

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## NEWEST POLL SHOWS LABOR GAIN: EVEN WITH LIKUD FOR ELECTION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- With a leading poll showing Labor to have drawn neck-and-neck with Likud, the Israeli election campaign entered its final stage today in an electric atmosphere of drama and tension. The contending parties made massive last minute efforts to win public support today. By law, electioneering must cease 24 hours before the polling begins.

At the same time, the campaign managers were putting finishing touches to vast logistical plans to go into effect on Tuesday, election day, to ensure that every potential supporter gets to his or her polling station and is able to cast a ballot.

The weekend poll which kindled new hope in the hearts of the Labor Alignment and sent a chill through Likud was conducted by the "Modiin Ezrachi Co." for the Jerusalem Post and published this morning. It gave Labor and Likud each 42 seats in the next Knesset.

Its significance lay in the fact that the same pollsters gave Likud a 12 seat lead only ten days ago, and had posted Likud as the front runner since late April.

The poll, therefore, seemed to indicate an 11th-hour Labor recovery. It was conducted on June 25-26, just before the televised debate between Premier Menachem Begin and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres Thursday night which, it is widely felt, resulted in a Peres victory, and before Labor's leadership reshuffle which put the popular Yitzhak Rabin in the Defense slot on the party's putative Cabinet team.

While this move -- and especially Peres' cavalier treatment of Haim Barlev, the previous Defense Minister-designate -- angered and offended many people, Laborite activists believe it will result in a net gain of support. Peres succumbed to pressure to make the reshuffle when it was shown to him that secret polls taken for Labor gave it up to five additional seats were Rabin to be included in the "leadership team."

The other leading opinion poll, conducted by Dr. Mina Zemah, was expected to announce its latest findings tomorrow. Over the weekend she too noted a trend back to Labor, and predicted a neck-and-neck result.

## Role Of Smaller Parties May Be Crucial

It should be noted, however, -- and Likud campaign managers are stressing this -- that a neck-and-neck result will not suffice for Labor to wrest power from Likud. This is because most of the smaller parties -- National Religious Party, Agudat Israel, Telem, Tami and Tehiya -- are believed to be inclining towards Likud rather than Labor. Given the choice, they would prefer to form a coalition with Begin once again. That is certainly true of Tehiya and the NRP.

Objective observers say that Labor needs at least 46 to 47 seats to have a chance of forming a government. This might even be a minority government, relying on the passive support by abstention of the pro-Moscow Rakah Communists in votes of

confidence. If Labor can draw three to four seats ahead of Likud, observers feel, fence-straddling parties such as Telem headed by former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Tami headed by Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzzeira, and Aguda would enter into serious coalition negotiations with Labor along with the leftist Shinui, Independent Liberal and Citizens Rights parties.

The Modiin Ezrachi poll was significant in another respect: It showed a ten percent drop in the number of "undecideds" during the past ten days -- from 22.5 percent to 12.5 percent. The trend among the undecideds was plainly to move towards Labor when finally making their choice. Labor campaigners say if this trend continues during the crucial pre-election 48 hours, Labor's chance of emerging victorious and strong enough to form a government will be good.

Whether because of the weekend poll or fatigue, Begin seemed slightly less ebullient and vigorous than usual when he addressed a large election rally in Jerusalem last night. Physically he seemed fit and well, speaking for 90 minutes without any ill effects. But his worry about getting the voters out showed through when he implored the enthusiastic crowd repeatedly: "Don't just shout -- vote ... the important thing is to put the right slip in the ballot box Tuesday."

## FLATTO-SHARON SUSPENSION ANNULLED BY SUPREME COURT

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- The suspension of independent MK Samuel Flatto-Sharon from the Knesset was annulled by the Supreme Court over the weekend pending its final decision on his bribery conviction. Flatto was suspended on the recommendation of the Knesset's House Committee last month after he was found guilty by a district court of bribing voters and other campaign irregularities in the 1977 elections. He has appealed the verdict.

The high court's six to one decision was, in effect, a rebuke to the Knesset for acting before the justices reviewed Flatto's appeal and rendered a decision. As a result of the ruling, Flatto was given five more days in the ninth Knesset. A new Knesset will be elected on Tuesday. Flatto is standing for re-election.

## HAIG CONFIRMS PLAN TO DELAY SENDING SAUDI DEAL TO CONGRESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig confirmed today that the Reagan Administration would "delay" submission to Congress of its proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other material to Saudi Arabia but he said the Administration was still committed to the AWACS sale.

Answering questions on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program, Haig said the Administration is still in the process of developing arrangements for the arms package and that it is "very important that the arrangements be known and understood by those who have reservations as to the sale."

The Administration had been expected to send the arms package proposal to Congress some time early in July. But late last week, Sen. Charles



Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. Paul Laxalt (R. Nev.), urged a delay in the wake of a letter to President Reagan from 54 Senators calling on him to withdraw the proposals. Haig said submission of the proposals to Congress will also depend on timing as recommended by the Senate leadership.

He rejected claims that Saudi oil was involved in any way in the AWACS sale. He said what the U.S. was "concerned about" in the sale was the security of oil in Saudi Arabia and "overall regional security."

Replying to questions on another subject, Haig said he was "appalled" by the statement of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq calling for a nuclear "Arab bomb." He said the Reagan Administration was committed to a policy of non-proliferation and would take "counteraction" to prevent proliferation in such countries as Pakistan, with which the U.S. recently signed an arms agreement.

He said he could give "no prediction" as to whether or when the Administration will make a judgement that Israel did or did not violate its arms agreement with the U.S. by using American planes to destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor on June 7, or whether or when the U.S. will decide to lift the suspension on delivery of four F-16 fighter planes to Israel.

He said that any judgement on Israel will be made by the Administration in cooperation with Congress but he didn't know if they would ever reach a "juridical" decision.

Haig stressed that the U.S. condemnation of the Israeli raid on Iraq's reactor is based upon the belief that Israel had not exhausted all diplomatic means. He said the U.S. action did not mean any change in the "basic relationship with the government of Israel."

#### BLUM SAYS INDIRECT CENSURE OF PLO AGAIN PROVES UN EVASION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 28 (JTA)--Yehuda Blum, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, has charged that a statement issued here last Thursday by the Security Council president, which indirectly censured the Palestine Liberation Organization was "yet another demonstration at the United Nations of the double standard in everything involving the PLO" but not the only one in that statement.

The statement by the Council president, Porfirio Munoz Ledo of Mexico, condemned the June 19 killing of two Fiji soldiers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by PLO terrorists, but the statement did not refer to the PLO by name, but to "armed elements," a UN euphemism for the PLO.

Blum recalled, in his charge, on Friday that most of the 64 UNIFIL casualties died directly or indirectly from PLO actions. Blum said that this was still "the first time that the Security Council has at all seen fit to pronounce itself when the PLO has been responsible for the killings. In that sense," he remarked, the statement "is a new departure and a welcome one."

But Blum also noted that the Council president's statement was "almost congratulatory of the PLO since it expresses encouragement at the establishment of 'a group ... to investigate these events.' In contrast with previous practice, that 'group' was not established by the UN or UNIFIL but by those responsible for the slaughter

of the Fijian soldiers -- that is by the PLO itself." What it all really meant, he observed, was that "the terrorists are being left to police themselves."

#### HABIB BACK FOR CONSULTATIONS WILL RETURN AFTER ISRAELI VOTE

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA) -- Special Mid-east envoy Philip Habib returned Friday to Washington from the Middle East. He met with Secretary of State Haig on Saturday and is expected to see President Reagan after the President returns from California tomorrow.

David Passage, a State Department spokesman, said again that Habib had gone to the Middle East to resolve the crisis developing from Syria's stationing of SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon. Passage said that tensions had been eased in the Middle East but that the Habib mission would probably have to continue.

Sources here said that Habib was called home for consultations partly out of a desire of the State Department that he should not be in the region during Israel's current election campaign which will end on Tuesday.

#### WORLD SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL AFFIRMS ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA) -- The World Council of Synagogues has adopted a resolution affirming reports of serious anti-Semitism in Argentina. The resolution, adopted at the annual board meeting of the international organization of Conservative synagogues, observed that while "there may be a valid discussion as to the best method of combating anti-Semitism, there cannot, however, be a minimization of the existence of anti-Semitism in Argentina."

The resolution expressed "great concern that the fundamental problems relating to the Jews in Argentina are being obscured by the debate over a single individual who, in contravention of any standard of human rights, was subjected to great torture." The reference was apparently to Jacobo Timerman, former editor and publisher of the Argentine daily La Opinion, whose book "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number" describes the torture and indignities he experienced during 30 months of incarceration in Argentina without trial or any charges being brought against him.

Timerman has charged in his book and in public statements since his release last year that he and other Jews held by the Argentine authorities were subjected to greater cruelties than non-Jewish political prisoners because they are Jews. But the organized Jewish community in Argentina and conservative Jews in the U.S. who support the Reagan Administration's policy of not publicly condemning "friendly authoritarian" regimes for human rights violations, have disputed Timerman's contention the military junta ruling Argentina condones anti-Semitism.

The World Council of Synagogues noted however that a delegation of about 40 of its representatives who visited Argentina last year and spoke to all segments of the Jewish community there reached "the inescapable conclusion ... that anti-Semitism is part of the fabric of life in Argentina."

#### MAURICE ROSENFELD DEAD AT 90

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Maurice Rosenfeld, a businessman, philanthropist and civic leader who died Thursday at the age of 90. Rosenfeld, who was born on the Lower East Side and was orphaned in his teens, founded the Equitable Bag Co. 60 years ago and served as its president and board chairman until 1974.



He was active on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies which elected him an honorary life trustee in 1959. He was also a former president of the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum, now the Jewish Child Care Association. He served for many years as president of New York City's Youth Counsel Bureau and was a trustee of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the National Society for the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.

#### NEW YOUNG ISRAEL PRESIDENT VOWS FIGHT ON KASHRUTH PRICE GOUGING

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., June 28 (JTA) -- Harold Jacobs of New York, the newly-elected president of the National Council of Young Israel, announced today that the association of Orthodox synagogues would set up a national kashruth review board to investigate charges of price gouging and monopoly in kosher meat and poultry markets and apply remedies where necessary.

In his inaugural address at the organization's 45th national convention here, Jacobs cited evidence presented yesterday in a discussion of "the high cost of Jewish living" by Rabbi Binyamin Wallfish, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, and Sam Brach, a leading kosher meat retailer, that the actual added cost of kosher slaughter and production is no more than 10 to 15 cents per pound. The cost to the kosher consumer, they said, is 50 to 100 percent more than the wholesale price.

Wallfish accused kosher meat retailers of exploiting a captive market but Brach blamed restrictive kashrut certification requirements for creating a monopoly situation. Jacobs declared that Young Israel "will learn the truth and take whatever actions necessary to bring the price of kosher meat and poultry down to a reasonable level." He promised, "if there is profiteering, we will stamp it out."

In his valedictory address to the convention, Nathaniel Saperstein, outgoing president of the National Council, said that under Jacobs, Young Israel would continue its policy of vigorously opposing the spread of religious pluralism in Israel, strengthening its ties to the Jewish community in America and Israel and expanding its program of service to Jewish youths, collegiates and singles.

The convention session Friday night, devoted to Israel, heard Leonard Davis of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) urge the Jewish community to "concentrate on policy questions such as the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia and continued U.S. arms deliveries to Israel and to avoid personality politics in Washington."

Ivan Sokoloff, of Young Israel in Cleveland, discussed ways to ease the high cost of Jewish education for middle income parents. He proposed that "the Orthodox community consider taxing all of its members to support Jewish education either directly or through a surcharge on all kosher products and religious articles." He called on those communities with more than one day school to "consider merging or sharing facilities to reduce operating costs."

The Young Israel convention, attended by over 500 delegates, opened Friday with a call by David Love, National Council vice president to the Orthodox community to rally behind the Young Israel movement to counter "the vicious

attack in Eretz Israel and here from anti-Torah forces "seeking "the spread of religious pluralism in Israel."

#### ISRAEL SCIENTISTS DUBIOUS ABOUT 'ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA) -- Israel's scientific community has expressed skepticism over the claim by Yaacov Meridor, a Herut candidate for the Knesset, that a group of privately financed Israeli scientists have achieved a stunning breakthrough in energy production. Meridor, a wealthy businessman and former comrade-in-arms of Premier Menachem Begin in the Irgun, was persuaded by Begin recently to return to political life. Some Israeli sources believe Begin is grooming him as a successor.

But Meridor insists that his announcement of the breakthrough at a luncheon meeting of the Commercial and Industrial Club here Friday was not an election "gimmick." "I have to live even after the elections. Do you think I, at my age, would endanger my good name on something which will not hold up after the voting?" he asked reporters today.

According to Meridor, the breakthrough involves the production of energy by chemical reactions, a process long known in theory but never put to practical use at an economic cost. Meridor claimed that on Friday morning he saw a "chemical furnace" raise the temperature of water from 36 degrees Centigrade to 176 degrees in four minutes, sufficient, he said, to power a steam generator to produce electricity without the use of fossil fuels.

The Ministry of Energy reserved public comment but expressed reservations privately. Nevertheless, it promised to establish a committee of scientists to investigate Meridor's claims. Israeli scientists indicated serious doubts that an unknown group in Israel working with relatively limited resources could have achieved a breakthrough that has eluded some of the world's most eminent scientists working on the energy problem with far better facilities and almost unlimited funds.

Meridor refused to identify the scientists involved except to say one was an Orthodox Jew who was also a musician. He claimed the new process would revolutionize world energy production and "free mankind from having to kiss the Arabs' sandals."

#### UPSTATE NY JUDGE SUSPENDED FOR CALLING DEFENDANT 'KIKIE'

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA) -- The state Commission of Judicial Conduct has ordered a 68-year-upstate judge removed from the bench after a lengthy inquiry into a letter he wrote to a motorist he addressed as "Kikie."

Judge Morgan Bloodgood of Malta, in Sarasota County, has 30 days to appeal the ruling and presumably will continue serving in his \$21,000 a year part-time position pending the outcome of the appeal according to a report by Gerald Stern, commission administrator, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Stern declared, after the commission's investigation, that the Judge's behavior was "shocking."

Judge Bloodgood wrote a letter in April, 1979 to David Rosenblum, a Pennsylvania motorist picked up by state police for speeding. Rosenblum pleaded guilty by mail and sent a personal check for \$15 dollars to Judge Bloodgood, but then stopped payment.

Judge Bloodgood said he had made good on the check himself. He said he then wrote to Rosenblum declaring he would notify officials in both New York and Pennsylvania that Rosenblum was a scofflaw. The judge added, "It is a shame that people like you make it difficult to trust anyone else."



# FOCUS ON ISSUES PUNDITS PONDER NEXT MOVE BY REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ON ISRAEL USE OF U.S. PLANES IN RAID

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA) -- Now that the sound and fury over Israel's destruction of the Iraqi nuclear power plant has died down, it is unclear what Washington's next move will be. Nothing, of course, is expected to be announced until after Tuesday's election in Israel and perhaps not until after the Fourth of July holiday.

With Secretary of State Alexander Haig back at his State Department desk, there may be some indication of what the Reagan Administration plans to do with its "review" of the Israeli action.

Haig left for Asia June 10 shortly after sending Congress a letter saying that the President had found that "a substantial violation" of Israel's arms agreement with the United States "may have occurred" by Israel's use of U.S.-made weapons to bomb the Iraqi nuclear plant.

The letter also announced the Administration's decision to suspend delivery of four F-16s that were scheduled to go to Israel on June 12. Haig returned to Washington Friday, nearly a week after the U.S. joined the unanimous vote at the United Nations Security Council condemning Israel.

## Speedy Action On 'Review' Unlikely

However, State Department spokesmen have continuously stressed that no determination that Israel did or did not violate U.S. law may result from the review. The same is true in Congress, where many members of the House and Senate feel the Administration "passed the buck" to them.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee have both held hearings. The Senate Committee has not decided yet whether to hold further hearings or whether to issue a report. But, as Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.), pointed out at the outset, no one expects the Congress to vote to cut off military aid to Israel.

Meanwhile, none of the dire consequences of the Israeli raid predicted by Administration spokesmen and other critics of Israel have occurred. The Administration's main worry was that the Israeli action would wreck the efforts of special envoy Philip Habib to ease tension over the situation in Lebanon that has resulted from Syria's placement of SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles there and Israel's threat to remove the missiles. Yet tension has eased. The Habib mission continues even though Habib returned to Washington Friday, apparently because the Administration did not want him in the Mideast during the Israeli election.

Walter Stoessel Jr., Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, told the Congressional Committees about the concern of the U.S. for the "embarrassment" the Israeli action caused Egyptian President Sadat, since it occurred only three days after Sadat met with Begin. Yet in Cairo last Thursday, Michael Sterner, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs announced that Israel, Egypt and the U.S. had reached agreement on a peacekeeping force to patrol the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal in April, 1982.

Supporters of Israel were concerned that the Israeli pre-emptive strike might weaken the oppo-

sition in Congress to the Administration's proposal to sell Saudi Arabia five AWACS reconnaissance planes and enhancement equipment for the 62 F-15s previously bought from the U.S. The Administration publicly stressed that the Israeli raid and the sale were two completely separate issues although Stoessel said that the Israeli action would "perhaps intensify" Saudi Arabia's desire for the equipment.

Israel sources said that they hoped the issue of the Israeli raid would "blow over" by the time the arms package sale was debated in Congress, probably in September. Yet in the midst of the studies by the Administration and Congress of the Israeli raid, Sen. Bob Packwood (R. Oreg.) and Representatives Clarence Long (D. Md.) and Norman Lent (R. NY) announced that there was a majority in both the House and Senate opposed to the sale.

They urged the President to withdraw the sale or face an embarrassing defeat. But Administration spokesmen maintained that the Administration was going through with the proposal and that once the final package was unveiled it would meet the concerns of the Senators and Congressmen.

It is widely believed that the Administration plans to send the proposal to Congress in July. But late last week Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) urged the Administration, in view of the strong opposition in Congress, to postpone the submission date to allow time to put together a package that would take into full account the security interests of Saudi Arabia, Israel and our own interests in the Middle East." The Administration already delayed submission once at the urging of Baker, when the Senate Majority Leader found strong opposition to the sale in Congress.

The package being worked out reportedly would include greater U.S. control of the AWACS. But the main concern of many in Congress is not the danger to Israel with the AWACS in the hands of the Saudis, but to the U.S. Since the fall of the Shah of Iran, many in Congress are concerned about supplying highly advanced American weaponry to countries like Saudi Arabia whose regimes could also be toppled unexpectedly.

The package the Administration is putting together is also expected to be sweetened for Israel with more arms for the Jewish State. This raises a further question. How can the Administration continue the suspension of the four F-16s while it proposes new arms for Israel?

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JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- The Mexican government has given its formal approval to the appointment of Yisrael Gur-Arye as Israel's next Ambassador to Mexico, it was announced here. Gur-Arye, currently head of the Foreign Ministry's Latin American division, will relieve Shlomo Erell, former Israeli Ambassador to Brazil, who took over the Mexican post temporarily when Ambassador Shaul Rosolio resigned several months ago to enter business in Israel.

Gur-Arye will be replaced at the Foreign Ministry by Dr. Yoel Barromi who has completed his tour as Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

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JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- Binyamin Akzin, a professor of political science at the Hebrew University, has been elected president of the Friendship Associations, an umbrella organization encompassing all of Israel's friendship associations with other countries. His election was unanimous at the Friendship Association's biennial convention here last week. Dr. Arye Arazi was elected chairman of the executive. The organization acts in full cooperation with the World Zionist Organization's foreign relations department.