



LIKUD LEADERS OPTIMISTIC ON REACHING ACCORD ON NEW GOVERNMENT
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Likud leaders expressed optimism today that an agreement will be reached shortly with their coalition partners on a new government to be headed by Yitzhak Shamir. Deputy Premier David Levy who heads the Likud negotiating team, said that all parties concerned have reached an understanding.

Levy said he expected that by the beginning of next week, President Chaim Herzog will have received Premier Menachem Begin's formal resignation and will ask Shamir to form a government composed of the same parties that comprise the present coalition. The outlook brightened following meetings yesterday between the Likud negotiators and leaders of the Tami Party which had threatened to quit the coalition even before Begin announced his intention to resign two weeks ago.

Tami opposes recent stringent economic measures aimed at reducing Israel's soaring inflation rate and its lopsided foreign trade deficit. The Likud leaders reportedly promised Tami that those measures will be rescinded, but if so the new government will face grave economic challenges from the outset.

Likud also has apparently satisfied the Aguda Israel Party that the concessions to Orthodox religion promised by Begin will be honored by the new coalition. These include a promise to amend the Law of Return so that only persons converted to Judaism by Orthodox rabbis will be recognized as Jews. The measure, defeated in the Knesset earlier this year, is bitterly opposed by some elements of Likud and by many overseas Jews.

The two other coalition partners, National Religious Party and the ultra-nationalist Tehiya have no particular demands and are expected to join the new coalition.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO INVESTIGATE ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The Argentine government has promised the Jewish community that it will investigate a recent rash of anti-Semitic incidents and take measures to prevent their recurrence, the World Jewish Congress' Latin American branch reported here today.

The promise was offered by the Undersecretary of the Interior Guillermo Lascano Quintana at a meeting in Buenos Aires with representatives of the Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA), the central body of Argentine Jewry. The delegation was headed by DAIA president Sion Cohen Imach who reported on the meeting. The DAIA is an affiliate of the WJC.

The Jewish leaders met with Quintana "to express the concern of the Argentine Jewish community in view of the renewal of anti-Semitic incidents," Cohen Imach said. He noted that in the past three months, anti-Semitic graffiti has appeared on the walls of synagogues and threats have been made against Jewish schools.

Anti-Jewish publications, including non-registered periodicals, are being sold at newsstands, he said. They include such titles as "Alerta", "Masoneria" and "Papeles." In none of them is the publisher identified. "Papeles" carried an advertisement for Aerolineas Argentinas, the national airline. But the airline told the DAIA that the ad was not authorized, Cohen Imach said.

He said Quintana was given a full account of these developments and promised that the government would inquire into their source and take preventive measures.

ISRAEL'S POPULATION IS 4,110,000

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- One the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Israel's population was estimated at 4,110,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported. Of the total population, 3,407,000 are Jews (82.9 percent) and 703,000 are non-Jews.

In the past year Israel's population increased by 78,000 people, a growth of 1.8 percent, compared to 1.6 percent in the previous year. Of the 78,000 people, 57,000 were Jews, an increase of 1.6 percent compared to 1.4 percent in the previous year.

The non-Jewish population increased by 21,000 or 2.8 percent compared to a 2.6 percent increase last year. The number of immigrants was 15,000, an increase of 15 percent over last year.

MIXED REACTIONS TO ARBITRATOR'S DECISION ON DOCTORS WAGE HIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The decision of a government-appointed arbitrator to grant doctors a 60 percent wage increase spread retroactively over a two year period, drew mixed reactions today.

The Finance Ministry said the salary hike was within the 22 percent wage increase ceiling applicable to all public employees. But the ruling by arbitrator David Shoham was denounced by representatives of hospital-employed doctors. The Medical Association welcomed it, but with reservations. The decision, however, is binding on all parties.

The Treasury seemed to be the most satisfied. Officials noted that advances already paid to physicians more than covered the increases that will be paid retroactively beginning today and ending next spring. They said that no new money will have to be raised for the time being.

But trade union leaders disputed the claim that the salary awards were within the 22 percent limit. They said it violated the national wage ceiling agreement and that other groups of workers will now demand equal increases.

The doctors also won their demand for shorter hours. The arbitrator ordered a 45-hour work week and stipulated that half of the hospital staff doctors, particularly young residents, work only 42 hours, with generous overtime payments.

The decision to submit the issues to binding arbitration, once bitterly opposed by the Finance Ministry, ended a four-month strike by publicly employed doctors. Last spring, the doctors resorted to a hunger strike which paralyzed the country's medical services and brought matters to a head.

NEO-NAZI GROUPS SEEKING SEATS IN THE PARLIAMENT OF HESSE

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- A number of militant neo-Nazi organizations have banded together to seek seats in the Parliament of the federal state of Hesse in elections next month that are seen as a crucial test for rightwing groups.

The neo-Nazis will run candidates under the banner of "Action for Repatriation of Foreigners" (AAR). They will be competing with other parties, including the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NDP) which, compared to the AAR seems "moderate."

One AAR candidate is Amdt-Heinz Marx, of Hanau, a former member of the banned Werksportsgruppe Hoffman, a violence-prone neo-Nazi group that masqueraded as a sports club. He participated in a military training program by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon.

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and of the European Parliament has demanded that the AAR be banned. She said the Hesse constitution provides sufficient grounds for a ban.

REPORTS FROM BEIRUT SPEAK OF A 'NEW CIVIL WAR'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Reports from Beirut today spoke of a "new civil war" and fighting in and around the Lebanese capital as violent as any since the civil war started eight years ago.

A French colonel was killed and six other French soldiers in the multinational force were killed in shelling, apparently by Druze gunners in the hills east of the city, firing towards the international airport region where the multinational force is situated.

French warplanes from the aircraft carrier *Fache*, anchored off Beirut, flew reconnaissance missions over the hills to pinpoint the source of the fire. Earlier reports that three French planes had bombed Druze positions were later denied.

Since the redeployment of Israeli forces from the Beirut and Shouf areas last Saturday night nearly 300 Lebanese have been killed and some 700 wounded in the ethnic and interreligious fighting.

Both Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in different words in Rosh Hashanah interviews that Israel could not intervene in the new Lebanese fighting, however much Israel regretted the loss of life.

FEAR IN ISRAEL OVER THE 'GEMATRIYA' OF 5744 WHICH SPELLS 'ANNIHILATION'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Many Israelis, including many who do not regard themselves as superstitious, are viewing the arrival of the Jewish New Year tonight with some fear and trepidation.

Astrologists and fortune tellers interviewed by Israel Radio and Television even report a large increase in clients asking about the future, "some of them in a state of near-panic," according to one of them.

The cause of the fear is the numerology of the new year -- 5744 -- which, in Hebrew, is represented by letters standing for numerals. There is no letter or group of letters for the thousands, but the last three figures are written in Hebrew as

Taf, Shin, Mem, Daled -- which forms the word for "annihilation."

So widespread is the unease that the radio has started to spell out the individual letters rather than the word they form, and the army and the Ministry of Education have issued calendars with the letters rearranged to avoid the fear-instilling word.

Specialists and enthusiastic amateurs in "gematriya" -- the art or science of the interpretation of numbers -- have been quoted in radio programs offering differing interpretations, based on the Scriptures, for what may happen -- with some suggesting there may, indeed, be an annihilation this year -- but of non-Jewish forces seeking to harm or damage Israel.

Israeli astrologists all seem to agree that great changes in the world situation will occur between now and the end of the century, with many forecasting the end of the Communist state in the Soviet Union within the next 10 years.

Fears of the year 5744 with its "tashmad" (annihilation) tragedy have been enhanced by the fact that George Orwell's notorious 1984 starts in three months time. Some gematriya experts claim that Orwell consulted Jews versed in Cabalistic lore to set his date.

But other literary experts point out that Orwell wrote his book in 1948 and merely transposed the last two figures -- as the army and the Education Ministry have done with the fear-instilling letters of the Jewish New Year.

DULZIN EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER DEATH OF JACKSON

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Executives, expressed his deep grief at the death of Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) in a cable to Helen Jackson, the widow of the late senator. Jackson's death last Thursday at the age of 71 "is an irretrievable loss," Dulzin said.

"He will sorely be missed as a courageous fighter for human rights and an indefatigable defender of the rights of Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union in order to go to their historic homeland and rejoin their families in Israel. He was a friend in need in the United States Senate, and we knew that we could always count on him.

"On behalf of the Presidium of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, on behalf of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency Executives, and on behalf of 180,000 Soviet Jews living in Israel whose emigration was made possible in no small way thanks to Senator Jackson's untiring efforts, I wish to extend to you and your family our deep sympathy. Senator Jackson and his bold action on behalf of freedom and liberty will always be an inspiration."

REPORT SOVIET ANTI-ZIONIST COMMITTEE HAS INCREASED ITS ACTIVITIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public, the Soviet government-sponsored group which drew international attention last spring when it claimed that the majority of Soviet Jews who desire to leave the USSR have already left, has increased its activities and established offices in most Soviet cities which have a Jewish community.

This information was provided here by officials of the Public Council on Behalf of Soviet Jewry. President Dr. Avraham Hamon, chairman David Yaffit and Dr. Yuri Stern said the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic committee seemed to work toward becoming a mass movement.

"The very establishment of such a committee, in a multinational country such as the USSR, is a new phen-

amenon," the Council officials said. "All other nationals are allowed to form committees and associations to promote their culture and language, and only the Jews are forbidden to do so. The new committee acts openly against anything that is related to Judaism."

The heads of the anti-Zionist Committee, according to council officials, have sought the participation of several Jews in the committee, but were turned down. The Anti-Zionist Committee is led by Samuel Ziv, a Jewish law professor in Moscow, and Gen. (ret.) David Dragunsky, one of the highest ranking Jewish officers in the Red Army.

BRANDEIS U. GETS \$1 MILLION GIFT FOR CHAIR IN NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

WALTHAM, Mass., Sept. 7 (JTA) -- A gift of \$1 million, the proceeds of a major fund-raising drive, to endow at Brandeis University a chair in national health policy, was announced here by Sol Chaikin, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). He said the gift resulted from a combined effort of the ILGWU and its affiliated industries.

Chaikin, a member of the Brandeis Board of Trustees, for whom the new chair has been named, said health care issues are of major concern to American workers, declaring that "even with the nation's health care investment of more than \$300 billion a year, millions of unemployed or underemployed workers face financial ruin or ruined health because they cannot afford health insurance."

The first recipient of the Chaikin Chair is Stuart Altman, dean of the Brandeis Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare. Altman was a deputy in the former federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare during the 1970's.

Chaikin will attend a formal installation program for Altman at the university September 14. A symposium will discuss the health problems of an estimated 21 to 27 million Americans lacking private or publicly financed health coverage, including jobless workers and their families who represent about a quarter of the Americans lacking health coverage.

A growing number of Jewish Federations and affiliated social welfare agencies are seeking to help jobless Jewish families cope with loss of health coverage but such help is limited by the funds available to such Jewish service agencies.

SSSJ CALLS FOR EXPULSION OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN WAKE OF KAL DOWNING

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry today staged a Rosh Hashanah eve "call to conscience" shofar ceremony at Aeroflot Russian Airlines' Fifth Avenue offices to coincide with the gathering of 35 nations in Madrid to sign the final document of the Helsinki Agreement.

The SSSJ called for the expulsion of Soviet diplomats and the shutdown of Aeroflot's U.S. offices as a "minimum" response to the Soviet downing of the KAL jumbo jet and its continued "flouting of the very human rights provisions of the Helsinki Agreement which is being reconfirmed today in Madrid."

"The Kremlin's brutality against 269 innocent foreigners gives us an understanding of its current campaign to liquidate the Jewish community in the USSR," the SSSJ said.

As the blasts of the shofar resounded on Fifth Avenue, the SSSJ also released a statement made

yesterday by Avital Shcharansky wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, at a press conference at the Helsinki Agreement review conference in Madrid.

She was joined by Elana Friedman, sister of former POC Ida Nudel, currently exiled from Moscow to Moldavia; Chaim Margolis, friend of POC Dr. Joseph Begun, who is about to stand trial; and Sonya Lerner, daughter of leading Soviet Jewish refusenik Dr. Alexander Lerner of Moscow, who celebrates his 70th birthday today, separated from his family.

Mrs. Shcharansky declared: "I have also come to Madrid as a representative, as a delegation, for those whose human rights are being violated daily in the Soviet Union. More than 10,000 Jews who seven years ago and earlier have asked to leave the USSR are still being denied the freedom to emigrate.

"One of these people, surrounded by the walls of Chistopol Prison, is my husband. He has refused to sign a confession to his so-called crime even though his captors promised him his freedom. He has refused to sign his name to a lie though he suffers daily physical torment because of his refusal.

"Those who are willing to sign an agreement with the Soviet Union on human rights while Anatoly and others are imprisoned, those who are willing to sit in silence as a Soviet representative cynically proclaims his nation's commitment to basic freedoms, while his government prepares pogroms, beatings and intimidation of innocents, have become partners in a conspiracy against the truth.

"Our delegation, representing those this conference is all about, calls upon the Western democracies to demand a commitment from the Soviet Union promising the immediate release of Shcharansky and all the other Prisoners for Zion. We have reason to believe that a failure to attain such a promise will lead to further repressions. The blood of the innocent will be on our hands."

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL SETS UP TWO NEW COMMITTEES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, has announced the establishment of two new committees. The Second Generation Advisory Committee, which will serve as a conduit for input from children of survivors into the work of the Council, is chaired by Menachem Rosensaft. The Committee on anti-Semitism, which will deal with the alarming rise of anti-Semitism and will recommend to Wiesel ways in which the Council can combat this resurgence, is chaired by Council member Kalman Sultanik.

The Second Generation Committee initially will comprise 18 children of survivors who presently serve as advisors to Wiesel. Rosensaft, head and founder of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said: "We have a very special perspective. And we have a commitment to the Council, which, through this committee can be channeled to constructive purposes and which will provide continuity for the work of the Council."

Rosensaft, born in Bergen-Belsen, is a graduate of Columbia University Law School. He is a former adjunct lecturer in Jewish studies at the City University of New York and has written extensively on the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and Soviet Jewry.

Sultanik is a Holocaust survivor. He is vice president of the World Jewish Congress and executive co-president of the World Conference of General Zionists.

FOCUS ON ISSUES ARTSCROLL SERIES SCRUTINIZED By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, Sept. 7 (JTA) — B. Barry Levy, professor of Jewish studies at McGill University in Montreal, has published a devastating critique of the bestselling popular Artscroll series of commentaries on various Biblical, Talmudic and liturgical texts.

Levy's essay, "Our Torah, Your Torah, and Their Torah: An Evaluation of the Artscroll Phenomenon," appears in a new book called "Truth and Compassion: Essays in Memory of Rabbi Dr. Solomon Frank" published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press in Ontario.

In his survey of the widely circulated Artscroll books, published by the Mesorah Press in Brooklyn, N.Y., which are offered to the English reader as the first such volumes containing authentic Torah-true interpretations, Levy acknowledges that there are many positive dimensions in the series.

He suggests that the inclusion of long-ignored rabbinic commentaries as well as various homiletical and other texts from the post-Biblical literature enhances the whole field of Jewish learning and introduces a new dynamic.

These positive elements, however, are outweighed by the negative factors which Levy identifies in his 52-page essay. The professor makes it clear in his analysis that his critique of the Artscroll series should be seen within the Orthodox tradition and not as the views of someone coming from the "outside."

Cites Some Serious Faults

In his study, Levy faults the editors of the Artscroll series for impermissible stylistic errors, including the borrowing of quotations from the Encyclopedia Judaica without identifying the sources. Levy indicates that there are also serious errors in the texts concerning the authorship of Targumim (Arabic translations or paraphrases of portions of the Hebrew Bible) in his discussion of the commentary on the Book of Esther.

The McGill professor also cites numerous bibliographical omissions and errors with regard to the identification of medieval Jewish commentators.

"Though born in 1489, Joseph Caro, author of the 'Shulchan Aruch', should be seen as a sixteenth century figure, not fifteenth as stated in 'Eichah', p.50." Levy says that there is also confusion in references to English or Hebrew editions of Nachmanides's commentary on the Torah.

Levy's critique, which is incredibly detailed, focuses extensively on the Artscroll series's practice of ignoring one special school of Orthodox Bible commentators, the Italian branch. Neither Luzzatto of Padua or Cassuto, the scion of an illustrious rabbinical family, are mentioned in the series.

Says Levy: "Although they succeeded in resolving the conflict between religion and science of their day, the fact that they were not a part of the yeshiva world has rendered them unfit to serve as contributors to the Orthodox anthologies of the twentieth century."

Despite the stated aims of the Artscroll editorial board to cite only authorities acceptable to a narrow definition of doctrinal solidity, the series inexplicably refers to the opinions of Josephus in the commentary on Genesis. For Levy, the inclusion of Josephus as a bona fide source for endorsing rabbinic views raises serious questions of consistency within the series's methodology.

Inconsistency In Hebrew Knowledge

Levy also finds much inconsistency in the level of Hebrew knowledge displayed by the translators and editors of the Artscroll books. He accuses the latter of grammatical lapses involving verb tenses, prepositions, idioms and vocalization patterns.

Levy faults the editors with completely ignoring the various Hebrew cognate languages -- Phoenician, Akkadian, Ugaritic -- thereby losing out on many elucidations which knowledge of these ancient languages can bring to the Biblical text. In his remarks on the Song of Songs edition, Levy is especially critical of the prudish translation of overtly erotic materials.

After approximately 25 pages of detailed criticism of the linguistic and rabbinic scholarship found in the Artscroll series, Levy asks rhetorically how learned rabbis such as David Feinstein and Mordecai Gifter lent their prestigious names to the various "approbations" in English and Hebrew which adorn the introductory pages of the Artscroll volumes.

The professor answers his own question by carefully comparing the Hebrew and English texts and showing that "there is much less haskamah (agreement) than meets the eye." The suggestion that such great rabbis have actually endorsed the Artscroll series "should not be taken too seriously," he adds.

In his assessment of the Artscroll enterprise, Levy suggests that what is at stake in the publication of so many English translations and commentaries is nothing less than the replacement of the Hertz Humash, the popular one-volume edition of the Pentateuch which Soncino in London has so successfully marketed since the 1930's.

Eschews Confrontation With Modernity

Unlike the approach of the late Dr. Joseph Hertz, who was Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, the Artscroll series eschews any confrontation with modern Bible criticism, or for that matter with modernity. Levy points out that one can read the Artscroll commentaries without realizing that Eretz Israel is now under Jewish control or that the Holocaust ever took place.

"This, of course, frees one of all serious confrontations with the problems that the Holocaust poses for modern religious thought," Levy writes. "The question of the righteous sufferer, so basic to many analyses of the event, has had no impact at all on the naive selection of midrashic passages that have been presented to explain the suffering and problems of various Biblical characters."

Levy is especially unhappy with the Artscroll's canonization of the sources it quotes, refusing to accept other ones. For Levy, this is evidence that the Artscroll "has admitted that it cannot effectively cope with the intellectual challenges or even the factual information being made available to the modern reader."

The management and staff of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency wishes its readers a year of health, a year of happiness and a year of peace.