a mistrial is discussed at great length by Robert Miles, a key defendant who allegedly was part of a core group that initiated a plot to overthrow the government. Miles, a former grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and so-called ambassador-at-large of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, reports the news in two recorded telephone reports on "hotlines" of the white supremacist movement.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATIVE JEW? DEBATE PERSISTS DESPITE NEW STATEMENT By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- Judaism's Conservative movement was founded in Germany in 1845 by former Reform rabbis who felt that Reform had grown too liberal in its rejection of tradition.

But it took more than 140 years before the three major institutions of Conservative Judaism, whose 2 million members make it the largest branch of U.S. Judaism, issued the movement's first common statement of principles.

The statement, released last week, finally attempts to answer where Conservatism stands on such issues as belief in God, the role of women in Judaism, religious pluralism, and, most importantly, the movement's approach to halacha, or Jewish law.

But despite these answers, contained in a 57-page booklet called "Emet Ve-Emunah," or Light and Belief, questions remain:

- * Can a movement that has long defined itself by what it is not -- neither as liberal as Reform nor as unbending as Orthodox -- create a defining ideology?

- * Can such a definition reconcile differences that have developed between the movement's own "liberal" and "traditional" factions?

- * Will the statement achieve one of its goals, to reinvigorate a movement whose once extraordinary growth has levelled off over the last 20 years?

The leaders of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Rabbinical Assembly and the United Synagogue of America, respectively the academic, clerical and congregational bodies of the movement, answer yes to all three questions.

In a joint statement, they called the document "a thorough exploration of the core of Conservative belief, allowing for diversity in thinking, but setting an even stronger guideline for the knowledge and observance" of halacha.

The chairman of the 35-member commission that prepared the document, Rabbi Robert Gordis, acknowledged during an interview that it was a challenge to create "a positive program for Conservative Jewry," a movement that he said "is not growing."

Attracting new adherents, said Gordis, means responding to the needs of lay people, who are seeking specific parameters of belief. "People today are looking for a point of view. They're asking, 'What is Conservative Judaism?'" said Gordis, a member of the JTS faculty for more than 30 years and a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly. "He finds out when he turns to this pamphlet."

Concerning ideological differences within the movement, Gordis said the statement was devised "in a spirit of fellowship" rather than "a spirit of confrontation." Gordis said he insisted on the appointment of a commission member who represented the "right wing" of the movement.

Nothing New, Says Critic

But according to that member, Rabbi David Novack of New York, "I don't think that it (the statement) is terribly successful. It doesn't indicate anything people don't know already."

Novack is vice president of the Union for Traditional Conservative Judaism, which was founded in 1983 to counter a "liberal" trend in Conservatism that culminated in the decision to

ordain women as rabbis. It claims a membership of 5,000 families and 500 rabbis.

Novack maintains that a gulf remains between traditional Conservatives such as those in the union and much of the Conservative mainstream. They agree on the fundamentals of Conservatism -- respect and observance of the halacha along with a belief that it may be adapted to social and technological change.

"We're not opposed to changes," said Novack, "but they have to be justified according to the halacha." By allowing women to serve as rabbis and permitting automobiles to be driven to the synagogue on Sabbath, said Novack by way of example, the Conservative mainstream is saying, "We follow halacha unless we don't feel like it."

The statement of principles, said Novack, is a statement of unity only in that it includes both sides in key debates. The section on women rabbis, for example, "pays tribute" to the expanded role of women within Judaism, but acknowledges that their functioning as rabbis or cantors has not been unanimously accepted among Conservative leaders.

Said Novack, who expressed annoyance that he was unable to see a final version of the statement before it was presented this week, "I fail to see that it's going to effect more unity."

Code Of Ethics Sought

The statement also has detractors within the "mainstream," as Franklin Kreutzer of Miami, president of the United Synagogue of America, pointed out.

Calling the statement "an historic first step in the correct direction," Kreutzer said nonetheless that "the laity would rather have had a comprehensive ideology rather than principles. The laity is looking for words that can be understood and used by practicing, committed Jews in everyday life."

Kreutzer, an attorney, said the laity was not sufficiently represented on the commission and that the rabbis on the panel "really had a different view and different agenda of where it should go."

Kreutzer said the laity desires an ideology that "clears up the areas of kashrut and Shabbat observance, the appropriate roles of women. They need to talk about morality and ethics in business life, personal life."

He said the movement must take clear stands on those issues -- even in the face of ideological divisions.

"I can't believe that there can be more strain than we've already had," he said. "We've crossed many difficult hurdles and the movement is still together."

The statement contains no single, clear ideology, explained Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, because it emphasizes what he called the perennial hallmark of Conservatism: "a uniformity of deed, but pluralism of ideology."

The statement, said Kelman, "is not a catechism. There is no hierarchy that lays down what is permissible."

The statement was expected to have its first test this week, when it formed the core of study sessions at the winter meeting of the Rabbinical Assembly in Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. Following the meeting, it will be distributed among the movement's 850 synagogues. To receive a copy, send \$4 to: United Synagogue Book Service, 155 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010.

**IDF SOLDIER KILLED IN BETHLEHEM
AS 'WAR OF STONES' TURNS DEADLIER**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed Sunday in Bethlehem, after being shot in the head at close range by a pistol-wielding assailant.

Moshe Katz, 28, detailed to guard the local office of the Interior Ministry, died at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. A curfew was imposed on the Bethlehem area and several arrests were made.

The shooting capped a weekend of violence in which three Palestinians were killed and at least 18 wounded by Israel Defense Force gunfire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The news reached the Cabinet at the end of its weekly meeting. Fears were expressed that the Palestinians, now in the 103rd day of their uprising in the administered territories, have begun to resort to firearms, as well as rocks and Molotov cocktails against the IDF.

The attack on the soldier was seen as a possible breach of orders from the Palestine Liberation Organization not to use firearms against the IDF. The orders were issued apparently to limit Palestinian casualties and to retain the image of unarmed civilians battling heavily armed troops.

But several incidents in recent days indicate the "war of stones" might be turning more deadly.

Another Israeli Shot

An Israeli civilian, Adi Tzabari, 44, was shot and wounded by two gunmen in the Gaza Strip on Thursday while drilling for water. He was taken to Barzilai hospital in Ashkelon, where his wounds were pronounced serious, but not fatal.

Shots also have been fired lately at Israeli vehicles in the territories, and gasoline bomb attacks have become more frequent.

Relative quiet was reported in the Gaza Strip on Sunday after two days of violence. Rioting broke out in the Sabra neighborhood of Gaza and the Shati refugee camp after prayer services Friday, the Moslem Sabbath. The IDF moved in, killing one Palestinian and wounding 18.

Another Palestinian was shot to death Friday at the Ein Bet El-Ma refugee camp, near Nablus. Military sources said he attacked a soldier with an unidentified object.

A Palestinian youth was shot to death Saturday after he threw a gasoline bomb at soldiers in a village in northern Samaria.

The fatalities brought to 100 the number of Palestinians killed since unrest began in the territories Dec. 9.

IDF May Fire At Bomb-Throwers

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin informed the Cabinet on Sunday that the IDF has been authorized to open fire on the Palestinians who throw Molotov cocktails or other gasoline bombs.

But the soldiers must be sure they are aiming at the attackers. They are not permitted to fire into crowds from which a gasoline bomb was thrown if they cannot identify who threw it, Rabin said.

Until now, gasoline bombs have been classified as "cold" weapons not to be countered by gunfire.

The Defense Ministry also announced over the weekend that it has outlawed Shabiba, the Palestinian youth branch of Al Fatah, the centrist faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat. Security officials believe Shabiba has been at the forefront of rioting in the territories.

Israeli security forces rounded up hundreds of Palestinian activists Friday in an attempt to remove agitators and inciters.

Israelis are concerned over possible widespread violence in Israel and the territories on March 30, the 12th anniversary of Land Day. On that day in 1976, Israeli Arabs protested the expropriations of Arab land in Galilee by the IDF.

**JEW, ARAB AMERICANS DEMONSTRATE
AS SHAMIR WINDS UP HIS U.S. VISIT**By Andrew Silow Carroll (New York)
and Tom Tugend (Los Angeles)

March 20 (JTA) -- More than a thousand Arab Americans took to the streets of Brooklyn Sunday evening to protest the policies of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as the Israeli leader was making a speech in honor of Israel's 40th anniversary at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Waving the red-, black-, green- and white-striped flags of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the demonstrators chanted over and over again, "Shamir out of Brooklyn."

Inside the academy, the Israeli premier gave a rousing speech to Jewish supporters who interrupted him with applause more than 20 times.

Earlier in the day, between 500 and 1,000 flag-waving Jewish demonstrators attended a strongly nationalistic pro-Israel rally across the street from the Regency Hotel in Manhattan, Shamir's base while in New York. The rally was sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America, Americans for a Safe Israel and other pro-Shamir organizations.

The demonstrations capped an otherwise uneventful weekend for the prime minister, who spent the last four days of his American visit re-emphasizing familiar policy statements, delivering pep talks to the Jewish community and pleading for unity between Israel and the diaspora.

At public appearances in Los Angeles Thursday and Friday and in New York on Sunday, Shamir stressed a number of themes he had developed earlier in his meetings with U.S. government leaders in Washington, including:

- * Opposition to an international peace conference as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Arab and Soviet support of such a conference "reflects an attempt to create a U.N.-type setting as a tool to extract concessions from Israel," said Shamir.

- * Continued warm relations between Washington and Jerusalem. "Despite any differences of opinion, the basic relationship between Israel and the United States is as strong as ever," he said.

- * A hard line on confrontations with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The demonstrations there "are not civil rights demonstrations, but another expression of Arab refusal

to co-exist with us," the premier said.

• Appeals to unity, often couched in terms critical of American Jewish leaders who go public with their opposition to Israeli government policy.

Critical Of Jewish 'Pressure'

The last point received its warmest reception during Shamir's address Sunday before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York.

There, and earlier at a talk to leaders of the American branch of the World Sephardi Federation, Shamir railed against American Jews "who will exert pressure on their government and ask them to make pressure on Israel."

Shamir hinted at the Sephardi appearance that Shultz's proposal for an international conference came in part as the result of "international, American and Jewish factors." He claimed the secretary of state had long been opposed to such a conference.

The prime minister declined, however, to disclose details of the measure Israel would take in response to the shooting death early Sunday morning of the first soldier killed in the territories since the beginning of the present unrest.

Neither in New York nor Los Angeles did the prime minister renew his earlier suggestion that the planned summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev be joined by Arab and Israeli leaders to launch direct Mideast peace negotiations. While Shamir was in Los Angeles, the U.S. State Department shot down the idea in a detailed rebuttal.

Shamir's two-and-a-half days in Los Angeles proceeded without incident, despite predictions of protests and sharp dissent. On Thursday afternoon he unveiled the cornerstone at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Beit Hashoah-Museum of Tolerance, a \$30 million Holocaust memorial.

High Turnout In L.A.

That same evening, Shamir spoke at a dinner sponsored by the United Jewish Fund and the State of Israel Bonds Organization. Despite the absence of a number of community leaders who disagree with Shamir's policy and fears by the organizers earlier in the week of a poor turnout, 1,600 people showed up and others had to be turned away.

On Friday, Shamir addressed some 800 people at a luncheon of the World Affairs Council of Los Angeles. As he would also do at his first two meetings in New York, the prime minister answered questions from the floor.

At a Friday morning breakfast, Shamir met privately with 45 executives of the entertainment industry and some actors, under the auspices of the United Jewish Fund.

Film actor Richard Dreyfuss, who had been a main speaker at a Peace Now rally earlier in the week, said in a telephone interview that the tone at the hour-long meeting "was very polite," but that the discussion had not been particularly "illuminating."

In other events in Los Angeles, Shamir met with delegations from the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), B'nai B'rith, Youth Town of Israel and financial supporters of his Herut party.

In New York, apparently exhausted by his heavy schedule, Shamir appeared to doze briefly during his introduction by Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

Aside from the Palestinian protest Sunday

evening, demonstrations in both cities for and against the Israeli leader were mainly muted.

In Los Angeles, about 100 members of a group calling itself the Ad Hoc Committee for Palestinian Rights gathered outside the Century Plaza Hotel on Friday evening. Across the Avenue of the Stars, a smaller contingent of the Jewish Defense League took up station, but there were no incidents.

In the days prior to the Brooklyn event, leaders of the borough's large Arab community lodged protests with Brooklyn Borough President Howard Goldin, whose office co-sponsored the event with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Before flying to Israel on Monday, the Israeli premier was scheduled to conduct a satellite conference from the offices of the Council of Jewish Federations and to speak to various New York ethnic leaders.

He was also scheduled to meet late Monday night with Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

SEVEN JEWISH INTELLECTUALS BACK SHULTZ PEACE INITIATIVE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) -- Seven prominent Jewish intellectuals from the United States and Britain have called on Israel to support Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East peace initiative.

Their appeal was contained in a letter to the 100 Jewish intellectuals from six countries attending the Israel-Diaspora conference now being held in Israel on the subject of "The Future of Democracy in Israel."

The seven signatories, who described themselves as "committed supporters of Israel," are former British Academy of Sciences President Sir Isaiah Berlin, Lord Arnold Goodman, Lord Victor Rothschild and British Chief Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, all of Great Britain; and Professor Henry Rosovsky, violinist Isaac Stern and author Saul Bellow, all Americans.

The letter-writers urged Israel to abandon what they considered dubiously effective short-term measures that "are likely sooner or later to lead to moral and political disaster."

Instead, they wrote, Israel must look to compromise.

Yuval Neeman, head of the right-wing Tehiya party, dismissed the letter on the grounds that "none of its signatories has any background of defense and security considerations." Knesset member Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party dismissed the signatories as "dwarfs."

IDF BATTLES SHIITES IN LEBANON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force engaged in a heavy exchange of fire Saturday with Shiite guerrillas north of the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon. No casualties were reported.

The IDF described the operation as part of an ongoing campaign against terrorists carried out with the support of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army. The troops were on a search and destroy mission aimed at Katyusha rocket launching sites from which Israel and SLA positions have been attacked a number of times this month.

REPRIMAND URGED FOR SHAMIR AIDE WHO LEAKED NEWS ABOUT SAUDI MISSILES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- The weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday was thrown into an uproar over a broadcast threat by one of Premier Yitzhak Shamir's top aides that Israel might act to destroy Chinese missiles reportedly sold to Saudi Arabia.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a Laborite, urged Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to reprimand Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, for leaking information to the media.

Shahal charged that was not the first time Ben-Aharon made unauthorized leaks that could jeopardize Israel's security. Peres, who is vice premier, presided at the Cabinet meeting in Shamir's absence.

Ben-Aharon, who is accompanying Shamir on his visit to the United States, told the Voice of Israel Radio correspondent in Washington that the issue of the missiles in Saudi hands was discussed at length by Shamir in his talks with Reagan administration officials.

He said Israel was likely to remove the missiles on its own. "Israel has acquired a reputation of not waiting until a potential danger becomes actual," Ben-Aharon said.

The Washington Post reported Friday that China was selling medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia with nuclear warhead capability that could reach any point in the Middle East.

The State Department confirmed the report Friday, but said both China and Saudi Arabia have assured the United States that nuclear warheads would not be used with the missiles.

The Saudi government "assured us categorically at the very highest level that they don't have, nor do they intend to acquire, any nuclear capability," department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters at a news conference.

He added that the Chinese government has "stated categorically that they will not export nuclear weapons to any government."

(Washington correspondent Howard Rosenberg contributed to this report.)

U.N. AGAIN DISCUSSES U.S. ORDER TO CLOSE PLO OBSERVER MISSION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 20 (JTA) -- The U.N. General Assembly met in a special session Friday to discuss for the second time this month the closing of the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations.

Diplomats said that the Arabs pressed for the session to condemn the United States following an order issued March 11 by the U.S. Justice Department ordering the PLO mission be closed by March 21.

Diplomats conceded Friday that the assembly meeting is "redundant" inasmuch as the General Assembly voted 143-1 on March 2 for a resolution calling on the United States to allow the mission to remain open under the U.N. Headquarters Agreement. Israel cast the only negative vote and the United States did not vote.

An American official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Friday that the United States does not intend to participate in the current debate and has not decided whether to participate in the voting. He claimed that the whole purpose

of the meeting is "to embarrass the United States."

A spokesman for Israel's mission to the United Nations said Israel does not plan to participate in the debate.

At the opening of the debate Friday, Ambassador Ahmad Ghezal of Tunisia, speaking on behalf of the Arab states, called the U.S. decision to close the PLO mission "a flagrant violation of international law."

He said that the United Nations must take steps to insure that the PLO had adequate facilities.

On Thursday night, more than 250 members of the North American Jewish Students Network demonstrated across the street from the PLO's observer mission here and read a symbolic "eviction notice" to the PLO.

On Sunday, some two dozen members of the militant Jewish Defense Group staged a protest outside the PLO mission. Members of the group threw rocks at the building, but apparently caused little damage.

Thursday's student demonstration followed a rally of solidarity with Israel at Park East Synagogue attended by some 700 students. Israel's U.N. ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu, addressed the rally, calling for continued support of world Jewry for the people of Israel.

TV SERIES ON NAZI COLLABORATOR TRIGGERS UNEASE, PROTEST IN BELGIUM

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, March 20 (JTA) -- A storm of protest has been raised here over the broadcast of a three-part television series about Belgium's most notorious Nazi collaborator, Leon Degrelle, who is still a neo-Nazi activist.

The first part, aired Thursday night by RTBF, the French-language television station, featured a 1977 interview with Degrelle, 82, who lives in Malaga, Spain.

It was accompanied by commentary from historians and World War II specialists. Nevertheless, patriotic groups protested vigorously and the Auschwitz Foundation, an association of death camp survivors, tried to bring legal action against RTBF, but was stymied by jurisdictional problems.

They argued that the series gives a platform to a Nazi who still denies the Holocaust and the existence of gas chambers to exterminate Jews. A Christian Democratic member of the Belgian Parliament, Paul-Henry Gendebien, asked RTBF to cancel the series on grounds that the publicity offered Degrelle would trigger a revival of right-wing extremist propaganda.

The television station claimed the broadcast has historical merit and insisted that freedom of speech required that Degrelle be allowed to express his views as long as they are balanced by the truth. "Fascism is like AIDS, the best way to combat it is to speak about it," one local newspaper said Thursday.

Degrelle, who headed the Belgian fascist Rex Party, was Hitler's most outspoken supporter during the Nazi occupation. He was sentenced to death in absentia after the war, but the sentence became moot when the statute of limitations took effect in 1974. He is barred from entering Belgium.

In general, collaborationists are a taboo subject in Belgium. Authorities are said to fear Degrelle might compromise several living personalities in this country were he allowed to return.

DEFENDANT IN FORT SMITH TRIAL ACQUITTED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) -- The judge presiding over the Fort Smith, Ark., trial of 14 white supremacists charged with plotting to overthrow the U.S. government has granted one of the defendants his motion for directed verdict of acquittal, because of insufficient evidence in the case.

U.S. District Court Judge Morris Arnold ruled Thursday that there was insufficient evidence to continue to try Robert Smalley, 32, who was charged with seditious conspiracy, according to Larry Lee, a reporter for the Southwest Times Record in Fort Smith.

Lee said there is a possibility that defendants William Wade, 69, and David McGuire, 25, also will be acquitted of the charges of conspiring to kill a federal judge and special FBI agent in Arkansas in 1983.

Either party in a trial may receive a directed verdict in its favor if the opposing party fails to present a necessary defense.

Lee, who has been covering the trial since it began Feb. 16, said that Judge Arnold has "persistently asked the government prosecuting attorneys to pare their case down because a lot of the evidence was repetitive."

On March 10, Judge Arnold reportedly told the prosecuting attorneys that he might have to call a mistrial because they had presented too much "hearsay" evidence that was not subsequently corroborated. The judge has had to frequently instruct the jury to ignore evidence during the proceedings, Lee said.

Smalley, who was tried in the September 1985 Seattle trial of a group called The Order, served about eight months in prison for selling illegal weapons to Randall Rader, 36, a former weapons specialist for The Order and another white supremacist group, The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord (CSA). Rader was called as a government witness in the trial.

ADL, Others Concerned

People who monitor the activities of hate groups were concerned at the turn of events in the trial. Irwin Suall, director of the fact-finding department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who has observed some of the trial, said, "My impression was that the government had a very strong case."

But Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal, said he was "concerned" by three factors in the trial: "the fact that the government cut in half its witness list of over 200 names; the directed verdict of acquittal; and the fact that Judge Arnold told the prosecuting attorneys there was a possibility of a mistrial because of the lack of corroborative evidence."

Zeskind explained that the conspiracy charge "hinges on the difference between free speech advocacy and speech which engenders imminent action. The government's case rests on proving that imminent action was either the intended or even the unintended result of the defendants' activities."

The government is expected to rest its case Monday, with the defendants beginning their case following that. Aryan Nations leaders Robert Miles, Richard Butler and Louis Beam are planning to take the stand on their own behalf.

LAWMAKER SUGGESTS FIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE GOOD U.S.-ISRAELI TIES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA) -- Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has called for an intensified strategic relationship between the United States and Israel.

Speaking to the United Jewish Appeal's National Young Leadership Conference here last week, the representative advocated various congressional measures that would bolster defense cooperation.

Aspin called for the U.S. military to deploy Israeli weapons "in quantity," noting that the Pentagon is testing various Israeli-designed weaponry.

A Capitol Hill source explained that the Pentagon, through its foreign weapons evaluation program, tests well-made weaponry already in use by other countries.

The U.S. Navy deployed Israeli night-target systems from its helicopter gunships last fall when it searched for oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

Aspin said that as a result of the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding, which set up joint military and political groups, "there have been joint military maneuvers between" Israeli and U.S. armed forces "to the mutual benefit of both."

Aspin also noted that the U.S. Army recently agreed to jointly develop Israel's Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile (ATBM). The Pentagon will spend about \$22 million this year for the U.S. research effort, with Congress having authorized up to \$75 million for the program. Israel will pay 20 percent of the project's cost.

The most publicized U.S.-Israeli defense problem of 1987 was Israel's cancellation -- under fierce U.S. pressure -- of plans to build the Lavi fighter plane. Aspin called Israel's cancellation of the project the "right decision."

To offset the loss, the United States is allowing Israel to spend \$300 million of its U.S. military aid within Israel on other military projects. Almost all of the other \$1.5 billion must be spent on buying U.S. weapons.

Aspin recommended five congressional actions:

- * Make Israel a permanent non-North American Treaty Organization (NATO) ally. Congress currently bestows that status on a yearly basis. Israel gained that designation in 1987 and 1988.

- * Direct the Pentagon to establish a procurement office in Israel. Israel would have greater access to U.S. plans for building new weapons systems and Israeli defense firms would have greater procurement opportunities.

- * Exempt Israel from the Pentagon ban on "offshore procurement of munitions," which would allow it to sell ammunition to the United States.

The Capitol Hill source explained the Pentagon is considering upgrading its 105mm tank guns to 120mm. Since Israel arguably makes the best 105mm munitions, it could serve as a temporary supply source as U.S. factories retool.

- * Include Israel in proposed protectionist legislation. The Pentagon automatically inflates the bids of all foreign countries by 50 percent.

- * Direct the Pentagon to include Israeli companies in the U.S. defense industrial base. Israel would benefit because its companies could then bid for additional projects set aside for countries included in that "base."

**PLO REFUSES TO CLOSE MISSION;
U.S. SEEKING COURT INJUNCTION**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization refused to comply with a United States order to close its United Nations observer mission in New York on Monday.

Anticipating the PLO's decision to ignore the March 21 deadline, Justice Department officials began filing a federal suit to force the closure. Notification of the suit was expected to be mailed to the mission by the U.S. attorney in New York on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the U.N. General Assembly continued to debate in special session a resolution to condemn the United States for ordering the closure of the mission. A vote on the proposal was not expected until Wednesday, according to officials at the U.S. and Israeli missions to the United Nations.

According to a Justice Department spokesperson in Washington, the department had "no reason to believe" the PLO would respond to Attorney General Edwin Meese's March 11 letter ordering the mission closed. The letter was aimed at enforcing the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, which Congress passed in December.

Upon receiving notification of the suit seeking an injunction to close the mission, the PLO will have 20 days to respond. A mechanism exists for the Justice Department to seek an expedited hearing on the case, although the spokesperson was not aware that such a step had been requested.

A spokesperson at the U.S. mission to the United Nations said that the United States could resort to making the PLO office "unservicable" by withholding water or electricity, although such a suggestion was still hypothetical.

The General Assembly's special session marks the second time this month the body has met to discuss the closing of the PLO mission. Member nations voted 143-1 on March 2 to adopt a resolution calling on the United States to allow the mission to remain open. Israel cast the only negative vote and the United States did not vote.

Neither U.S. nor Israeli delegates are participating in the current General Assembly debate.

**LEADERS CHALLENGE SHAMIR DURING
FEDERATION SATELLITE BROADCAST**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA) -- North American Jewish leaders politely challenged Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Monday to clarify his position on the peace process, to outline his future plans and to explain how differences within Israel's divided unity government would be resolved.

The Jewish leaders pressed the Israeli premier repeatedly on these subjects during a closed telecast of the Jewish Satellite Network operated by the Council of Jewish Federations.

Appearing on a call-in program broadcast from New York to 27 Jewish federations in the United States and Canada, Shamir reiterated his reasons for rejecting U.S. Secretary of State Shultz's proposal for an international Mideast peace con-

ference in favor of his own call for direct negotiations between Israel and Arab belligerents.

He also repeated his criticism of American Jewish leaders who have spoken out against his government's policies, saying it is "inconceivable some personalities will ask their government to do anything or to make steps against the government of Israel."

Callers from 15 cities were able to reach Shamir during the 45-minute program, and all asked questions relating to the peace process and the nearly 4-month-old unrest in the administered territories.

Shamir continued to stand by his interpretation of the Camp David accords, fashioned by Israel, Egypt and the United States nine years ago, as his reason for rejecting the Shultz proposals.

'Negotiate Without Preconditions'

Asked by a caller from the United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, N.J., whether his commitment to the proposals would include trading land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for peace, Shamir said "we will negotiate without any preconditions. Any party is entitled to bring any proposal to the table, and we will consider it and discuss it."

But in response to a suggestion from a caller in Cleveland that an international conference would serve as a "cover" for Jordan's King Hussein, thereby allowing him to begin face-to-face negotiations with Israel, Shamir replied, "The international conference is the opposite of direct negotiations."

He said the international conference would be "a tool of pressure against Israel."

Shamir was then asked what developments, either within the Arab world or presented unilaterally by Israel, would compel Hussein to change his mind about holding direct negotiations.

'Let Them Prove' They Want Peace

"If they are for peace, let them prove it by coming to the table for direct negotiations," the premier said. "We cannot compel anybody to come to the table."

Asked by a Philadelphia caller about his proposed alternatives to the Shultz plan, Shamir was reluctant to go beyond his comments Sunday on the CBS television program "Face the Nation" in which he hinted that he had further plans for advancing the peace process.

"I have my ideas. . . but it is very vital and useful not to reveal now this position I have in mind," said Shamir. He said he had not even presented the position to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Asked how to resolve differences on the peace process between his party and Labor, Shamir said national unity would be achieved during upcoming elections in Israel. Whether they are to be held in November or earlier, he said, "will not make any big difference."

Shamir opened his remarks by saluting Canada's Jewish community "for their courageous stand in these days," possibly a reference to Jewish outrage there at remarks critical of Israel made two weeks ago by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark.

SHAMIR IS CONFIDENT JEWS, ARABS WILL REACH A PEACE SETTLEMENT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday he believes that a settlement can be found that will "satisfy" both Israel and the Palestinians.

"It is destiny" that Jews and Arabs will "live together" in peace, Shamir said in an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation."

"They will not remove us and we will not expel them," he stressed. "And therefore we have to find a formula that will enable us to live together. And we will find it; if not we, then our children."

Shamir said that Israel is "committed to negotiate about the status" of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but it would be unwise to state its positions before talks start.

The Israeli leader repeated his opposition to an international conference. He said that Secretary of State George Shultz, who had been opposed to such a conference, included it in his Middle East peace proposals as a "surrender" to the Arabs who demand such a conference before negotiations are held.

Shamir said that Israel trusts President Reagan and Shultz. "Both of them are good friends of Israel" and will not lead Israel into a trap, he said. But he added, "I don't know who will be the president and the secretary."

Shultz, in an appearance on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" Sunday, said that those who oppose the international conference appear to be talking about the type of conference sought by the Soviet Union in the United Nations Security Council, which the United States vetoed.

"We proposed a conference that is not able to impose solutions on the parties, not able to veto any agreements that are made by the parties, but is a vehicle for getting negotiations started," he said.

Shultz also said he understood why Israel was barring television crews from covering the rioting on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that while he favors leaving the areas "open to the press," the television cameras may result in incitement.

"A person sees a camera, so (he) runs out and throws a rock so that person can get beat on," he explained.

SHULTZ AND SHEVARDNADZE TO CONFER ON MIDEAST PEACE PLAN, HUMAN RIGHTS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA) -- The differing U.S. and Soviet views toward an international peace conference on the Middle East will be on the agenda during the meetings here this week between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a senior State Department official said Monday.

The Soviet view is "quite different from ours," Rozanne Ridgway, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, said Monday, as the three days of meetings began. She said the Soviets see it as a "plenary conference," where the five United Nations Security Council members could impose a solution.

The United States and Israel, however, view the conference as a ceremonial meeting that would not have the power to dictate a resolution. It would occur two weeks prior to the first round

of Arab-Israeli negotiations on instituting additional autonomy measures on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We proposed a conference that is not able to impose solutions on the parties, not able to veto any agreements that are made by the parties, but is a vehicle for getting negotiations started," Shultz said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" Sunday. He noted that the United States vetoed the Soviet concept when Moscow offered it as a United Nations Security Council resolution.

Shultz and Shevardnadze were scheduled to begin their talks late Monday and continue with sessions through Wednesday. Shevardnadze also will meet with President Reagan Wednesday.

They may also discuss whether an international conference could be held under joint U.S.-Soviet auspices without involving the other three Security Council members: the People's Republic of China, Britain and France.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir noted last week in Washington that while he opposes an international conference, he had consented to negotiations under superpower sponsorship when proposed by Shultz before the Washington summit last December. But King Hussein of Jordan rejected it.

Ridgway said that U.S. officials will bring Shevardnadze "up-to-date" on the status of the peace initiative, noting he was briefed in Moscow two weeks ago by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, after Shultz returned from the Middle East.

During the Shevardnadze visit, a working group on human rights will meet, chaired on the U.S. side by Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs. Ridgway said such a gathering "always takes place during these meetings."

STREETS OF BETHLEHEM ARE QUIET AS ARAB UNDERGROUND ORDERS STRIKE

By Gil Sedan

BETHLEHEM, March 21 (JTA) -- For years, the busy streets of commercial Bethlehem have been a lively example that when money talks, Jews and Arabs forget their differences and listen.

But on Monday, a day after the murder of Israel Defense Force Sgt. Moshe Katz, at a spot where hundreds of Israelis normally pass daily, the city seemed deserted.

All shops were closed except bakeries, the only ones permitted to operate by orders of the underground command of the Arab "uprising." The streets were empty of people. It was difficult to tell whether there was a total strike or whether the city was under curfew.

The conflicting orders by Arab nationalist circles and the Israeli authorities regarding the opening hours of shops are enough to make any sensible person stay at home indefinitely.

The Palestine Liberation Organization issued orders for shops to open between 9 a.m. and noon. After that, a general strike was to go into effect.

The authorities gave reverse orders. Confusion reigned Monday when the clandestine command of the Arab uprising distributed leaflet No. II, which called for a general strike to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the IDF operation against PLO terrorists in Karame, across the river in Jordan.

One perplexed merchant tried to open his shop Monday morning, opposite the scene of Sunday's murder, only to have its doors welded shut a few minutes later by IDF soldiers.

Leaflets distributed Monday called on the population to increase violent attacks against soldiers and Israeli civilians. They also called for continued sanctions against the civil administration and for complete commercial strikes.

Military sources said Monday the attempt of the PLO to turn the Karame anniversary into a day of mass violence failed.

But in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, a 19-year-old youth was killed Monday morning. A curfew was imposed on the town.

Jerusalem police, meanwhile, are investigating an attempt Sunday night on the life of an editor of a pro-PLO newspaper. Jacques Hazmo, editor of Al-Biader A-Siassi, was not hurt when some 20 shots were fired at his home in the A-Ram neighborhood in northern Jerusalem. An attempt also was made to burn his car.

ISRAELIS, ARABS AT BELGIAN FORUM AGREE ON NEED FOR PEACE CONFERENCE By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, March 21 (JTA) -- A three-day dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians ended here Sunday with the participants in general agreement over the need for an international conference to facilitate peace negotiations in the Middle East. The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization, however, remained problematic.

The dialogue on the theme "Give Peace a Chance" was organized by David Susskind, honorary president of the Jewish Secular Community Center here. Held in the building that houses European Community headquarters, the forum drew about 20 Israelis and Palestinians, all considered moderates and, as Susskind pointed out, "willing to speak to each other without any prejudice."

The most prominent of the Israelis was Abba Eban, a Labor Party member of the Knesset and chairman of its Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The best known of the Palestinians was Hanna Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr, who is close to the PLO.

Eban, who was in the United States unofficially last week while Premier Yitzhak Shamir was meeting with Reagan administration officials, argued forcefully for an international conference, which Shamir vigorously opposes.

Eban Leery On PLO Role

But contrary to several other Israelis who called on Israel to negotiate with the PLO, Eban noted that Yasir Arafat's organization has a serious credibility problem.

He recalled that on March 7, while Israel was debating the new American peace plan, PLO terrorists hijacked a bus in the Negev, resulting in the death of one Israeli and the wounding of 10.

Nevertheless, Eban said he discerned an evolution in the PLO's position and suggested that Israel rescind its law barring contacts between Israelis and PLO officials.

Siniora claimed the PLO represents 5 million Palestinians in the Israeli-administered territories and abroad. "I am certainly willing to speak about the security needs of Israel, but the Israelis have to speak about a national identity for the Palestinians," he said.

According to Siniora, both sides must pay a

price for peace. The Israelis must withdraw from the territories and the Palestinians must accept the existence of the Israeli state, he said.

He proposed an international conference that would include the PLO, mutual recognition, a Palestinian state to exist alongside Israel and a moratorium on violence to be declared by both parties on the day the international conference begins.

Susskind stressed that the participants came here in their personal capacities, not as representatives of Israel or the PLO. It was assumed, however, that the Palestinians had prior approval from the PLO to take part in the dialogue.

The meeting divided the Belgian Jewish community. Many Jews who support Shamir's opposition to an international conference called the dialogue meaningless, because, they argued, peace can be achieved only by direct negotiations between Israeli and Arab leaders.

About 40 Jewish youths demonstrated briefly outside the meeting hall Saturday. They carried placards reading "Give peace a real chance. Let Israel say no to terror."

WJC SAYS AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL INCITED ANTI-JEWISH SENTIMENT

LONDON, March 21 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress has accused a ranking Austrian government official of "a shocking attempt to incite anti-Jewish hatred in an Arab country."

The WJC made that charge last Friday against Thomas Klestil, director general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, who was quoted by the Kuwait News Agency as saying that Austria "will not succumb to Zionist threats and pressures to remove President Kurt Waldheim from his office."

There was no immediate reaction to the charges from the Austrian government.

Klestil, who visited Kuwait on a tour of Persian Gulf states, is a former Austrian ambassador to the United States, which has barred entry to Waldheim because of his Nazi past.

The WJC, in a statement issued here, also accused Klestil of "trying to draw attention away from the fact that Austria's own commission concluded that Waldheim had continuously lied about his wartime activities and had personally facilitated Nazi war crimes."

The commission was an international panel of historians the Austrian government asked to examine Waldheim's record while serving as a German army intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II. It was asked to determine the veracity of charges that Waldheim was involved in the deportation of Greek Jews and in other atrocities. The commission submitted its report Feb. 8.

Klestil said Sheik Jabir al-Ahmad a-Sabah, the Kuwaiti leader, has invited Waldheim to visit his country, the news agency reported.

Since taking office in 1986, Waldheim has been diplomatically isolated by most of the world. His only official visit abroad was to the Vatican for a meeting with Pope John Paul II in June 1987. The only chief of state to visit him in Vienna was King Hussein of Jordan.

ISRAEL SENDS GREETINGS TO IRANIANS

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog broadcast a message of new year greetings this week to millions of Iranians who tune into Israel Radio's Persian-language program.

SKINHEADS EXPANDING IN NUMBER, COMMITTING MORE VIOLENCE, ADL FINDS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA) -- Skinhead youth gangs are continuing to expand their membership, attack members of minority groups and vandalize synagogues, according to a recent survey conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"The Skinheads -- An Update on 'Shaved for Battle' " is a follow-up to an ADL report of last October about the racist youths, primarily boys, who shave their heads, wear Nazi insignia and harass and attack members of racial and religious minorities.

Gangs are composed overwhelmingly of teenagers, including children as young as 13 and 14, according to the report.

However, the ADL and others note not all youth who have adopted Skinhead haircut or garb are racist or neo-Nazi, instead wishing only to show defiance of their elders.

The survey details the criminal activities in which the Skinheads have been involved in the past four months, including synagogue vandalism, anti-Semitic graffiti and terrorizing or attacking individuals.

The revised report claims that 20-25 Skinhead groups operate in 12 states, with a combined membership of between 1,000-1,500. The report also indicates inactivity in some places where Skinhead activity was previously reported.

Incidents In California

Irwin Suall, director of ADL's Fact-Finding Department, said that some of the most serious incidents reported of Skinhead violence took place in California.

Other Skinhead violence was reported in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. Arizona, Pennsylvania and Washington were not locales for such violence four months ago.

The Los Angeles area is the site for a variety of such incidents. Skinhead Philip Rowe is in jail there awaiting trial for attempted murder. He is accused of slitting the throat of a young Hispanic woman.

Michael Martin, 18, who leads a group in Los Angeles called "Reich Skins," is also awaiting trial along with a juvenile gang member on charges of terrorizing an Hispanic family and flashing an automatic pistol at them.

The Reich Skins operate in tandem with the White Aryan Resistance, the white separatist group based in Fallbrook, Calif., formed and led by white supremacist Tom Metzger.

WAR maintains a telephone hotline on which young people across the United States are interviewed about campus demonstrations of "white pride."

In the Chicago area, Clark Martell, 28-year-old leader of the local gang "Romantic Violence," and five other Skinheads were arrested January 25 and charged with home invasion, aggravated battery and robbery in connection with an assault on a 20-year-old female gang member who tried to leave the group.

Martell recently told an assembly of white supremacist leaders that his group "stands for war. . . I am a violent person. I love the white race, and if you love something, you're the most vicious person on earth."

In Oklahoma City, the slogans "Die, Jews," "White Race Rules" and "OKC Skins Rule" were scrawled with swastikas on the walls of two synagogues last December.

Charges have been brought against five Skinheads or associates of Skinheads, including juveniles, for malicious harassment.

In Portland, Ore., a group of white youths thought to have been Skinheads terrorized a black woman in her car last November. The woman suffered eye lacerations and her auto was damaged.

Interviewed On TV

Skinheads have recently appeared on television programs, such as the "Morton Downey Jr. Show" in New York and the "Oprah Winfrey Show" on ABC. In each case, the youths behaved uncontrollably.

After her telecast, Winfrey acknowledged that she "should have listened to advice" that she could not control them on the air, according to Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Center for Democratic Renewal, an Atlanta-based group that monitors racist hate movements in America.

At a recent conference here examining prejudice and violence, Zeskind and Suall agreed that Skinhead gangs have the potential to attract disaffected youth, chiefly of the working class, who feel malice toward minorities.

Harold Applebaum, now retired from the American Jewish Committee, has cited historical precedence for the Skinhead philosophy in the Nazi movement in Germany in the 1920s.

Brothers Otto and Hugo Strasser counseled Hitler to develop the socialism aspect of national socialism to appeal to a working-class base.

"A lot of neo-Nazis today have discovered Nazism, and they are consciously trying to work to reach the young, white, working-class people," Applebaum said recently, adding that the Strassers' works have been republished.

In the latest ADL report, Suall said it was too early to gauge whether the Skinheads will continue to grow or gradually decline. But he added that ADL is concerned that Skinheads are graduating into the network of adult white supremacist groups.

Skinheads In Europe

The problem extends beyond American borders.

Eight Skinheads have been sentenced in East Berlin court to jail terms of up to four years for attacking people with blows and kicks while yelling "Jews out of German churches," "Jewish pigs" and "Heil Hitler" at a concert at the Church of Zion last October.

The Skinheads seemed to surface suddenly in Europe with the death of Rudolph Hess in August. Within two weeks, three major European news magazines reported in simultaneous issues on the same phenomenon.

American and European Skinheads are united through the medium of punk rock music, much of which originated in Britain. Some punk rock songs have racist lyrics that appear to incite to violence.

The ADL report concluded that community leaders must "develop educational programs geared toward youngsters who may be vulnerable to the appeals of Skinheads. There is a role to be played here by family, church, schools and the music industry" as well as by vigilant law enforcement.

**THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED,
17 WOUNDED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in heavy fighting Wednesday, in the battle for Maidoun village in southern Lebanon. Between 40 and 50 guerrillas were reportedly killed.

Israeli radio and television reported Wednesday night that all Israel Defense Force soldiers had withdrawn to Israel, ending the two-day incursion into Lebanon.

Heavy fighting began at dawn between units of the IDF and its allied South Lebanon Army, and what Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin described as "hostile forces."

The battle centered around Maidoun, just south of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The resistance was reportedly mounted by guerrillas of Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian extremist Shiite militia and the mainstream Shiite militia, Amal.

The IDF-SLA forces, supported by artillery and missile-firing Cobra helicopter gunships, captured Maidoun after what was reported to be a short but fierce battle.

According to Lebanese sources and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, IDF gunners pounded the village with some 1,000 shells fired at the rate of 20 a minute.

The guerrillas fled to surrounding hilltops and fired at the attack helicopters.

According to Israel Radio, the decision to attack Maidoun stemmed from its importance as a guerrilla base and its position commanding an area that includes the Lebanese Christian town of Marjayoun, and Metulla and Kiryat Shmona in Upper Galilee.

Israel Radio's military correspondent said there were no civilians in Maidoun, which had been turned into a fortress by Hezbollah and a base for terrorist attacks on the IDF and infiltration into the southern Lebanon security zone.

Close To Syrian Troops

Reports from Lebanon said the fighting took place only about a mile from Mashghara, the Syrian army's forward positions in the Bekaa Valley. The Syrian army was put on full alert when the Israeli incursion began Monday, but has not intervened. The Syrians said they would not do so unless IDF forces advanced on them. Syria is reported to have more than 10,000 soldiers deployed there.

Lebanon radio said only a small Syrian force remained in Mashghara, the main body having pulled out when the IDF artillery went into action Wednesday morning.

Israel Radio said some IDF forces had completed their part of the operation and have begun to pull back into the security zone. There was no confirmation that a general IDF withdrawal had begun. Brig. Gen. Ephraim Lapid, an IDF spokesman, said Wednesday evening that the IDF would issue a communique when the operation is completed.

He said an interim communique was issued Tuesday night because the foreign media and Lebanese reports had exaggerated the size and scope of the operation. He referred to the NBC

news report Monday that 2,000 Israeli troops had entered Lebanon.

Defense Minister Rabin told the Knesset Wednesday that the IDF was engaged in "a routine operation as part of the policy of routine security measures in south Lebanon, the aim of which is to prevent terrorist infiltration, to prevent terrorists from basing themselves in the area, and to transmit a clear message to the local population that they should not cooperate with those circles which aid the terrorists against us, from any type of organization."

House-to-House Search

The first 24 hours of the IDF incursion was without serious incident. Israeli and SLA troops combed the rugged terrain north and northwest of the Galilee panhandle and on the western slopes of Mount Hermon. They conducted house-to-house searches in at least a dozen villages, looking for terrorist arms caches and possible hiding places in caves.

The terrorists apparently fled the region before the IDF arrived. But the IDF presence served as a warning to local villagers not to assist terrorists in any manner. Leaflets containing such warnings were widely distributed.

According to the IDF's announcement of the operation late Monday night, it was undertaken to destroy terrorist arms and bases used in recent attempts to infiltrate Israel.

While the operation was under way, Israel Air Force planes flew surveillance missions over Palestinian refugee camps in the Sidon and Tyre areas.

According to reports here Wednesday, the number of troops engaged in the operation is considerably less than reported in the foreign press. Military sources said the troops numbered in the hundreds with a dozen or so tanks in support.

Meanwhile, UNIFIL sources reported that six Katyusha rockets were fired Wednesday from north of the southern Lebanon security zone toward Marjayoun, the SLA headquarters. There were no casualties. But one rocket struck the headquarters of the Norwegian UNIFIL contingent, causing heavy damage.

**NBC AGAIN UNDER INVESTIGATION
FOR POSSIBLE CENSORSHIP VIOLATION**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Government officials are investigating charges that NBC News may have violated censorship rules when it broadcast a bulletin Monday afternoon of an Israel Defense Force incursion into southern Lebanon, the Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday.

NBC broke into its regular programing with the bulletin hours before the IDF officially announced the operation, shortly before midnight Monday, local time. The early report may have given terrorists in southern Lebanon advance warning, enabling them to escape, the Jerusalem Post said.

If the NBC correspondent filed the report without submitting it to the military censor, it would be the second such breach by the American network in the past two weeks. The Israel Gov-

ernment Press Office suspended the credentials of NBC correspondent Martin Fletcher on April 26.

Fletcher allegedly violated censorship rules with a report on the Israeli government's purported involvement in the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, second in command of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who was gunned down at his home in Tunis on April 18.

Monday's NBC bulletin claimed that 2,000 Israeli troops had entered southern Lebanon and that their objective was unknown. No other American network broadcast a special bulletin and Israeli military sources said the NBC estimate of troops involved was wildly exaggerated.

The Jerusalem Post quoted "sources in southern Lebanon" Wednesday as describing the IDF operation as a "show of strength rather than a military mission aimed at specific targets."

"The sources noted that news of the operation had apparently been deliberately leaked to the foreign media -- in direct contravention of the usual practice during an IDF operation," the newspaper said.

ON THE SCENE IN GAZA: ANOTHER DAY OF 'RELATIVE CALM' By Gil Sedan

GAZA, May 4 (JTA) -- It was a clear day in Gaza. A blue sky. A cool breeze off the blue sea rustled fronds in the palm orchards. A virtual paradise to a visitor driving through.

"Everything is quiet," an Israel Defense Force senior officer said early Wednesday morning. "But there is a smell of tension in the air," he added.

It is the pungent smell of burning tires and of tear gas.

Driving from Gaza military headquarters down the main street, Omar el-Mukhtar, a reporter's car was pelted with stones. When this happens there is no making a U-turn. One must step on the accelerator and keep on driving, hoping the stones will hit the body of the car and miss the windows.

This time, luckily, they missed.

Around the corner from Falastin Square, the center of Gaza, soldiers forced passers-by to clean away the debris of burned tires that were an improvised roadblock only a few minutes before. The soldiers were visibly bored.

"This is an everyday scene," one of them said. The roadblock had been intended to cut the main traffic artery between the city and the southern Gaza Strip. But that hardly bothered anyone.

Hours passed and nothing special happened. At the end of the day the military would issue a statement saying "relative calm" prevailed in the Gaza Strip.

When they speak of "relative calm," the military spokespersons mean there were no major clashes between the soldiers and the local population resulting in casualties.

But calm is hardly the word to describe the situation in Gaza. The Palestinian uprising is far from ended.

Most shops in Gaza were closed. Many Arab workers stayed away from their jobs in Israel. The only business activity was in the downtown marketplace. Even there, the transactions were furtive and hasty, as if everything could be shut down in minutes.

At 2 in the afternoon, prayers of the Ramadan holiday were over. The Shati refugee camp,

on the shores of the Mediterranean, came to life.

At first, everything seemed normal. Traffic moved briskly along Nasser Street on the eastern perimeter of the camp.

Then a group of youngsters gathered at the street corner, each armed with a large stone, waiting for action. The youths piled bricks on the road to stop or slow down vehicles.

The first vehicle was a police van, which broke through the barrier, its occupants shooting into the air. Then came an army truck. The soldiers fired tear gas.

But the youths were not deterred. They faced the soldiers, provoking them, shouting insults in Hebrew. "Come on, you maniacs," though not typical, was one of the few printable taunts.

The soldiers were deliberately slow, almost lethargic in their reaction. They massed their forces and then, almost strolling, firing an occasional burst of tear gas, they backed the youths toward the camp entrance.

Well-Rehearsed Roles

The confrontation lasted about two hours. It was as if both sides were actors in a play, each performing a well-rehearsed role. It was hard to imagine that at any moment the situation could become one of life or death.

The soldiers forced the young Palestinians to march in front of them as they entered the refugee camp -- protection against the stones in the hands of the camp residents.

Quiet was restored at the camp by evening and the military would again come up with its favorite phrase -- "relative calm."

On this day, it meant that only two people were slightly injured in clashes with Israel Defense Force units in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Eastward, in the West Bank, two residents of Silwad village, in the Judean hills, were slightly wounded. A girl was slightly wounded in Nablus. No one was killed.

It was a quiet day. And tomorrow, maybe there would be another.

RABIN WARNS ARABS TO END UPRISING By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Palestinians from the Knesset podium Wednesday to end their uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying they "will achieve nothing through violence."

Rabin spoke in reply to no-confidence motions, introduced by the Hadash Communist Party and the Progressive List For Peace, protesting the Israel Defense Force's conduct in the territories.

Both motions were defeated overwhelmingly, as was a motion introduced by Abdel Wahab Darousha, sole member of the newly formed Arab Democratic List, protesting the IDF's incursion into southern Lebanon.

U.S. CRITICIZES CLOSING OF WEEKLY By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) -- The State Department Wednesday criticized Israel for closing down the Palestinian weekly Al-Awda.

Israel defended its action Monday on the grounds that the East Jerusalem publication is guided and funded by terrorist organizations.

REAGAN TELLS WHITE HOUSE GROUP SOVIET JEWS 'CLOSE TO MY HEART'

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) -- President Reagan told a White House seminar on religious rights in the Soviet Union Tuesday afternoon that "the rights of Soviet Jews have taken up much of our official time -- and this is very close to my heart."

With former refusenik Yosef Begun sitting on the dais along with representatives of other religious groups, Reagan said:

"The faith of the peoples of the Soviet Union is pure and unbreakable. As Moses led his people from bondage in Egypt, as the early Christians not only withstood pagan Rome, but converted an empire, we pray that the millennium of Christianity in Kiev will mean freedom for the faithful in Russia, in the Ukraine, the Baltic States, and all the regions of the Soviet Union."

"Today, roughly 90 million people in the Soviet Union, or nearly a third of the population, proclaim some form of belief in God," Reagan said. He said it was an "encouraging sign" that "some Soviet dissidents have been allowed to emigrate."

The president spoke three weeks before his summit in Moscow with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, scheduled May 29 to June 3.

What he hopes for ultimately, Reagan said, "is a willingness to see continued change, in the spirit of glasnost, when it comes to matters of religion. Perhaps the process is beginning."

VIETNAM MEMORIAL DEFACED; JWV OFFERS \$1,000 REWARD

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals who defaced the Vietnam War Memorial.

The memorial was defaced with scratches, including a swastika. The 493-foot granite wall contains the names of American servicemen who died in Vietnam.

The vandalism was discovered several weeks ago, but only became public knowledge Tuesday, according to Earle Kittleman, chief of public information for the National Park Service. He said it was the first time the monument had been defaced.

The wall, the most visited site in Washington since it opened in 1982, was erected through the efforts of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which also has offered a \$1,000 reward.

Jack Litz, the JWV's national commander, said he was "outraged by the desecration of a monument which honors the memory of those who died in war."

Litz said he was particularly concerned that a swastika was discovered among the deep scratches.

"This symbol of the evil Nazi regime, which so many Jewish war veterans fought against, has been reappearing in recent months on synagogues, on Jewish monuments and cemeteries," he said.

Because of these incidents, the JWV leader had decided to reactivate the organization's national reward fund, which existed several years ago to help find anti-Semitic vandals, according to Michelle Kelley, the JWV's communications director.

JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL URGES JEWS TO SUPPORT ISRAEL THROUGH TOURISM

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, urged American Jews this week to show their support for the State of Israel at this "difficult time" by visiting the country.

"Israel needs your presence as much as your money," Kaplan told American Jewish leaders attending a briefing session Tuesday for the upcoming Jewish Agency Assembly in Jerusalem.

Expressing concern over the decline in American Jewish tourism to Israel since the disturbances in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip began in December, Kaplan said that American Jews have not been showing their support and concern for Israel "in terms of being there."

"We need to show our support for Israel not only in monetary sense, but also by being involved and being there," he said. He complained that when American Jews are concerned about physical safety, they cancel their trips to Israel.

American Jews and Jews all over the world should come and visit Israel in "times of stress," as well as in time of joy, Kaplan asserted.

Israel's hotel industry is presently facing a crisis as a result of the decline in tourism, especially from the United States.

Kaplan, who was the keynote speaker at the Jewish Agency briefing, devoted his short address to the new challenges and plans for reshaping the agency and streamlining its operation.

'Involved In Constant Change'

"We are involved in constant change, re-evaluating and updating," the chairman said. He said the implications of these changes will be discussed by the delegates at the agency assembly, which is scheduled in June.

The proposed changes are in the fields of Jewish education, immigration and absorption, and development projects in Israel, Kaplan said. The changes include the following:

- * A joint authority for the monitoring, coordination and evaluation of all Jewish education programs sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization will be established "to avoid duplication."

- * The Jewish Agency will turn over its absorption activities of new immigrants to the Israeli Ministry of Absorption. "The Jewish Agency will become part of the process that confronts bureaucracy" in helping the immigrants become integrated into Israeli society, Kaplan said.

- * The Jewish Agency will move from rural settlements projects toward regional development, with strong emphasis on high-tech industries and computerization.

The new development approach, Kaplan said, will concentrate on developing whole regions, such as the Arava or Galilee, instead of single settlements.

Kaplan cited the town of Yeroham in southern Israel as an example of successful urban development in recent years. A town on the verge of disintegration, with high unemployment and dwindling population, Yeroham is now "the first computerized town in Israel and probably in the world," a technological center for the Arava and Negev region, he said.

The changes undertaken by the Jewish Agency, Kaplan said, are to "make it relevant to the Israel of tomorrow."

ISRAELIS, BUT FEW OTHER JEWS, TOOK PART IN U.S. AMNESTY PROGRAM

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- An estimated 1,600 Israelis residing in the United States have applied for legal status under the historic government amnesty program that ended Wednesday.

According to immigration and resettlement experts at American Jewish organizations, the Israelis are the only group of Jews expected to take part in the program in significant numbers.

But despite official support of immigration reform and the amnesty program, Jewish organizations have shown no support for the Israeli participants.

Most Jewish agencies "have not elected to become part of providing legalization services, because they did not want to be in a position of legalizing Israeli undocumented aliens," said Gary Rubin, programming director of the American Jewish Committee. "They did not want a Jewish organizational presence in taking population away from the Israelis."

The government's amnesty program was open to all undocumented aliens who were able to prove that they had been in the United States continuously since Jan. 1, 1982.

Although the total number of those applying did not meet expectations for the program, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service was deluged with last-minute applications for amnesty.

One week before the deadline of the one-year program, INS officials announced that the government had received 1.3 million applications under the general legalization program and another 450,000 under a separate program for agricultural workers.

The overwhelming majority of applicants were Mexicans, although there were also large numbers of Asians, Poles and South and Central Americans adding to the mix.

Jewish Organization Support

Jewish organizations had been involved in the program from the beginning -- supporting the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, calling for a further liberalization of its statutes and joining with other ethnic groups in lobbying for an extension of the amnesty program.

In Texas, for example, the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston supported a bill that called on Congress not to deport Salvadoran or Nicaraguan refugees, until the general accounting office assessed whether or not they were subject to political oppression at home.

The CRC also worked closely with the Central American Refugee Center in Houston, according to CRC director Art Abramson, and a local YM-YWHA has helped refugees seek amnesty.

In Chicago, officials at the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) office chose to work locally with the Travellers and Immigrant Aid Society, as few Jews were approaching HIAS directly with inquiries about the amnesty program.

According to Sheldon Wykell, director of HIAS in Chicago, the agency "wrestled locally with what to do if Israelis were to approach" and ask for assistance in seeking amnesty.

"We reached a decision to deal with these problems if they arose," said Wykell. They didn't.

HIAS maintains an official hands-off policy toward Israeli residents. "It is longstanding board policy not to assist Israelis to leave Israel or

adjust their status in the U.S. It has to do with how we view the Jewish state," Karl Zukerman, HIAS executive vice president, said in New York.

Other organizations do not deal with Israeli immigration because of the nature of their programs. The New York Association of New Americans, for example, has a specific mandate to deal only with immigrants having refugee status.

Soviet Immigrants Unaffected

The amnesty program has not affected Soviet immigrants to any great degree. Jews coming out of the Soviet Union are eligible for refugee status, subject only to yearly quotas set by Congress. Until those quotas become more limiting, Soviet Jews have more to lose by entering the country illegally.

Because Jews are not being oppressed in Israel, explained Rubin of AJCommittee, Israelis need to meet the same immigration criteria of other immigrant groups. Rubin guessed that those applying represented a fraction of the Israelis actually living in the United States. Their numbers are notoriously hard to determine, and range from less than 200,000 to more than 300,000.

Rubin said that Israelis may not elect to take advantage of the program for many of the same reasons that other ethnic groups elect not to. Some refuse to trust the INS, despite its promise not to use the amnesty application to report illegal aliens. Or they may have concerns about families splitting up, whereby a husband or wife is accepted and the spouse is not.

But Israelis may have particular reasons as well, suggested Rubin. "In places like Rego Park (N.Y.) or Los Angeles, even undocumented Israelis fit in, are generally protected and realistically are not under great risk of being found out."

In addition, said Rubin, "the Israeli population in general considers itself more than others a temporary population. The first generation always thought it was going back home. They really believe that no matter how long they live here they are going back to Israel. If true, there is no reason for them to legalize."

And if they do, suggested Wykell of HIAS in Chicago, there are a number of reasons why the Jewish community might be the last to find out. "I think it's a tribute to Jewish ingenuity. I think people are taking care of themselves."

ISRAEL READY TO COMPROMISE ON TABA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- Israel is ready and eager to settle its dispute with Egypt over Taba by compromise, before a five-member international arbitration panel issues its binding ruling, expected some time this month.

That was stated officially Wednesday following consultations on the matter between Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

But the three government leaders have failed to agree on the nature of the compromise, and it is in fact doubtful that Egypt is interested in one at this late stage.

The U.S. State Department's legal adviser, Abraham Sofaer, has been shuttling between Jerusalem and Cairo for the past two weeks to promote a compromise agreement. Peres and Rabin are reportedly amenable to Sofaer's proposal that Egypt be given sovereignty over Taba while Israel would continue to operate two resorts it built there.

**SOVIET OFFICIAL EXPRESSES INTEREST
IN EMIGRATION ISSUE, SHULTZ PLAN**

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is "a problem that should be dealt with," Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze reportedly told the president of the World Jewish Congress this weekend in Moscow.

Shevardnadze held a meeting with WJC leader Edgar Bronfman as a prelude to the summit conference between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, to be held in Moscow from May 29 to June 2.

Bronfman, who arrived here on a direct flight from Moscow this weekend, met with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and told the Israeli leader that this was the first such statement by a senior Soviet official.

Bronfman has held several meetings in the past with high-ranking Soviet officials in which the issue of Jewish emigration has been discussed.

Following his meeting with Shamir, Bronfman also told journalists that he had been given a message from Shevardnadze to Shamir, but he refused to disclose its contents.

At the news conference, Shamir described Bronfman's report as "a very interesting one" and said he agreed with the Jewish leader that this is the time to step up efforts for Soviet Jewish emigration.

In addition to his encounter with Shevardnadze, Bronfman also met with other high-ranking Soviet officials and said he detected "a new positive atmosphere," which is bound to influence the issue of Jewish emigration as well as Soviet-Israeli relations.

Bronfman, whose private jet landed at Atarot Airport, just north of Jerusalem, said his direct flight to Israel caused much excitement at the Moscow airport.

Fate Of 'Perestroika' In Doubt

While in Moscow, Bronfman also met with Jewish activists. He said they conveyed a sense of urgency for the need to act speedily, making optimum use of Moscow's new attitude toward expanding Jewish cultural rights and increased emigration. The activists expressed concern that Gorbachev's "perestroika" (restructuring) will not last long.

Bronfman told reporters that in the matters of the Middle East peace process and an international conference, Soviet officials had expressed varying views, but had all stressed Soviet support for a role for the United Nations in the political process.

Shevardnadze last week appeared to welcome the peace plan advanced by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Speaking in Geneva at a news conference at the Soviet mission to the United Nations there, the foreign minister said, "The Shultz plan for the Middle East comprises elements which if implemented could help in reaching a solution to the conflict."

"As you know, the USSR is for an international peace conference with the participation of all the members of the Security Council," Shevardnadze said.

Asked whether the visit last week of Israeli

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to Hungary could signal a warming of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, Shevardnadze said, "The visit of Peres in Hungary does not affect the relations between the USSR and Israel. It is an independent visit."

(Geneva correspondent Tamar Levy contributed to this report.)

**VIOLENCE ERUPTS ON TEMPLE MOUNT,
BUT JERUSALEM DAY IS MAINLY QUIET
By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- The Temple Mount was the scene of violent disturbances over the weekend as Israelis celebrated the 21st anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem amid massive security precautions.

Four police officers and 12 Arabs were injured when rioting broke out Friday following noon prayers on the Temple Mount, where the Dome of the Rock, Islam's third holiest site, and the Al-Aksa mosque are located. No one was critically hurt. Nineteen suspects were arrested.

The police station on the Temple Mount came under a hail of stones as throngs of worshipers left the mosques. Israeli and American flags were burned. Police fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

Several hundred Arabs armed with stones and sticks were chased by the police anti-terrorist squad. They took refuge in the Al-Aksa mosque, where police were loathe to pursue them.

But the inspector general of police, David Kraus, warned that in the future, ways would be found to "evacuate those who attack the security forces."

About 3,300 police officers were deployed in East Jerusalem to prevent disorder. Serious trouble was expected on Sunday, which is the anniversary of the city's reunification.

This year the date coincides with the 40th anniversary of Israel's independence, according to the Western calendar. It is traditionally a day of mourning among Palestinian Arabs. But by midday, nothing out of the ordinary was reported.

Kach Activists Restrained

Police prevented activists in Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party from reaching the Temple Mount area Sunday. Another militant group, the Temple Mount Faithful, marched around the area three times, praying for the "fall of the walls of Arab hatred."

In Hebron, security forces prevented marching Jewish settlers from reaching the Tomb of the Patriarchs. Their presence at the site holy to Moslems and Jews alike was considered likely to cause trouble in the tense atmosphere.

A car driven by Jewish settlers was stoned in the town of Anabta, near Nablus. The car was set on fire after the settlers took refuge in another car. The army clamped a curfew on Anabta.

A general strike was in effect in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the weekend, but the territories were generally quiet. Curfews remained in effect in Nablus and in the Dehaishe refugee camp.

Palestinians in the territories were preparing

for the three-day Id El Fitr holiday, which began Sunday. It concludes the holy month of Ramadan.

Schools in the territories, which have been closed for the past three months as a security measure, may be allowed to reopen after the holiday, provided that the situation is quiet.

The security authorities believe the time may be ripe to normalize life in the territories. The Palestinian underground leadership also has called for a resumption of school studies before the entire school year is missed.

DEFENSE SECRETARY PLEDGES U.S. WILL BUY MORE ARMS FROM ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA) -- Israel's weapons sales to the United States rose from \$9 million in 1983 to \$250 million in 1987 and "will continue to grow," U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci said Sunday.

"There is little doubt that purchases from Israel will continue to grow, even with severe fiscal pressures on U.S. defense spending," Carlucci said in a speech to the opening session of the 29th annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The AIPAC conference, being held through Tuesday at the Washington Sheraton Hotel, features appearances by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and several prominent members of the U.S. Congress.

Carlucci, who described Israel as "a faithful friend in a turbulent region," said, "Israel will remain an important source of (weapons) systems that are proven and ready in some cases, saving the United States the time and expense of developing its own."

Carlucci spoke one month after Israel and the United States signed a memorandum of agreement that institutionalized the meetings of economic, political and military working groups of the two countries.

The immense increase of American military purchases from Israel stems from an earlier agreement, the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation signed in 1983.

Carlucci made the point that Israel is the largest single recipient of American security assistance, "all in the form of grants, not loans," the defense secretary stressed.

Aid For Weapons Development

He said U.S. funds have gone to support "every major weapons system" built by Israel, including fighter planes, surveillance aircraft and tanks.

Also, according to Carlucci, the Pentagon spends 54 percent of its budget allocated for the evaluation of foreign weapons on testing weapons made in Israel.

He said American funds are now being used to upgrade the Israeli navy's coastal patrol force.

Carlucci also noted that Israel is one of four American allies working on the Strategic Defense Initiative and is building in that connection an experimental anti-tactical ballistic missile known as the "Arrow."

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's former ambassador to the United Nations, also spoke at the AIPAC conference and received an award "for conveying Israel's case to the American people."

Netanyahu, who plans to run for election to the Knesset on the Likud ticket in November, stressed that Israel cannot give up the West Bank

for security reasons. Insisting that territory was important even in the missile age, the former envoy warned that when the Iran-Iraq war ends, Israel could face an Arab attack on its eastern front, the Jordan River.

SPANISH ARMS DEAL WITH ISRAEL RUNNING INTO DOMESTIC OPPOSITION

By David Kantor

MADRID, May 15 (JTA) -- The Spanish Defense Ministry's efforts to involve Israel Aircraft Industries in a \$200 million project to modernize 24 Mirage-3 combat aircraft in the Spanish air force has run into strong opposition.

Defense Minister Narciso Serra decided some time ago that two Spanish companies, Ceselsa and Casa, would put together a consortium to do the work. Ceselsa, a private firm, is cooperating with IAI and would bring the Israelis into the deal.

Casa, a state-run aircraft manufacturer, works with Marcel Dassault Industries of France, producer of the Mirage planes. Serra has proposed that Ceselsa concentrate on equipping the planes with state-of-the-art electronics systems, based on Israeli knowhow and experience, while Casa does the reconstruction work.

Casa and its powerful supporters in the government and the business community are using their influence to squeeze out any Israeli participation. Their tactic has been to warn of a loss of trade with Arab countries and to capitalize on the current widespread criticism of Israel in Spain for its behavior toward the Palestinians in the administered territories.

But aides to Defense Minister Serra said here Friday that he will not be deterred by the present campaign, which has Spanish media support. Newspapers here conceded Israel has undisputed experience modernizing the Mirage-3 planes in its own air force. But it was accumulated in past deals with South Africa and Chile, countries largely boycotted by Spain because of their repressive political regimes.

IAI, meanwhile, has prepared to open an office in Madrid.

JOURNALIST'S ACCREDITATION RESTORED

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- The Government Press Office on Sunday restored the press credentials of Glenn Frankel. The Israel bureau chief of The Washington Post got back his press card, withdrawn last month for breach of censorship regulations.

Frankel lost his accreditation temporarily on April 26 for filing a story that Israel's Inner Cabinet had approved the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, the Palestine Liberation Organization's second in command. Wazir was gunned down at his home in Tunis on April 16.

Israel never denied the allegation, but penalized Frankel and NBC News correspondent Martin Fletcher for filing stories on the subject, without submitting them to the military censor.

Press office director Yoram Ettinger said he decided to return Frankel's card after receiving a letter from the journalist stressing he is aware of the censorship laws.

Fletcher's credentials remain suspended, however. Ettinger explained this was because of the "continuing examination being conducted by the defense establishment regarding the failure to obey Israel's censorship regulations."

**ZUNDEL SENTENCED TO NINE MONTHS
FOR PUBLISHING DENIAL OF HOLOCAUST**
By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, May 15 (JTA) -- District court Judge Ronald Thomas sentenced Ernst Zundel on Friday to nine months in jail for publishing a pamphlet denying the Nazi Holocaust ever took place.

The Toronto publisher and West German citizen was found guilty last week, after a four-month trial, of publishing a pamphlet by a British fascist titled "Did Six Million Really Die?"

Zundel could have received a maximum jail sentence of two years for violating Canada's statutes against spreading "false news." Prosecutor John Pearson had asked for a sentence close to the maximum and a period of probation in which Zundel would be prevented from repeating his claims.

But in denying the probationary period, Thomas declared that "the likelihood of rehabilitation is nil." He stated that Zundel believes in the dogma of Adolf Hitler, is still a follower of National Socialism and will continue to hold his beliefs.

He added: "There was no sign that the community had been tainted by his venom. It is Mr. Zundel who is to be pitied. He has been rejected twice by jurors."

Zundel was previously convicted of the same charges in 1985, receiving a 15-month sentence and a \$5,000 fine. But the conviction was overturned on a technicality and a new trial was ordered.

Addressing Zundel, Thomas said, "Maybe you want to be a martyr and I was tempted to frustrate you." However, the judge said he felt that a message had to be sent out to the public that people "who spread hate in order to foster right-wing beliefs must be punished."

Zundel's lawyer, Douglas Christie, has announced that he will appeal the conviction, based on 31 objections, the major one being Thomas' decision early in the trial to take judicial notice that the Holocaust was a matter of historical fact and could not be disputed in the courtroom.

**AJCOMMITTEE DEBATE EXAMINES HOW FAR
JEWS SHOULD DEFEND NARROW INTERESTS**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Are America's Jews merely a group, with an obligation to defend its interests, or a religious civilization, with a responsibility to heal the world?

Neoconservative Milton Himmelfarb and liberal Leonard Fein squared off over that question during a breakfast plenary session last week on "The New Jewish Politics" at the American Jewish Committee's 82nd annual meeting, which ended here Sunday.

The Himmelfarb-Fein debate was one of a number of sessions devoted to the domestic Jewish agenda in a convention dominated by discussion of the Middle East.

According to Himmelfarb, former director of AJCommittee's information and research services, Jewish voters need to recognize themselves as the special-interest group they are, and cast their votes accordingly. In particular, liberals need to demand a greater stand against anti-Semitism from the Democratic Party.

"It is not enough to be non-anti-Semitic today," said Himmelfarb, a leading intellectual

exponent of the Jewish neoconservative movement. In 1988, the liberals and the Democratic Party have "conspicuously refused to be anti-anti-Semitic. Any failure by Jews to react strongly and swiftly to this, to pretend that it is okay to be liberal and support liberals, even if they are not anti-anti-Semitic, is blind, self-deluding and pretty near suicidal for the American Jewish community," he said.

Himmelfarb conceded that Jews remain an anomaly by "consistently voting to the left of their pocketbooks," or, as he explained it during an earlier election year, "while the Jews have the incomes of Episcopalians, they vote like Hispanics."

Have Jews Shifted Rightward?

But noting the rightward shift taken by Jews in other countries, especially Great Britain and France, Himmelfarb said he was confident that increasing Jewish conservatism will be "the wave of the future."

Fein discounted the neoconservative's conclusions, maintaining that American Jews remain "as dramatically more liberal than the general population as they have been for the last 60 years."

The author of the recently published book "Where Are We?" said that while roughly two-thirds of the Jewish population "are prepared to vote for the Republican nominee for president," a rightward turn "is nowhere reflected in the mass of data that measure such things."

The persistent liberalism of American Jews, said Fein, is "rooted in the perception that while one is permitted to be rich, one is not permitted -- not in this oh-so-fractured planet -- to be comfortable."

Fein urged Jews not to vote just on the basis of narrow interests. He decried the proliferation of political action committees supporting candidates solely on their voting records on Israel and the "degree to which the energies and attentions of Jewish agencies and organizations are so invested in matters relating to Israel."

"For every ounce of protection we thereby gain for Israel" by supporting such pro-Israel but otherwise objectionable right-wing ideologues as Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), "we will lose a pound of protection for pluralism," said Fein. That, he said, subverts Jewish interests, Jewish values and "our ability to help, defend and protect the State of Israel."

APRIL INFLATION HIGHER THAN EXPECTED
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) -- An unexpectedly high increase in the cost-of-living index in April has caused concern in government, labor and management circles.

The rise, announced Sunday, was 2.7 percent, which works out to an annual inflation rate of over 20 percent, double the rate hoped for by the Finance Ministry.

The culprit was a net rise of more than 20 percent in the prices of fruits and vegetables. Tomato prices soared 150 percent. Peppers and other vegetables cost 30 to 40 percent more than last month. They sent the price index well above the anticipated 1 percent increase.

A further increase in the cost of living is expected in May because of the government's phasing out of several price-support subsidies.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: TZOMET LEADER SHAPING UP TO BE POTENT FORCE ON ISRAEL'S FAR RIGHT By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- Rafael Eitan, former Israel Defense Force chief of staff, is shaping up as a potent political force on the far right, and observers here do not rule out the possibility that he could be the next defense minister.

Eitan presently heads the Tzomet party and is its sole representative in the Knesset. He recently emerged from an internal party conflict with his reputation enhanced.

A career soldier until his retirement in 1982, Eitan joined the ultranationalist Tehiya party. But he broke with Tehiya last year in a stormy confrontation with its firebrand Knesset member, Geula Cohen.

Their falling-out reportedly was over the No. 2 spot on Tehiya's 1988 election list, which is headed by the party's nominal leader, Tel Aviv University physics Professor Yuval Ne'eman.

Many political observers predicted Eitan would quickly fade and fail on his own. Instead, he helped found Tzomet and was overwhelmingly elected its leader. According to recent polls, the party will make a respectable showing in the Knesset elections in November.

Eitan himself is projecting an image of forceful integrity. Having received a report of irregularities in the original Tzomet elections, he demanded that the entire slate stand for new elections, including himself.

Although his leadership position is hardly threatened, he has risked defections by some of Tzomet's younger members. But the demonstration of puritan values on the part of this hard-bitten, plain-spoken soldier has added to his popularity.

A Stronger Right Wing

In part, his improved political situation is due to the general strengthening of Israel's right wing since the Palestinian uprising began more than five months ago. Eitan has never concealed his hard-line views.

He advocates the wholesale deportation of Palestinian "agitators" and of the fathers of young stone-throwers, as a punitive and deterrent measure. There are many in Israel today who appreciate such ideas.

According to some political observers, Eitan's star may rise if Likud wins the November elections and reinstates Yitzhak Shamir as prime minister. Shamir may be loath to name his Herut critic and political rival Ariel Sharon to the office of defense minister.

While presumably he would choose his close political ally Moshe Arens for the job, that may prove unfeasible in terms of Likud's internal politics. Under such circumstances, Shamir might find Eitan an attractive alternative.

Eitan's long military career was badly tarnished by the report of the Kahan Commission in 1982. The commission, headed by the Supreme Court president, Justice Yitzhak Kahan, conducted an inquiry into the role of the Israel Defense Force in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps massacre in West Beirut.

The massacre was the work of Lebanese Christian Phalangists allied with Israel. The commission made no recommendations with respect to Eitan, noting that he was on the point of retiring. The implication was that had his retire-

ment not been imminent, the commission might have urged his removal as chief of staff.

But the Likud and Shamir have never been enthusiastic over the Kahan report. In the event of a Likud election victory and the fact that the massacre is six years in the past, Shamir may feel he can ignore it and elevate Eitan to a post he might well have attained had fate not intervened.

IRVING BERLIN FETED AT CARNEGIE HALL By Elli Wohlgelehter

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- The immigrant son of a Russian cantor was given a 100th birthday party last week and saluted as America's greatest songwriter by an all-star cast at Carnegie Hall.

Irving Berlin, born Israel Baline on May 11, 1888, in Temun, Russia, was saluted last Wednesday night in words, song and film by as wide a mix and diversity of musical talent as were the 1,500 songs that the versatile Berlin wrote in his lifetime.

Appearing on stage were Frank Sinatra, Willie Nelson, Ray Charles, Shirley MacLaine, Tony Bennett, Madeline Kahn, Tommy Tune, Leonard Bernstein, Nell Carter, Marilyn Horn, Rosemary Clooney, Natalie Cole, Bea Arthur, Isaac Stern, Walter Cronkite, and Garrison Keillor.

They sang from all the great hits of Berlin's career, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Blue Skies," "Cheek to Cheek," "God Bless America," "Let's Face the Music and Dance," "Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" and "Putting on the Ritz."

Berlin himself did not appear at the three-hour concert, remaining at home with his wife, Ellin. He will watch the special when it is shown nationally on May 27 by CBS.

The stage of Carnegie Hall, which will celebrate its own 100th birthday in 1991, was decorated with giant gold and silver piano keys arranged in ribbons and bows. MacLaine opened the show, and then Cronkite took the stage and spoke of Berlin's legacy.

"Irving Berlin helped write the story of this country by capturing the best of who we are and the dreams that shape our lives," he said. "Since 1906, Irving Berlin has written over 1,500 songs, and it is there that we find our history, our holidays, our homes and our hearts."

The night's tribute, benefiting the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, which Berlin co-founded in 1914, was divided into four segments of Berlin's music: Americana, swing, Broadway and Hollywood.

Interspersed with movie clips and songs came verbal tributes from Stern, president of Carnegie Hall (a place, inconceivably enough, where Berlin never played), and Keillor, who said of Berlin, "He took our American talk and made it into poetry -- not fancy, not highbrow, but simple and graceful."

HEAT WAVE TOUCHES OFF FIRES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) -- Hundreds of firefighters over the weekend battled crop and field blazes, touched off by a blistering heat wave and a dry wind, known as the Sharav.

Farmers have estimated the damage in the millions of dollars from fires and withered crops. Daytime temperatures generally have been in the high 90s and hit 103 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit on the coast and in the Negev.

**ISRAEL MONITORING SYRIAN ARMY
INTERVENTION AGAINST HEZBOLLAH****By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Israel is keeping a close watch on the deployment of Syrian troops in the southern suburbs of Beirut. But it is far from upset by the prospect that the Syrians may clash with and possibly crush Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian movement of Shiite fundamentalists.

"Anything that is bad for that extremist organization we view with favor," Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Monday.

He and other officials acknowledged that the recent flare-up of fighting between Hezbollah and the mainstream Shiite Amal militia could spread to southern Lebanon near the Israeli border. But they view possible Syrian intervention in Beirut with equanimity.

The Cabinet was briefed on the situation Sunday by the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron. No details were released, but the fact that the news media were informed of the subject of Shomron's report indicated the importance Israel attaches to developments in the Lebanese capital.

Reports from Damascus Monday night said that Iranian and Syrian officials were still negotiating terms for a possible peaceful entry of Syrian forces into the southern Beirut suburbs, where Hezbollah guerrillas have bloodied Amal in recent weeks.

Israeli sources noted that Syrian troop movements have posed no threat to Israel. In fact, Syrian troops have been shifted from the Bekaa valley, in eastern Lebanon, northwestward toward Beirut.

This greatly diminishes chances of an IDF clash with the Syrians, which seemed highly likely during Israel's brief incursion into southern Lebanon two weeks ago.

The only resistance encountered by the IDF came from Hezbollah. Its base, the fortified town of Maidoun, was captured and destroyed by the Israelis, who suffered three dead and 17 wounded. At least 50 Hezbollah guerrillas were killed.

Hezbollah, whose name means "Party of God," has aided Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists and has been the most dangerous force operating in southern Lebanon, according to the Israelis.

Some observers are cautioning that the Syrians and their Amal clients may strike a deal with Hezbollah and its patron, Iran, which would give Hezbollah freedom of movement in southern Lebanon.

**ISRAELI AIR FORCE STRIKES BASE
USED BY TERRORISTS IN LEBANON****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA) -- The Israeli air force attacked terrorist targets in the vicinity of the southern Lebanon port city of Sidon on Sunday night. All aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

The attack was the eighth Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year and the second foray in four days.

Reports from Beirut on Monday said the attack was carried out by two assault helicopters protected by jet fighter planes. At least eight rockets were fired at targets in the Ein Hilwe refugee camp south of Sidon, the Beirut sources said.

They said a two-story building destroyed in the 15-minute pounding was used as headquarters of Al Fatah, the mainstream terrorist group of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and other terrorist units. Casualties were reported, but no numbers were given.

Ten people were killed or injured in the Israeli air raid last Thursday night on targets north of Sidon, according to Lebanese sources.

The Israel Defense Force issued only a brief communique on that operation, saying that terrorist targets were hit and all aircraft returned safely.

Reports from Beirut said six Israeli F-16 bombers drew anti-aircraft fire during the rocket attack, which was aimed at a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command near the town of Barja, 17 miles south of Beirut.

That terrorist group, headed by former Syrian army captain Ahmed Jabril, claimed credit for the motorized hang-glider attack on an IDF base in Upper Galilee last November, in which a single terrorist killed six Israeli soldiers and wounded seven before he was killed.

**PERES ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON
FOR SESSIONS WITH REAGAN, SHULTZ****By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to meet President Reagan at the White House Tuesday with the moribund Middle East peace process expected to be high on the agenda.

But most of Peres' meetings during his two days in Washington will be with Secretary of State George Shultz, with whom he met for 90 minutes after his arrival here early Monday. "They discussed a range of bilateral issues, including the peace process," State Department spokesman Charles Redman reported later.

Peres and Shultz will meet again before the White House meeting Tuesday, which will be followed by a working lunch at the State Department between the two statesmen. Shultz was also expected to attend a reception for Peres on Monday at the home of Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad.

The talks come as Shultz plans for his return trip to the Middle East on June 3, after the Moscow summit, when he will try again to win support for his peace initiative.

Peres and his Labor Party supports the initiative, which is opposed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Likud. With the government of national unity therefore divided and unable to give the United States either a flat "no" or "yes" to the Shultz proposals, the issue is expected to be a major point of contention in the upcoming Knesset elections.

The peace process also was expected to be high on the agenda during Peres' meetings with the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign

Affairs committees, which were scheduled for Monday afternoon. Peres also was to address the banquet of the 29th annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee on Monday night.

Stops In Los Angeles, Other Cities

The Israeli foreign minister made stops in Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles over the weekend and is scheduled to return Wednesday to New York.

There he is to address the State of Israel Bonds Organization and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is also scheduled to speak Thursday at the Jewish Theological Seminary's commencement ceremonies.

In Los Angeles, Peres toured the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Holocaust Museum and addressed a crowd of Jewish community leaders there. Speaking about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Peres said "Israel has never been stronger" despite the difficulties there.

"We don't seek peace because somebody throws stones. We don't seek peace because we are afraid. We don't seek peace because the Arabs want land," he said. "We seek peace because we want peace and because we feel we can achieve it. And we shall achieve it."

Speaking earlier at a breakfast meeting for Jewish community leaders, Peres criticized China's recent sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia. The Jewish state, he said, is opposed to any nation "which provides weapons in a state of belligerency against Israel."

IDF SERGEANT SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ROLE IN BULLDOZER INCIDENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- A military court gave an Israel Defense Force staff sergeant a four-month prison term and a six-month suspended sentence Sunday in connection with the attempted live burial of four Arab youths by Israeli soldiers.

Sgt. Charley Danino also was reduced in rank to private. He had pleaded innocent, claiming he was not at the scene when the incident occurred on Feb. 5, in Kafr Salim village, near Nablus.

The court accepted evidence to the contrary given by a reserve soldier. It found that even though Danino's role had been "passive," he was guilty of assault and conduct unbecoming a soldier.

The four Palestinians allegedly had participated in rioting and stone-throwing. The soldiers who seized them ordered a civilian bulldozer driver to pile earth over their bound bodies. They were rescued by villagers after the soldiers left.

The incident, reported widely by the foreign news media, had international repercussions and seriously harmed Israel's image abroad.

"Whoever was responsible for this will be punished accordingly," Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak, the IDF deputy chief of staff promised reporters at a news briefing on Feb. 17. Two soldiers were tried and convicted in a plea-bargaining deal in March and sentenced to short prison terms.

Danino was the last to be tried. The court found his conduct reprehensible because he was the senior soldier on the scene and did nothing to stop the burial. The judges ruled that even though Danino is married, as a professional soldier he should be punished at least as severely as the other two, who were young conscripts.

2 PALESTINIANS KILLED, 7 WOUNDED AS VIOLENCE FLARES IN TERRITORIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Two Palestinians were killed and seven were wounded in clashes with security forces in the administered territories Monday.

The violence flared anew as Moslems marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

A 17-year-old youth was fatally shot when Israel Defense Force soldiers opened fire to quell a riot in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza. Two other Palestinians were wounded there.

Two more were wounded in clashes in the West Bank town of Kalkilya, and three Arabs were wounded after hurling rocks and gasoline bombs at a border patrol in Idna village, in the Hebron hills.

The body of a Palestinian resident of the West Bank village of Azmout was brought to the government hospital in Nablus on Monday. The IDF is investigating the cause of death.

Curfews were imposed Monday on the Kalan-diya and Tulkarm refugee camps.

HEAT WAVE DAMAGE COSTING MILLIONS, BUT RELIEF EXPECTED BY TUESDAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA) -- Israelis were promised relief Monday night from one of the worst heat waves in the country's history, which has caused crop damage estimated in the millions of dollars and at least one heat-related death.

According to the meteorological service, temperatures that soared over 100 degrees Fahrenheit for the past two days will drop by 10 to 15 degrees by Tuesday, which is "near normal" for this time of year.

The intense heat was accompanied by a hot, dry, desert wind that Israelis call the Sharav. It was once known by its Arabic name, Khamsin, and is indigenous to the region.

By any name it can be a killer because of the widespread fires started and fanned by the wind. Fire brigades all over Israel were kept busy Sunday and Monday battling blazes in forests, fields and brush. Hundreds of acres of crops have burned in Galilee. Chickens, which cannot perspire, died by the scores.

Yarra, a village in northern Galilee, had to be evacuated when a grass fire spread to houses adjoining the fields.

The Tel Aviv fire brigade reported a dozen or so brush fires in the metropolitan area, but no serious damage was caused. But elsewhere in the country, light aircraft were called on to help fight fires.

The director of the emergency ward at Ichelov hospital in Tel Aviv reported that 250 people were treated for heat exhaustion Sunday, two or three times the normal daily average. Most of the patients were elderly.

The only death directly attributed to the heat wave was that of the assistant manager of a Ramat Hasharon supermarket Sunday. It occurred because of an electric power failure -- caused by heavy use of air conditioners -- which shut down the store's deep freeze and refrigeration units.

The assistant manager, accompanied by an Arab employee, went to the basement to switch on an emergency generator. He lit a candle and ignited fuel oil stored nearby and was burned to death. The Arab worker was injured.

JEWISH VOTE, ISRAEL'S USE OF POWER DISCUSSED AT AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- A leading American political analyst predicted Monday that the Jewish vote will play an important role in just three states this November: California, New Jersey and New York.

Bob Beckel, who managed the Mondale-Ferraro presidential campaign in 1984, explained that Jews do not constitute the swing vote since they are predisposed to vote Democratic.

Beckel spoke during a breakfast session of the 29th annual policy conference of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He was joined at the session by Republican strategist Edward Rollins, who was national director of the Reagan-Bush 1984 re-election campaign.

Beckel said the key to the 1988 presidential race is the voting pattern of white-collar workers, aged 30 to 45, who vote on the basis of a candidate's personal strength.

He also predicted that the Rev. Jesse Jackson will not be "on a ticket" on Election Day. But he said there will be a black candidate in subsequent presidential campaigns.

Rollins said that Vice President George Bush's position among Jewish voters should "pretty much stay in tune with whatever the George Shultz policy is today."

He suggested that Bush align himself with the secretary of state and thereby benefit from Shultz's popularity among Jewish voters.

Rollins also charged that Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, the likely Democratic nominee, "does not have strong policy positions" on foreign policy.

Ethical Use Of Power

At another session Monday, Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg received a standing ovation after declaring that Israel has used its power ethically, despite world criticism of its handling of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Noting that Jews were "powerless" for the 1,800 years that ended with the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, Greenberg said Israel's newly found power "should be welcomed."

He warned that while power corrupts, so does "absolute powerlessness," which meant that for centuries, "we had no say in how we died." He said the compromise today is that "to be a Jew is to exercise power ethically."

Jews traditionally held the attitude that "Christians beat up on Jews; Jews don't beat up on Christians," Greenberg said.

In addition, Jews were not supposed to hunt, drink or "wifebeat." He said, however, that Jews lost that "purity" when they gained political power.

He said that through politics, Jews should "award friends" and "punish enemies."

In discussing how Israel should behave, Greenberg said its army uses its power morally by killing "as few civilians as possible." In addition, it has a "corrective mechanism" for punishing unethical behavior by soldiers.

He also said the Israeli electorate exercised moral self-restraint by providing Kach party leader Meir Kahane with 1 percent of the vote in the last election, considering 10 percent of the population has family members who died at the hands of Arab soldiers.

AMERICAN RABBI RENEWS CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EAST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, May 16 (JTA) -- Rabbi Isaac Neuman has renewed his charges that anti-Semitism is rampant in East Germany and has taken another swipe at the leadership of the tiny Jewish community there, implying it is passive in face of mounting danger.

Neuman is the retired American rabbi who took over as religious leader in East Berlin eight months ago. He quit earlier this month in the midst of a dispute with Hans Rotstein and Peter Kirchner, the chairmen respectively of the East German and East Berlin Jewish communities.

Interviewed Monday on the state-owned West German television channel, Neuman charged that the official news media and the schools in East Germany were promoting anti-Semitism. "I have reports on what they say in schools," he said. "It's becoming an anti-Israel, anti-Jewish, anti-Semitic cocktail."

Neuman made similar charges when he went on the air in West Berlin on May 5. He repeated them Monday, attributing rising anti-Semitism to what he called "false, biased reports about the situation in Israel" by the state-controlled East German news media, which "must have a negative influence on the youth in East Germany."

He said East German school children repeatedly overturned tombstones in Jewish cemeteries and daubed them with swastikas. He linked such occurrences to one-sided reporting about Israel, which was lacking in background and perspective.

Praise For Authorities

Neuman said that during his brief tenure as religious leader of East Germany's Jewish community, he intervened privately with the authorities and went public with his criticism only after the situation did not improve.

Nevertheless, he praised the East German authorities, who, he said, made no difficulties "during the first five months of my work."

But he indicated he got no support in his efforts from Jewish community leaders.

Neuman's feud with the community leaders is no secret. He was accused of neglecting his rabbinic duties and seeking publicity. He charged his mail was opened and his sermons censored.

Neuman charged that the East Berlin community had come to accept neglect of its spiritual and cultural needs and dealt only with administrative matters. The local leadership was accustomed to making its own decisions and therefore could not tolerate a rabbi, he said.

East German officials have been upset by Neuman's accusations of anti-Semitism. East Germany, in fact, has embarked on a major effort to gain the good will of Jewish communities abroad, including Israel, as a means to improve its relations with the United States.

ISRAELI HELPS TEAM WIN EUROPEAN CUP

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, May 16 (JTA) -- Eli Ohana, Israel's top soccer player, helped his Belgian team win the European championship in the European Cup finals played against Holland in Strasbourg, France, last week. Ohana, 21, made the decisive pass that enabled teammate Piet Den Boer score the only goal for a 1-0 victory over the Ajax Club of Amsterdam on May 11.

JEWISH STUDENTS ON CAMPUS: FIGHTING PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDA

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- College Hillel counselors have expressed varying degrees of concern over diminished support of Israel by students, as a result of pro-Palestinian activity on their campuses during the spring semester.

Most said the anti-Israel activity -- stemming from the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that began in December-- was confined to small demonstrations, op-ed pieces in college newspapers and pro-Palestinian information tables.

But some Hillel directors worried that Jewish students seemed slow to defend Israel, and expressed fear that these future leaders of tomorrow may be turning away from the pro-Israel position.

There were a couple of strongly anti-Israel incidents that occurred on the campuses this spring, with two of the more violent ones taking place at the University of Arizona at Tucson and at the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

At Arizona, a shot was fired into the window of the Hillel lounge just after the last student had left early on the morning of April 26, following the conclusion of one of the ABC-TV "Nightline" marathon broadcasts from Israel.

Brenda Morrison, director of student activities for Hillel at the university, said somebody "shot out our window and shot out our door." She said police are still investigating the incident, including a garbled message left on the Hillel telephone answering machine.

She added that her campus has a large Arab population, with five Palestinian student groups.

At the University of Kansas at Lawrence, David Katzman, a history professor, said he found "Go to Hell Dirty Jew" written on the name-card of his office door a few weeks ago, even though he didn't teach during the spring. He said that four days of mail were stolen the following week, while no one else in the history department had anything touched.

Not The First Time

However, Katzman said that he was the victim of anti-Semitism before the Palestinian uprising, when he had received death threats while serving as the president of the local Jewish Community Center.

In combatting the usual Palestinian forms of protest, some of the Hillel counselors complained that they had limited resources.

Rabbi Carol Glass, Hillel director at American University in Washington, said Jewish groups there have not been effective in countering pro-Palestinian "slick posters" placed on walls of campus buildings and advertisements bought in the campus newspaper.

She said that her campus has an unusually large number of Arab students -- 400 out of 11,000 students, 40 to 50 of whom are Palestinians -- who had been able to gain funding from Arab sources.

Heidi Goldsmith, Israel programs director at the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, said many Hillel directors complained that they lack "concise materials" and "simple, clear history" on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We don't have enough," she said.

An example she gave of needed material is a pro-Israel rebuttal of the Palestine Liberation

Organization's covenant, which calls for the overthrow of Israel.

Two other Hillel directors, on the other hand, said they do have effective materials to counter pro-Palestinian groups in the information war.

Helise Lieberman, program director at Columbia University's Hillel, said while students are struggling with "how to be supportive of Israel" without "condoning or condemning" current policies toward Palestinians, they have been exposed to many pro-Israel speakers and effective information from the Israeli Consulate in New York and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Joseph Kohane, acting Hillel director at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, said his campus has been relatively quiet. He said that the student newspaper at one point carried a lot of anti-Israel opinion pieces, but that Jewish students organized a "concentrated letter writing campaign" to counter it.

'Hard Time To Be Jewish'

Glass said that it is a "hard time to be Jewish on a campus. The Arab community is seen by most of the world as the underdog, as the victimized," and "a lot of finger pointing goes in the way of Israel."

Overall, Glass said organized Jewry does not see Jewish students at college as a major constituency. She argued they were more vulnerable than other Jews who do not have to encounter Arabs on a day-to-day basis, as do Jewish students.

She complained that Jewish groups provide "nothing in the way of resources and material to really help us" analyze recent events. Glass called for more professional literature to be developed on the uprising, and specifically said "not enough is presented from a moderate to a sort of Peace Now perspective."

College campuses must be seen "as a critical Jewish community," Glass said, "because this is where future public opinion is being formed."

Goldsmith said Palestinian demonstrations and information tables have become bolder since the violence began Dec. 9, benefiting from the perception that "Israel no longer has the David image."

In addition, she said, student newspapers regularly print op-ed pieces on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including some by professors critical of Israel's handling of the situation. She added that she has heard of few violent incidents on college campuses.

'Battle Of Words And Ideas'

Jeffrey Ross, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's campus affairs and higher education department, said the incidents were "less than we expected," calling it a "battle of words and ideas."

He said that demonstrations of 20 people, which often occur, do not "affect too many people," and that many campus Arab groups are in disarray both organizationally and ideologically.

Ross said his "greatest concern is what's going on in the classrooms" and not demonstrations, campus literature and op-ed pieces and advertisements in student newspapers.

He expressed concern that these students who are tomorrow's leaders may be developing a "permissive consensus which will allow future administrations to try to put pressure on Israel to make unilateral concessions."

**HIGH COURT RULES WOMAN IS ALLOWED
TO HELP SELECT CITY'S CHIEF RABBI****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA) -- Israel's Supreme Court ordered the Tel Aviv City Council on Monday to allow a woman on the council to serve on the committee that chooses the city's chief rabbis.

The order was the second in the past four days to chip away at the Orthodox religious establishment's exclusion of women from meaningful participation in religious affairs. The high court ruled last Thursday that a woman may sit on local religious councils.

Both rulings were hailed by liberal and women's groups throughout the country. Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv welcomed the court's decision.

The office of Ashkenazic chief rabbi in Tel Aviv is presently vacant. A leading candidate, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau of Netanya, has said in the past he would not accept the post if a woman sat on the committee that appointed him.

But Lau may have relented. He hinted in a television interview Monday that he might suggest to the Chief Rabbinate that it obey the court's ruling.

The ruling involves only the one-third of the committee members who are appointed by the municipality. The other two-thirds are selected by the rabbinate.

**ISRAEL PLANS TO STOP ISSUING VISAS
TO SOVIET JEWS BOUND FOR THE WEST****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA) -- Israel will soon initiate a drastic change in its policy of granting visas to Jews seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union. Effective shortly, they will be issued only to those definitely bound for Israel, the news media reported over the weekend.

Soviet Jews wishing to immigrate to countries other than Israel presumably will have to obtain visas from those countries.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed on the change because of the liberalization of Soviet exit visa policies last year and the soaring number of dropouts -- Soviet Jews who settle in countries other than Israel after leaving the USSR with Israeli visas.

The change also was prompted by the prospects of a significant increase in the number of exit permits this year. According to Yediot Achronot, Soviet officials have promised Peres that 1,400 Jews will be allowed to leave this month, including several individuals denied permission in the past for "security reasons."

While no date has been announced for the changeover, Jerusalem has already advised the Dutch Embassy in Moscow that it intends to stop issuing visas through its facilities. The Netherlands has represented Israeli interests in the Soviet Union since Moscow broke diplomatic ties with Israel in 1967.

Israel has also informed the Soviet authorities it intends to stop issuing visas through the Dutch Embassy, where they could be obtained by Jews who have no intention of going to Israel.

Instead, only the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, will issue visas for entry into Israel. Jews bound for Israel will have to fly direct, with a brief stopover in Bucharest, rather than flying first to Vienna, as the vast majority of emigrating Soviet Jews do today.

The Soviet Union has allowed several direct flights to Israel via Bucharest in recent months. Romania is the only Communist bloc country that has full diplomatic ties with Israel.

1987 Soviet Policy Change

The change was made feasible after the Soviet Union announced in June 1987 that its citizens could emigrate to any country in the world for the purpose of family reunion.

The altered Soviet policy cleared the way for more extensive Jewish emigration, Maariv noted Monday. Israel became only one of several countries of choice.

Previously, Jews were granted exit visas only if they could produce invitations from relatives in Israel, even if they wished to be reunited with families in other countries, such as the United States.

In late April, Israel announced it would begin issuing invitations with the requirement that emigrating Soviet Jews pick up their visas in Bucharest, in effect ensuring that Israeli invitations no longer will be used to facilitate immigration to other countries.

Under the old policy, Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union traveled via Vienna, where a majority of them opted to immigrate to Western countries, notably the United States. This month, the "dropout" figure hit an unprecedented 90 percent.

The Israelis were angered and embarrassed by the high dropout rate, arguing that Jews who left Russia on the strength of Israeli visas were obliged to go to Israel.

They also maintained that the flood of Soviet Jews going to the United States was one reason Moscow clamped down hard on Jewish emigration in recent years.

**REAGAN SAYS MOSCOW MUST RESUME
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL****By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA) -- President Reagan reiterated last week that if the Soviet Union wants to participate in the Middle East peace process, it must "resume diplomatic relations with the State of Israel."

Reagan, in a pre-summit interview Thursday with television journalists from Europe and Japan, also stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organization cannot represent the Palestinians in negotiations with Israel since the PLO "refuses to recognize the right of Israel to exist as a nation."

The president expressed optimism about the chances for acceptance of Secretary of State George Shultz's proposals on negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Arab delegation. "I believe there is a desire in the Middle East to settle once and for all what is still technically a state of war between the Arab nations and Israel," he said.

Reagan did not indicate whether he would press the Soviets to accept the Shultz initiative in his talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, which begin May 29.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, following his 30-minute meeting with Reagan last week, said the summit was the next stage in the peace process. Peres said he did not expect an agreement in Moscow, but expressed hope that the talks would pave the way for eventual Soviet support for Shultz's proposals.

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir opposes the Shultz plan for an international conference on the grounds that it would lead to pressure on Israel from the Soviet Union and the Arab countries. Peres stressed in Washington that while Israel does not need such a conference, it is the only way to bring Jordan into negotiations.

Conference Would 'Give Advice'

Reagan reiterated Thursday that "we've made it plain" that the United States wants an international conference not "to dictate a settlement, but to be helpful if we can; to give advice and to make proposals that might help them arrive at a fair and just peace."

The Soviet Union, however, wants an international conference that would actually negotiate the terms of a settlement.

On the issue of human rights, Reagan said he values the Helsinki Accords "very much." He is scheduled to speak Friday on the same stage in the Finnish capital where the accords were signed in 1975.

He said his main concern is "that there has not been a complete keeping of those pledges in that agreement" by the Soviet Union, "in recognizing the fundamental right of people to leave a country, worship as they will, and so forth."

He did not specifically mention the issue of Soviet Jewry. However, both Reagan and Shultz have personally pledged to Jewish leaders that they will press this issue in Moscow as they have at the three previous summits.

ARAB SCHOOLS IN TERRITORIES REOPEN; TWO KILLED, SIX WOUNDED OVER WEEKEND By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA) -- Schools closed five months ago for security reasons were reopened by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday with a warning that they could be shut down again at the first sign of trouble.

Classes were resumed at 414 elementary schools and 190 kindergartens. Preparatory or junior high schools are to reopen next week, and high schools a week after that.

The Israeli authorities are proceeding cautiously on the assumption that the higher the grade, the greater the potential for violence erupting in the student body. There are no plans at the moment to reopen the Arab universities in the West Bank.

The return to school was without incident Monday. Attendance was between 80 and 90 percent.

The Israeli authorities hope to demonstrate by this their control over the territories. The school reopenings, however, were fully in accord with the wishes of the Palestinian nationalist underground.

Nationalist circles have been urging the population to let their children return to classes

so that "Israel will not deprive the children of education."

Brig. Gen. Shaike Erez, head of the civil administration in the West Bank, stressed Monday that the army would not hesitate to close the schools again if they become hotbeds of violent demonstrations as in the past.

Meanwhile, three Palestinians were wounded in clashes with security forces in Nablus on Sunday. Rioting broke out in Tulkarm on Saturday, following the fatal shooting of an Arab woman by security forces there Friday.

Molotov Cocktails Kill Two

Two people died and three were injured, one seriously, in Molotov cocktail attacks in the West Bank over the weekend.

The fatalities were an Arab woman, Shamsiya Kaadan, 65, and her son, Mohammad Kaadan, 35, from Deir Roussoun village in Samaria. Their car was attacked with a firebomb while passing through Shuweika village, north of Tulkarm, Friday night.

The mother and son were returning from a Tulkarm hospital, where Mohammad's wife was about to give birth. Israeli authorities suspect the attackers mistook their car for an Israeli vehicle.

A gasoline bomb was thrown at a military vehicle earlier in the evening without causing casualties.

But a resident of Jerusalem, Yaacov Askayo, 28, was seriously burned when a Molotov cocktail crashed through the windshield of his car while he was driving through Jericho on Friday night.

He was hospitalized at the Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem with burns covering 60 percent of his body.

Two other Israelis were slightly injured when gasoline bombs were thrown at their car Sunday in the West Bank town of Kalkilya.

U.S. PICKS NEW ENVOY TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA) -- President Reagan intends to nominate career diplomat William Brown to replace Thomas Pickering as U.S. ambassador to Israel, the White House announced Friday.

The announcement did not disclose the new assignment for Pickering, who has been ambassador to Israel since 1985.

Brown, 57, currently ambassador to Thailand, served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv from 1979 to 1982. During more than 30 years with the State Department he has otherwise concentrated on Far Eastern and Soviet affairs.

HERZOG REDUCES JAIL TERMS

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA) -- Three members of a Jewish terrorist underground serving life sentences for crimes of violence against Arabs had their prison terms reduced to 15 years by President Chaim Herzog on Friday, before the Shavuot holiday began.

Uzi Sharabaf, Shaul Nir and Menachem Livni were convicted of murder in 1985 for their part in an armed attack on the Islamic University in Hebron. They have already served about a third of their reduced sentences.

They were among 80 prisoners, 26 of them lifers, whose prison terms were shortened by Herzog on the occasion of Israel's 40th anniversary.

PERES FLIES TO BRUSSELS TO MEND RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

By Edwin Eytan and Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, May 23 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived here on a 24-hour trouble-shooting mission Monday to try to improve his country's soured relations with the European Community and its legislative body, the Strasbourg-based Parliament of Europe.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution last Friday denouncing acts of violence by the Israel Defense Force in the administered territories and Israel's "refusal of all mediation efforts and of a fair solution to the Mideast conflict by the international community."

Peres will be attending the semiannual meeting of the Israel-E.C. Cooperation Council. Specifically, he will try to convince the 12 E.C. foreign ministers with whom he meets Tuesday of the importance of the three economic agreements Israel and the E.C. signed last year, but which the European Parliament refused to ratify in March.

He wants to impress upon them as well that the E.C. has the responsibility to put pressure on Arab countries that refuse to make peace with Israel rather than on Israel alone.

The Israeli foreign minister made those points with his Belgian counterpart, Leo Tindemans, at a one-hour meeting here Monday night shortly after Peres arrived.

The European Parliament resolution was passed by a slim margin of 30-22. Most of the parliament's 518 members were absent. The resolution, which was introduced by West German Socialist Klaus Hansch, also denounced terrorist attacks by Palestinian groups or others on civilian targets in Israel.

This is not the first time the E.C. and its parliament have been sharply critical of Israel's methods of dealing with the Arab uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The parliament's rejection of the economic protocols on March 9 was over Israel's failure at the time to allow Palestinians in the administered territories to export their agricultural produce directly to the European market. It was widely viewed, however, as a form of economic sanction against Israel.

The three accords, negotiated over a two-year period by Israel and the European Common Market Commission deal with Israel's future trade relations with the E.C. and Israeli agricultural and industrial exports.

They also concern E.C. financial aid to Israel. Peres hopes his visit will result in a \$70 million loan on easy terms.

Diplomatic sources here predicted that Peres' meeting with the foreign ministers and parliament members will include "tough, hard and even embarrassing encounters."

ITALIANS BACK PLO, CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO BRING PALESTINIAN UNREST TO AN END

By Ruth Gruber

ROME, May 23 (JTA) -- Italy's Chamber of Deputies approved resolutions last week backing the Palestine Liberation Organization and committing the government to take concrete steps to end the conflict between Israeli authorities and Palestinian rioters in the administered territories.

The votes Thursday put an official stamp on a foreign policy line giving de facto recognition

to the PLO and urging the government to take any diplomatic initiative to end a situation it defined as no longer tolerable.

The general motion on the territories, pushed by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, passed by a 385-55 majority, with 12 abstentions. It united the five parties of the ruling coalition, as well as the Communists, Italy's second largest party and main opposition force.

The vote on the Communist-backed motion on the PLO, however, split the coalition and saw the Communists voting with the majority in a 191-116 decision, with 133 abstentions.

The motion commits the government to support the "incontestable representation of the PLO as interlocutor in negotiations aimed at putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict." It also calls for Palestinian "self-determination respecting, on the part of all, the right of the State of Israel to existence and security."

GERMANY TO INVESTIGATE EMBEZZLEMENT; JEWISH OFFICIAL SUSPENDED FROM JOB

By David Kantor

BONN, May 23 (JTA) -- The Finance Ministry has launched an investigation into the apparent embezzlement of government funds intended for Nazi victims by the late president of the Central Council of Jews, Werner Nachmann, who had control of the funds.

The ministry will try to find out why money budgeted to the reparations fund was transferred to the Central Council before the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany approved the applications of persecutees. The Claims Conference is based in New York.

The funds were supplied by the Bonn government between 1980 and 1987. The accrued interest was for the benefit of Jewish victims of Nazism in Eastern Europe who came to West Germany after the 1965 deadline for filing reparations claims.

They were to receive a one-time payment of 5,000 marks (\$3,000) each on approval of their claims. According to instructions issued by Hans Matthoeffler, the finance minister in 1980, the reparations money was to be transferred to Central Council only when it was ready for disbursement.

Nachmann, a prominent businessman who died Jan. 21, was accused last week by his successor, Heinz Galinski, of misappropriating the interest on the reparations funds in the amount of some \$12 million.

The Finance Ministry disclosed Monday that it had demanded last year detailed accounting from Nachmann of the funds in his custody, and on failing to receive a satisfactory response, informed him that further payments into the reparations account would be withheld until he explained how the money and interest were used.

The authorities are also investigating Alexander Ginsburg, secretary of the Central Council, who was the only community official besides Nachmann with access to the reparations account.

Ginsburg has been suspended from his job. He denies complicity in Nachmann's alleged wrongdoings. Similarly, Nachmann's widow, Aviva, says she had no knowledge of her husband's activities and that he left her destitute. His textile business is in bankruptcy.

Nachmann also has been accused of stealing some 5 million marks (\$3 million) from the regional Jewish community in Baden, where he lived.

TWO EDITORS OF LEFTIST PAPER CHARGED WITH BELONGING TO TERRORIST GROUP
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA) -- Two editors of the shut-down leftist newspaper *Derekh Hanitzotz* were formally charged in Jerusalem district court Monday with membership in a terrorist organization.

Ronni Ben-Efrat, 35, and Michal Schwartz, both mothers of two children, have been in custody since they were arrested last month, along with Yaacov Ben-Efrat, who is Ronni's husband, and Hadas Lahav.

All were members of the editorial staff of the newspaper, which was ordered closed by the security authorities three months ago, on grounds it was funded by terrorists.

The two women also were charged with having contact with a foreign agent and membership in an illegal organization. The accusations were based on testimony by state witnesses, including two senior police officers and six members of the General Security Services, known as the Shin Bet.

If the charges are proven, the accused would face prison sentences of from five to 15 years. The state asked that the suspects be held pending the end of legal proceedings. That request will be renewed when the court reconvenes on June 12. The suspects will remain in custody until then.

A fifth suspect, Assaf Adiv, who is listed as publisher of *Derekh Hanitzotz*, was arrested last week. He will appear in court Tuesday to have his detention extended.

According to the charge sheet, contact with the terrorists began between the end of 1983 and the beginning of 1984.

At that time, Ronni Ben-Efrat and her now estranged husband, Yaacov, met in London with Salah Rafat, a prominent member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist-oriented, pro-Soviet terrorist group headed by Nayef Hawatmeh.

Yaacov, 38, though mentioned in the charge sheet, has not yet been formally charged. He is Argentine-born and was chief editor of *Derekh Hanitzotz*. The others accused are Israeli-born.

CABINET DELAYS TAKING ACTION TO ALLEVIATE HEALTH CARE CRISIS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA) -- Israelis who had hoped that the Cabinet would take decisive action Monday to alleviate the nation's health care crisis were disappointed when the ministerial body decided not to act on a proposal to set up a state commission that would issue binding recommendations on the problem.

Meanwhile, a new strike hit government and Kupat Holim hospitals Monday, leaving wards staffed by skeleton crews. Outpatient clinics were closed. Cancer and kidney dialysis units were administered only by nurses. It was the first time patients in those departments were without full medical care.

President Chaim Herzog proposed last week that a state investigatory commission be appointed to look into the series of strikes, work stoppages and other disruptions that have plagued the nation's hospitals for more than a year.

The initial reaction was mixed and a Cabinet meeting was scheduled for Monday to consider the matter. But when the ministers convened, they

decided to suspend debate on the proposal until they could study the report of a professional committee headed by Professor Natan Trainin of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

The delay infuriated public sector doctors.

The Trainin committee was appointed a year ago by Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino and published its findings last week. It concluded that the state of the economy made it impossible for the government to increase its health budget.

This is exactly what Finance Minister Moshe Nissim has maintained in response to wage demands by medical and non-medical health service personnel.

The committee also proposed introducing private health care in government hospitals to operate in tandem with the socialized health system. Among other things, this would be expected to end the prolonged waiting period for elective surgery, sometimes more than a year.

Most of the committee's proposals were said to be unacceptable to the health minister, who is a Laborite. Private health care has been advocated chiefly by the Likud, the finance minister's party.

Trainin told a television interviewer Monday that he recommended the establishment of a national hospitals authority to oversee the day-by-day operation of hospitals, leaving the Health Ministry to deal only with overall public health policy and not professional matters.

Professor Yehezkel Dror, the Trainin committee's deputy chairman, struck at the core of the health care crisis when he observed that Israel's per capita gross national product "is between a third and a half that of highly industrial countries, but value-wise, we want the same level of medical care as the highly developed and rich countries."

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE BACKS PERES PLAN

SWAN LAKE, N.Y., May 23 (JTA) -- Delegates to the Workmen's Circle biennial convention backed a resolution supporting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' plan for an international Mideast peace conference.

Peres, leader of Israel's Labor Party, has proposed a non-binding conference that would serve as a framework for direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The conference would also include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: the United States, Soviet Union, China, Great Britain and France.

The fraternal organization's statement on Israel acknowledges the failure of Arab countries to "sit down and negotiate" with Israel, but supports an international conference if it can, "without imposed dictation, bring the parties to negotiate."

"We realize that an international conference may not be a complete solution," read the statement. "Nevertheless, we believe that it could be a beginning of a political solution which would lead to peaceful coexistence between the Jews and the Arabs."

The convention also adopted resolutions on a variety of domestic and other international concerns, including Soviet Jewry, anti-Semitism and the perpetuation of the Yiddish language and culture.

Delegates also elected a new organization president. Harold Ostroff, manager of the Jewish Forward, will succeed Dr. Barnett Zumoff.