

**JEWISH CHAPLAIN ASSISTING IN THE SEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION OF U.S. MARINES KILLED OR MISSING IN BEIRUT**

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Capt. Arnold Resnicoff, the Jewish chaplain with the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Lebanese waters, is assisting in the search for and identification of U.S. marines killed or missing in Beirut as a result of the terrorist bombing of American and French military headquarters last Sunday, the JWB told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

A JWB spokesman said Resnicoff had gone ashore to help dig through the rubble of the marine headquarters. Reports from U.S. and French sources today said at least 208 marines and sailors and 35 French paratroopers had been killed in the bombing.

There is no estimate available of the number of Jewish marines in the 1,200-man U.S. contingent of the multinational force in Beirut. It is not yet known whether any Jewish servicemen were among the marines who were killed. The only known Jewish casualty in an earlier terrorist attack on the marines was Sgt. Allan Soifert, 25, of Nashua, NH, who was killed by a sniper on October 14 while driving his jeep through a Moslem section of south Beirut.

**FRANCE IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS PEACE MISSION IN LEBANON**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The twin terrorist bomb attacks in Beirut which killed at least 243 American and French soldiers have not affected France's determination to continue its peace mission in Lebanon, French officials said here last night as President Francois Mitterrand returned to Paris after a seven-hour trip to the stricken city.

The army Chief of Staff, Gen. Rene Imbot, in an order of the day, said the army's "will to complete its mission is, if anything, harder and more resolute than before."

Mitterrand's trip to Beirut, during which he paid homage to the French and American soldiers killed or wounded in the line of duty, is seen here as a symbolic gesture of his determination to keep his men in Beirut as part of the multinational force.

Mitterrand met on three different occasions with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel during the day and each time reiterated his promise to keep on supporting Lebanon's legal government.

Sunday night Mitterrand had a brief telephone conversation with President Reagan who French sources say assured him that America will continue with its own commitment but does not intend to drastically increase its forces in Lebanon. The French, as the figures of American losses came in, were reportedly worried that Reagan might decide to order a massive retaliation.

The French were reassured by Reagan's promise to keep the U.S. forces in Beirut but to refrain from a possible escalation which the French wanted to avoid.

The public is still stunned and shocked by the heavy loss of life. French radio and television have failed to give the total figures of the French death toll, stressing that close to 50 men are still unaccounted for and "could well be alive."

The French soldiers serving in Beirut were regular conscripts who had volunteered for the special assignment and not professional soldiers like their American counterparts.

Opposition parties as well as the press have up till now strongly backed the government in its determination to pursue its mission. The center-right opposition has, if anything, backed the government more energetically than its own Socialist majority. Only the Communists have called for a withdrawal of the 2,300 French soldiers and their eventual replacement by a United Nations force.

**Reconciliation Talks Set For October 31**

Meanwhile, the Swiss government announced yesterday that it will host the Lebanese reconciliation conference in Geneva. The Federal announcement said the conference will start on October 31 and that representatives of the government and practically all the warring factions are expected to attend.

Among them are the Lebanese Premier, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and possibly Gemayel himself. A Syrian high-level "observer" delegation is also expected to attend the week-long parley which will try to seek a solution to 12 years of practically constant fighting.

**YEARS-LONG STRUGGLE TO ORDAIN WOMEN AS CONSERVATIVE RABBIS ENDS IN VICTORY**

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America approved yesterday, by a large majority, the admission of women to the JTS rabbinical school for ordination as Conservative rabbis and one Conservative rabbinical leader said today he was skeptical about reports that the decision would cause a major split in American Conservative Judaism.

The vote of 34-8, at a special meeting called by JTS chancellor Gerson Cohen, ended a long-running controversy in the movement, in which a steadily growing number of Conservative rabbis endorsed admission of women by the JTS for ordination, while a substantial number of JTS faculty members remained in adamant opposition.

There are 55 faculty members at the JTS. Three from the Talmudic program boycotted the meeting yesterday. The 42 present at the meeting represented nearly 75 percent of the total Faculty Senate and the affirmative vote for admission of women was by a similar majority.

**Responded To Challenges**

Cohen, who headed the commission he named in 1977 to study the controversial issue, and who was chairman of the meeting yesterday, said after the vote that he regarded it as "evidence that the Seminary and the Conservative movement in American Judaism are able to respond to the challenges of modernity in traditional terms."

After the 34-8 vote, a second motion was passed which called on Cohen to name a committee, with Dr. Joel Roth, associate professor of Talmud and Rabbinics and Rabbinical School Dean, as its chairman, to review and recommend criteria for admission of all candidates to the Rabbinical School, subject to approval by the JTS chancellor. Roth had proposed the motion for admission of women.

The skepticism that the approval action would bring a schism in the movement was expressed by Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it was expected that the first women would be admitted to the ordination program at the JTS in September, 1984.

The Conservative movement thus joins Reform and Reconstructionism in ordaining women as rabbis. There are now some 60 women rabbis, most of them holding positions as assistant rabbis, others in administrative and teaching posts. The (Reform) Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, began the process more than 10 years ago by ordaining Sally Preisand as the first woman rabbi in American history.

#### Some 25-30 Women Expected As First Members

Kelman offered a "guess" that 25 to 30 women will be admitted as the first women members of the JTS Rabbinical School. He said he agreed with Cohen that the vote would not cause any schism in the Conservative movement.

He said "the essence" of the movement is "reverence for pluralism" and for "unlimited freedom of expression and academic freedom," with the only limit being the rulings of the RA Committee on Jewish Law and Standards.

Kelman also told the JTA that in the past 40 years, more than 500 rabbis trained in Orthodox and Reform seminaries had applied for admission to the RA and that more than 400 had been accepted while, in that same period, fewer than five rabbis have resigned from the RA on ideological grounds.

Kelman, who attended the meeting yesterday, confirmed Cohen's description of the debate as "full of debate" but not rancorous. Kelman commented that a lot of anger had been expressed prior to the debate by Conservative foes of ordination of women. He also said he doubted that the vote would affect Conservative relationships with the Orthodox movement, which has never accepted either Conservative or Reform Judaism as valid.

#### Opponents Say Move Defies Halacha

A group of Conservative Jews opposed to ordination of women, called the Union for Traditional Conservative Judaism, headed by Rabbi David Novak of Bayswater, Long Island, said the decision "defies all norms of Jewish jurisprudence." Kelman said the group was organized last spring and has about 500 members, rabbinical and lay.

The first reaction from Orthodox sources came from the Rabbinical Council of America, one of the major Orthodox rabbinical organizations. Rabbi Gilbert Klapeman, president of the Rabbinical Council asserted that "the ordination of women is against Jewish law and tradition." He stressed that the Conservative movement had "taken another step away from normative Judaism and is further polarizing Jewish life."

#### Jewish Feminist Group Hails Decision

Ezrat Nashim, which describes itself as the first Jewish feminist organization, issued a statement asserting that in March, 1972, it had called on the Conservative movement to ordain women as rabbis. The organization, made up of women seeking greater equality in Judaism within the framework of halacha (Jewish law) said the vote "recognizes the compelling moral claim of women's equality as well as the chang-

ed status of women in the modern world," and was "consonant with the Conservative interpretation of the development of halacha."

#### Background Of The Struggle

Formal action for the proposal began in the movement when the RA, in May, 1977, called on the JTS to consider admission of women to the Rabbinical School. In a resolution adopted at the RA convention in that month, the rabbis called on Cohen to set up an "interdisciplinary" commission to study "all aspects" of the issue. In November, 1977, Cohen announced formation of the commission.

The commission held meetings in December, 1977 and March 1978 and held a number of hearings in various cities. In December, 1978, commission members evaluated their findings and authorized a final report, presented to the 1979 RA convention by Cohen. The report found no halachic barrier to ordination of women and proposed that the JTS admit women to its Rabbinical School.

The 1979 convention approved the commission report, but withheld action pending study of the views of the JTS faculty. At a faculty meeting, the Faculty Senate tabled the proposal, partly out of fears of a division within the movement and partly to allow friends and foes of the proposal more time to study it.

The next public action took place at the RA convention last spring when the RA admissions committee reported that a woman, Rabbi Beverly Magidson, ordained as a Reform rabbi, had applied for membership in the RA. Established procedure required that a majority of 75 percent of the delegates present approve Magidson's admission. On the final count, she fell short, by four votes, to get that majority.

A number of delegates, who opposed Magidson's admission to the RA, said that ordination was a matter for the JTS to decide and renewed their appeal to the JTS to decide on the issue. The meeting of the Faculty Senate yesterday was called by Cohen in response to that plea at the 1983 convention.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) — Israelis turned out in substantial numbers to cast ballots in the municipal elections today. The polls opened at 7 a.m. local time and by noon an estimated 20 percent of the more than 2.5 million registered voters had appeared at some 13,000 polling places throughout the country to choose mayors and local council members.

Early returns are not expected before midnight and results from the large cities will not be known before tomorrow morning. Under the Israeli system, mayors stand for election as individuals while town councils are selected from party lists. Laborite Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, whose popularity is attested to by the fact that he has held that office for 18 years, is expected to win re-election by a large majority against his Likud opponent, Shlomo Tussia-Cohen.

But the outcome of the voting for the Jerusalem City Council is less clear cut. Voters who support Likud in national elections are expected to back that party in the council. There is a similar situation in Tel Aviv where the popular Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Likud is considered sure of re-election but may not carry Likud candidates for the city council with him.

Political pundits believe that the local council results are likely to reflect popular resentment over the economic situation, to the detriment of Likud. In that event, Labor is bound to trumpet its own successes and Likud's expected reverses as an expression of the nation's collective desire for a change of government.

Likud, of course, is expected to argue that mid-term elections usually reflect dissatisfaction with the party in power and are no indication of the outcome of national elections. The next Knesset elections are due in the fall of 1985, which is enough time, the government believes, to pull the country out of its present economic crisis.

#### Situation In Arab Towns In Israel

There is no balloting today in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jewish settlements in those territories do not have elected councils. Arab towns, where Jordanian or Egyptian law still applies, do not participate in Israeli municipal elections.

But in Arab towns in Israel proper, 357 lists are competing for the support of the 170,000 registered Arab voters. The number of Israeli Arabs registered to vote represents a 35 percent increase since the 1978 municipal elections.

About 65,000 Arabs are eligible to vote in East Jerusalem but no more than 20 percent are expected to cast ballots. Palestinian nationalist elements have urged the population to boycott the polls on grounds that to vote implied recognition of Israel's sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

The fact that the Knesset declared election day a workers holiday, combined with fine weather, drew thousands of Israeli families to the beaches and countryside. The Knesset's decision was widely criticized by the Labor opposition which noted that the holiday would cost the economy some \$300 million at a time of severe economic troubles.

President Chaim Herzog took no official position in the dispute. However, after casting his vote in Herzlia today he told reporters that he planned to work "and whoever wishes to draw conclusions is welcome to do so."

#### REPORT 6,000 JEWS, NON-JEWS MARCHED IN BUENOS AIRES TO URGE GOVERNMENT ACTION ON ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- An Argentine Jewish student attending the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America here, reported today that 6,000 Argentinian Jews and non-Jews marched yesterday in Buenos Aires to urge government action on a growing spate of anti-Semitic incidents and violations of human rights.

Rolando Matalon, who is also a student at the Rabbinical Latino Americano in Buenos Aires, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that the march was sponsored by the Jewish Movement for Human Rights (JMHR), a national organization. Matalon, who has been studying at the Conservative seminary here for two years, said the demonstration was led by Rabbi Marshall Meyer, director of the Buenos Aires Seminary.

Matalon stressed that the JMHR was completely independent of the DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry, and that the JMHR is the first such movement within the Argentine Jewish community to "go public."

The JTA was told that there was a feeling among JMHR leaders, including Rabbi Meyer, that the DAIA would have preferred the protest march not take place. This was conveyed to Meyer both before and after the march.

Among the events which have disturbed Argentine Jews have been an increase in the smearing of swastikas on synagogues, occasional kidnapping of Argentine Jews for ransom and the need for increased police protection for synagogues during the recent High Holy Days.

Matalon, a resident of Buenos Aires, said he was close to Rabbi Meyer and that the Rabbi had called him to tell him of plans for the protest march. He said he had called Meyer today to find out what happened.

Matalon said Meyer reported that not only was there no police interference with the protest march but that police provided protection for the marchers. Matalon said he did not know the proportion of Jews to non-Jews among the 6,000 demonstrators. He said he had been told they marched quietly through the streets and that the event ended with addresses by several speakers, including Meyer.

#### CANADA MADE A 'DEFINITIVE DECISION' TO RESTRICT IMMIGRATION OF JEWS DURING, BEFORE WW II, AUTHOR SAYS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Canada's restrictive immigration policies against Jews before and during World War II was part of a "definitive decision" taken by the Canadian government because it was felt that Canada already had too many Jews and did not want any more, according to a co-author of a recently published book detailing Canadian immigration policies toward European Jews.

"A look at the worst refugee crisis of modern history in the 1930's indicates that of all the countries in the world, Canada had by far the worst record in providing sanctuary for European Jews," Irving Abella told a luncheon meeting here today of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's European Affairs Committee.

Abella is co-author with Harold Troper, who teaches history at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto, of "None Is Too Many," which is a stinging indictment of Canadian immigration policies during the war. Abella teaches history at the York University in Toronto. The book has been received with critical acclaim in Canada where it has been a best seller, and has also won the National Jewish Book Award.

While noting that Canada in the 1930's was in the midst of a severe economic depression, Abella said: "The reason that Canada turned its back on the Jews of Europe was because the Canadian government made a definitive decision: Canada had too many Jews and no more were wanted."

The authors pointed out that Canada provided haven for fewer than 5,000 European emigres, and after the war, until the founding of Israel in 1948, admitted 8,000 more. "That record," the authors say, "is arguably the worst of all possible refugee receiving states."

Comparatively, the United States admitted 200,000, including what the authors contend was a select group of European intellectuals, cultural and scientific figures. Between 1933 and 1945, the United Kingdom admitted 70,000 Jews and allowed another 125,000 into British-administered Palestine.

The Jewish community, which consisted of one percent of the population and which was economically and politically unable to exert strong influence on the Canadian government, did little, Abella stated. The leadership, he continued, told the Jewish community to "keep quiet" on the issue of Jewish immigration for fear of creating "an anti-Semitic backlash that would close the doors entirely."

In the 1930's, Abella told the luncheon, Canada "was a country permeated with anti-Semitism," particularly in the province of Quebec where the Roman Catholic church headed an "onslaught" against the Jews. Abella said the French Canadian press also added to this anti-Semitism by describing Jews as "creatures to be avoided."

## CHIEF RABBI OF FRANCE SAYS ANTI-SEMITISM SEEMS TO HAVE BACKFIRED

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism in France appears to have backfired as a result of the solidarity French Christians have demonstrated with the Jewish population of France, Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat said here. That solidarity, he stated, has resulted in the increasing isolation of the anti-Semites, instead of the isolation of French Jews, which was the aim of the anti-Semites.

The Chief Rabbi made those observations at Yeshiva University where he was guest of honor Tuesday at a reception hosted by university president Dr. Norman Lamm. During the reception, Sirat was presented with a two-volume study of Sephardic law and customs written by Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky, vice president for university affairs. The Chief Rabbi was here during a 10-day visit of the U.S. and Canada, sponsored by the Maybaum Brothers Memorial Fund at Yeshiva University.

### Cites Growing Christian-Jewish Solidarity

Sirat, the first Sephardi in nearly 200 years to hold the post of Chief Rabbi of France, told a press conference before the reception that there are a number of manifestations in France of the growing Christian-Jewish solidarity. He cited as an example the 300,000 people who marched to protest the terrorist attacks on the Rue Copernic Synagogue and Jo Goldenberg's restaurant in Paris.

"Before World War II such a demonstration would never have taken place," he said. "Although there still are tensions and Jews must take precautions, the government protection of synagogues during the recent High Holy Days was successful in averting acts of violence."

Sirat said there is a renewed commitment to Judaism in France. He noted that attendance in Jewish day schools has doubled in the past few years and now totals some 9,000 students. One of his goals is to double that figure, he said. He also spoke of the growing Bal T'shuva movement, particularly among Jewish intellectuals.

Sirat, who is the head of the department at the Sorbonne which includes Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and Judaic-Arabic studies in language and literature, called for the initiation of a Jewish-Muslim dialogue on a theological basis, similar to that which now exists between Jews and Christians. He lauded the recent pronouncement by Roger Cardinal Etchegaray, Archbishop of Marseilles, who declared that Christians must beg forgiveness for their persecution of the Jews, a pronouncement the Chief Rabbi called "unique in Jewish-Christian relations."

### SYNAGOGUE OFFICIAL DEFENDS REFUSAL TO ALLOW RABBI TO SPEAK ON ITS PREMISES UNDER PEACE NOW SPONSORSHIP

TORONTO, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Congregation Beth Tzedec's refusal to allow Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg to speak on its premises under the sponsorship of the Canadian Friends of the Peace Now movement in Israel, was defended by the congregation's president, Aaron Black.

In a letter published in the Canadian Jewish News, Black listed the concerns that prompted the congregation's board of governors to deny a platform to Hertzberg. He claimed that "It is absurd to suggest there is suppression of free speech."

Black was responding to charges leveled by Harry Steiner, a prominent member of the Canadian Jewish community, who resigned as a member of Beth Tzedec Synagogue over the incident. In an open letter, published in the Canadian Jewish News earlier this month, Steiner said "Intolerance of different views is chilling to any free society" and warned that "We Jews should be especially on guard against it."

### Concerned About A Possible Confrontation

Black, in his letter, said that after considerable deliberation, the congregation's board of governors was "concerned that an advocacy meeting on behalf of a purely Israeli political position could lead to a bitter confrontation among local Jewry." Another concern, he said was "that the media would take advantage of the situation... we have had more than sufficient inaccurate and biased media exploitation of events related to Israel."

Finally, Black wrote, "We were concerned lest Beth Tzedec as an institution could be interpreted by some as supporting the aims of the Peace Now movement." Black explained that "Our meeting halls are not public halls. They are not made available to any and all causes willing to pay a fee. It is absurd to suggest that there is suppression of free speech, when a multitude of other facilities are available for the sponsors of Peace Now..."

The Peace Now movement, which includes many Israeli army reservists, has long been critical of the policies of the Likud-led government under the leadership of former Premier Menachem Begin, especially its unrestricted settlement drive on the West Bank and the invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982. It has been a sponsor of mass anti-war rallies in Israel.

Hertzberg, a prominent Conservative rabbi from Englewood, N.J., and former president of the American Jewish Congress, has also been a frequent critic of certain Israeli government policies. The Beth Tzedec congregation, the largest in Canada, is affiliated with the Conservative movement.

### AZF URGES THAT NOVEMBER 19 BE DECLARED NATIONAL ZIONIST SHABBAT

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Raymond Patt, president of the American Zionist Federation, has called upon Jewish communities across the nation to reserve the Sabbath of November 19 to participate in a national Zionist Shabbat to enhance American Jews' knowledge of Zionism and Israel.

Patt stressed that for this year's AZF observance, "It is especially necessary for all congregations and organizations to participate, to help counter negative propaganda reaching the Jewish community." He said, "To sustain broad-based support for Jewish nationhood, the case for Jewish national existence must be re-explained from the ground up. We are looking for a mass re-education of the Jewish public here."

November is historically associated with Zionism as the month in which the Balfour Declaration was signed (November 2, 1917) and the month in which the United Nations approved a partition of Palestine (November 29, 1947). More recently November has gained notoriety in the United Nations as a time for launching scurrilous anti-Israel resolutions prompted by the month's significance to the Zionist movement.