



**BUSH SAYS U.S. WANTS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF LETHAL WEAPONS IN GULF**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- President Bush made clear Tuesday night that the United States sees a continuing role in the Persian Gulf area that includes preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"Our interest, our involvement in the Gulf is not transitory," Bush said in a nationally televised speech to a joint session of Congress, in which he outlined U.S. policy aimed at getting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops from Kuwait.

U.S. involvement in the Gulf "predated Saddam Hussein's aggression and will survive it" even after U.S. troops come home, the president stressed.

He said the United States will continue to seek to deter any future aggression and to "help our friends in their self-defense."

Bush added that the U.S. role will also be "to curb the proliferation of chemical, biological, ballistic missile and, above all, nuclear technologies."

The president gave no indication of how he would do this. But there have been arguments made within the administration and in Congress that U.S. forces must somehow remove Iraqi chemical, biological and nuclear weapons production plants before the present crisis is over.

Bush repeated the immediate U.S. goals that he has asserted since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. These are Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, assuring the security and stability of the Gulf, and the release of all American hostages now held by Iraq.

The president also declared that the United States will not allow Iraq to annex Kuwait, as Hussein claims to have done already.

"That's not a threat or a boast," Bush said. "That's just the way it's going to be."

**NEWS ANALYSIS:**  
**U.S. NOT AS EAGER TO INVOLVE SOVIETS IN PEACE PROCESS AS GORBACHEV CLAIMS**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Mikhail Gorbachev's statement Sunday that the United States was dropping its longstanding opposition to Soviet participation in the Middle East peace process appears to be less than meets the eye.

The Soviet leader was almost kittenish in reporting at a joint news conference with President Bush in Helsinki, Finland, that Bush had agreed the Soviets have an important role to play in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The concern this caused among some Israelis and supporters of Israel in the United States was heightened by a New York Times story Tuesday that not only had the United States reversed its policy, but it might drop its opposition to an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But Bush administration officials were quick to provide reassurances that there had been no change in U.S. policy.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said

the only agreement Bush and Gorbachev reached was that once the Persian Gulf crisis was resolved, they would ask their foreign ministers "to work with countries in the region and outside it to develop regional security structures and measures to promote peace and stability."

How this would be done has not yet been decided, Fitzwater said.

A senior State Department official stressed that the United States is a long way from any joint effort with the Soviet Union on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Nothing will happen until the U.S.-led international effort to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait succeeds, the official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

**No Change On International Conference**

Bush has rejected a Soviet proposal that an international conference be convened both to resolve the Gulf crisis and to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But the United States also has not agreed to a separate international conference on the Palestinian issue, the State Department official maintained, contrary to a report in the Times that Bush had opened the door to such a conference.

The official repeated the longstanding U.S. position that an international conference could be useful "under certain circumstances," but not until it has exhausted efforts to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The one-day Helsinki summit was seen as chiefly aimed at assuring Soviet support for the economic sanctions and blockade ordered by the U.N. Security Council against Iraq.

The official stressed that a Soviet role in the Middle East peace process would not even be an issue until the Gulf crisis is resolved successfully, and that could be several months away.

Left unsaid is that the U.S. effort to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is also on hold until the Gulf crisis is over and it becomes clearer what kind of Middle East has been left in its wake.

The Bush administration has accepted the Reagan administration's position that the Soviet Union could be an acceptable partner to the Middle East process if it proved it was playing a responsible role in the region. Should the Soviets stay the course in putting pressure on Iraq, Moscow would be seen by the United States as acting responsibly.

**Soviet-Israeli Talks Raise Hopes**

But the administration has said that the Soviets must also meet certain conditions, the most important being the restoration of diplomatic relations severed by Moscow during the 1967 Six-Day War.

The Soviet Union has said it will not restore diplomatic relations until the Palestinian issue is resolved. But relations between Israel and the Soviet Union have been improving in recent years.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation left for Moscow on Wednesday and was scheduled to hold talks Friday with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials.

There has been speculation that the talks could pave the way for a restoration of full

relations. But Israeli officials say the purpose of the talks is to make arrangements for a meeting at the U.N. General Assembly between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Israeli counterpart, David Levy.

Levy, just back from a visit to the United States, said Wednesday that Moscow would be a "welcome partner" for the Middle East peace process if it put pressure on Arab states to make peace with Israel.

He said he hoped the Soviets would also cease supplying arms to Arab states hostile to Israel.

But Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, is less sanguine about the Soviets getting involved with the United States in the peace process.

"Whenever those two powers cooperated, it was at the expense of Israel," he said at an American Jewish Congress symposium here Monday.

Ben-Elissar said the Soviet Union is a Middle East power, but "I don't see Russian and American policy coinciding" in the region.

In New York, the American Jewish Congress issued a statement Tuesday outlining suggested conditions for any Soviet involvement in the peace process.

They included restoration of relations with Israel, recognition that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be linked to the Persian Gulf crisis and "some indication that the Soviet Union has freed itself" of its practice of offering "mechanical, automatic and predictable support for the Arab position on any and all issues relating to Israel."

*(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)*

#### SOVIET AND VATICAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MIDEAST CONFERENCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- A Soviet delegation will open talks with the Vatican soon on the possibility of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, Communist sources indicated Wednesday.

The talks will start before the end of the month, the Italian Communist Party newspaper L'Unita reported in Rome. The views of the Vatican and the Kremlin on this subject "are very close" and need only to be clearly formulated, L'Unita said.

Israel opposes an international conference, and while the United States will not rule one out, its stated preference is for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

According to the Communist sources, the Soviet delegation in the Vatican will be headed by Igor Andropov, a career diplomat who was a member of the Soviet delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He is also the son of the late Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov.

Meanwhile, Soviet and Israeli diplomats are preparing for an ambassadorial level meeting in Geneva at the end of the month to discuss bilateral relations and ways to improve cooperation between their countries.

According to sources in Geneva, the Israeli delegation will be led by Arye Levin, chief of the Israeli consular mission in Moscow. Levin holds the personal rank of deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, which is equivalent to ambassadorial rank.

#### LEVY TO TRY TO PATCH UP E.C. TIES IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will try to repair Israel's tattered relations with the 12-nation European Community when he meets on Monday with E.C. foreign ministers in Brussels.

His goal is to convince the E.C. Council of Ministers to abandon the threat of economic sanctions against Israel for alleged human rights violations in the administered territories, Israeli sources in Belgium have indicated.

Levy also hopes to persuade the E.C. to drop the idea of sending a special representative to Jerusalem to monitor conditions in the territories.

Both measures, which Israel considers harsh and punitive, stem from a resolution adopted on June 14 by the Parliament of Europe, the E.C.'s legislative body in Strasbourg, which condemned Israel for the "bloody repression of Palestinian civilians" in the territories and called for economic sanctions.

The resolution must be ratified by the Council of Ministers to become effective.

Levy lobbied against it at his meeting in Jerusalem last month with the three E.C. foreign ministers in charge of Middle East policy.

The so-called "troika" consists of Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, current chairman of the Council of Ministers; Foreign Minister Gerard Collins of Ireland, the immediate past chairman; and Jacques Poos, the foreign minister of Luxembourg, who will assume the rotating chairmanship on Jan. 1.

#### Change On Envoy Unlikely

While Levy may be able to avert economic sanctions in light of the current Persian Gulf crisis, E.C. sources said "it is highly unlikely" that the 12 ministers will relent on the idea of an E.C. representative of ambassadorial status in Jerusalem.

The E.C. supported such a move in principle in June, two weeks after the United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution to send U.N. observers to the administered territories.

The E.C. has a diplomatic delegation in Tel Aviv, headed by Gwyn Morgan, who has ambassadorial rank. The Israelis insist it is sufficient to fulfill all E.C. obligations and that there is no need for additional representation.

The E.C., however, maintains that a separate representative is needed, if only to demonstrate that the E.C. does not recognize the territories as part of Israel.

The Israeli visit to Brussels originally was planned for last March. It was to have been undertaken by Moshe Arens, who was foreign minister at the time, but was postponed because of the collapse of the Likud-Labor coalition government on March 15.

It will be Levy's first trip to Europe since he was appointed foreign minister in the new Likud-led coalition.

Of Moroccan origin, he speaks fluent French and is said by his aides to "feel very much at ease with European diplomats and officials."

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Because of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, JTA will not publish the Daily News Bulletin on Friday, Sept. 21. Shanah Tovah to all our readers!

**COURT BARS PUBLICATION IN U.S.  
OF BOOK BY FORMER MOSSAD AGENT**

By Debra Nussbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- A former Mossad agent who was temporarily barred last week from publishing a book in Canada about the Israeli intelligence agency has now been prevented from doing so in the United States.

Victor Ostrovsky's American publisher, St. Martin's Press, was served with a temporary restraining order early Wednesday, barring publication of "By Way of Deception: A Devastating Insider's Portrait of the Mossad."

Judge Michael Dontzin of the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan served the publishing firm with the order at 1 a.m., in response to a petition by the Israeli government.

It is in effect until Friday, when the court will hold a further hearing. At that time, attorneys for the Israeli government hope to extend the injunction until the case can be tried in court.

Named as defendants in the case are Ostrovsky and Claire Hoy, a Canadian journalist who co-authored the book.

According to the court order, 17,000 copies of the book were shipped Tuesday to bookstores and wholesalers. St. Martin's was ordered to notify them by noon Wednesday of the court's intention to restrain the sale or distribution of the book until a further decision in the case could be made.

Ostrovsky's book asserts, among other things, that the Mossad knew in advance about Lebanese terrorists' plans to bomb the United States Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983. The blast took 240 lives.

The book alleges Israel withheld the information from the United States, because it knew the incident would strain U.S.-Arab relations.

**Book Could Endanger Lives**

One reason the Israeli government succeeded in obtaining the last-minute injunction was that Roy Gainsburg, president of St. Martin's Press, was quoted in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot as saying that the book would reveal the existence of Mossad agents in the United States and Canada, according to Jonathan Lerner, an attorney representing the Israeli government in the suit.

The injunction read that "publication and dissemination of the book" would "disseminate extremely confidential information which would, among other effects, endanger the lives of various people in the employ of the State of Israel, and would be detrimental to the government of the State of Israel."

"This case is about a breach of contract," said Lerner. "Secrets are secrets, and Ostrovsky knew that he couldn't publish a book without prior approval from the Mossad."

Officials at St. Martin's Press did not return phone calls from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Ostrovsky's Canadian publisher, Stoddart Publishing Co. Ltd. of Toronto, was barred from publishing the book last Friday. Stoddart has suspended publication of the book until Monday, when the firm's appeal will be heard by an Ontario court.

Two Canadian newspapers, the Ottawa Citizen and the Toronto Star, reportedly have been held in contempt of court for printing stories about the Ostrovsky affair.

Ostrovsky, who holds dual Canadian-Israeli citizenship, was a Mossad trainee from 1984 to 1986. Israeli officials in Tel Aviv have stressed that he was dismissed after 18 months because he was "unfit for service."

He also was dismissed from the Israeli navy in 1982, because he was "unstable," according to Israeli military sources.

Ostrovsky has gone into hiding in or around Toronto, his Canadian publisher said, but has made himself available for press interviews there.

He told journalists that two Israeli agents visited him last week and told him publication of the book would put him in "all kinds of danger."

Ostrovsky said he is certain Israeli agents will try to kill or kidnap him.

**JEWISH GROUP SUCCEEDS IN DELAYING  
VATICAN PUBLICATION OF MANUSCRIPTS**  
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Campaigners fighting to force the Vatican to return sacred manuscripts plundered from European Jewry over six centuries scored their first victory this week when the West German publishers of the Official History of the Vatican Library agreed to postpone its release in Britain.

The publishing house Belsar Verlag had originally planned to launch the book in Britain next month.

So far, 75 copies of the Official History have been printed, priced at about \$90 each.

Businessman Manfred Lehmann, who heads the Committee for the Recovery of Jewish Manuscripts, was jubilant when he learned the publishers had backed down on their plans.

Lehmann objected to the book because it failed to acknowledge that the Hebrew manuscripts in the library's collection were stolen during a wave of "spiritual genocide" unleashed against Jewish communities in medieval and Renaissance Europe.

Lehmann, a businessman and collector of Judaica with interests in London and New York, called on British Jewry to join the wider campaign to restore Jewish books to their rightful owners.

One of the committee's broader goals is to recover Jewish books and manuscripts "for the Jewish people" and deposit them in the National Library in Jerusalem.

Its goal is supported by Israeli President Chaim Herzog, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Orthodox groups in the United States.

The plundering and destruction of Jewish books and manuscripts began in 1243, when 12,000 volumes of the Talmud were publicly burned in Paris. It peaked with the bull of Pope Clement VIII in 1593 branding all Hebrew writings blasphemous, obscene, impudent and to be consigned to the flames, Lehmann noted.

The Vatican at that time was determined to wipe out Jewish learning and study, he said. Now it studiously ignores the committee's protests, Lehmann has claimed.

The German publishers themselves have decided to discuss the status of the Jewish material with Vatican representatives.

The remnant of Jewish work not destroyed amounts to about 800 items reposing in the Vatican Library, much of it uncatalogued and with limited access to researchers.

Lehmann believes this residue contains many "unique examples of Jewish art."

### 3 EX-NAZIS TRYING TO ENTER U.S. THWARTED BY OFFICIALS AT BORDER

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Within a period of five days last week, U.S. officials thwarted the attempted entry into this country of three men suspected of having been SS guards at concentration camps during World War II.

The men, who tried to enter the United States at three separate points, were not working together.

Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which prosecutes Nazi war criminals, said the occurrence of three attempts in one week is unusual.

The men were stopped by officials of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, who saw their names on the Justice Department's "Watch List" of undesirable aliens suspected of war crimes.

The border guards contacted OSI, according to standing instructions, and were told to look for the telltale blood-type tattoo that SS guards had in their left armpits. Two of the men, who are German citizens, were found with the tattoos.

Gustav Raasch, who acknowledged having served as a guard at Majdanek, in Lublin, Poland, tried to enter in Houston after flying there from London. He was returned to England.

Hans Weinem, who was allegedly a guard at Auschwitz, tried to enter in Miami after a flight from Frankfurt. He, too, was sent back.

The third man, Eduards Podins, a Canadian resident, was detected in Vancouver by INS officials on the Canadian side of the border. They stopped him before he could board a plane to Hawaii. Podins is said to have been an SS guard at the Valmiera concentration camp in Latvia.

The men are not known to have been charged anywhere with war crimes, said Sher, but the OSI has now provided all known information to Canada and will be informing the Germans.

### Cooperation In Eastern Europe

Sher said the number of suspected war criminals trying to enter the country has increased in the last two years, because residents of several European countries, including West Germany, are no longer required to have tourist visas to enter the United States.

An average of six to eight alleged Nazi war criminals per month have tried to come into the United States in the last two years, Sher said.

But he does not think former Nazis believe it is now easier to enter this country than before.

"I think the word has gotten out that if someone has a Nazi background, they will be stopped," Sher said. "The clear message is that Nazis come to the United States at their own risk, and we are going to vigorously enforce" laws barring them from entering the country.

Meanwhile, OSI has been reaping a reward of information on war criminals since democratization swept over Eastern Europe.

Of particular note has been the cooperation from East Germany. "This summer we sent over five people to scour the records, and they came back with 6,000 names," Sher said, adding that OSI also has four researchers in Czechoslovakia.

"We're very optimistic that at a minimum we are going to have many more names to put on the Watch List," Sher said. "We've gotten the names of thousands of camp guards, to see if they are living here."

### FOUR KNESSET MEMBERS JOIN FORCES TO INTRODUCE ELECTORAL REFORM BILL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Four Knesset members of various political hues have consolidated their individual bills for electoral reform into a single measure calling for the direct election of the prime minister.

The combined bill was introduced in the Knesset Law Committee this week, becoming the first attempt at reform since the Likud-led coalition government took office in June.

But there is strong opposition from groups that fear the proposed changes could lead to a dictatorship.

The Knesset members, Uriel Lynn of Likud, David Libai of Labor, Yoash Zidon of Tsomet and Amnon Rubinstein of the Center-Shinui Movement, introduced separate reform bills in March.

Each passed its first reading in the Knesset, but dropped out of sight after the Likud-Labor unity government fell on March 15.

The four parliamentarians joined forces to hammer out a single bill, which they hope will have a better chance of scaling the remaining Knesset hurdles.

But Dr. Arye Carmon, head of the Israel Institute for Democracy, calls it "one of the most dangerous bills ever prepared in Israel."

Carmon, himself a longtime campaigner for electoral reform, warned, "If the bill passes in letter and spirit, it may prove to be the means for a dictator to be elected in entirely democratic elections."

The four sponsors rejected such alarms Tuesday at a symposium in Tel Aviv. They pointed out that while their bill would grant the prime minister wider powers by reducing his dependence on coalition partners, the Knesset would be given broader powers to balance them.

### A Threat To Democracy?

The reform bill would require the Knesset to ratify international conventions and incorporate them into the legal code.

Parliament also would have the authority to summon the prime minister and other civil servants to testify before its committees, as the U.S. Congress now does.

A no-confidence vote by a minimum of 70 Knesset members would be sufficient to oust a prime minister. The Knesset also would be empowered to dismiss any other minister. And it would have the power to supervise the state budget and cut the budgets of ministries that exceed them.

Approval by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee would be required before the government could declare war.

The sponsors stressed their measure would free the Knesset majority from the disproportionate power exerted by political minority groups and defectors, exemplified by the haggling that preceded the present coalition government.

Finally, the Knesset would retain the right to dissolve itself and call for new elections.

But Carmon, who believes that the leader of the largest political bloc should automatically become prime minister, claimed the proposed bill would introduce "presidential elements which may damage the very foundations of democracy.

"I don't believe that our fragile and sensitive democracy should serve as an arena for dangerous experiments," he said.