

Likud And Labor Agree: ISRAELI ELECTIONS SET FOR JULY 23 By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA) -- Likud and the Labor Party agreed today that elections will be held on Monday, July 23. The government and opposition promptly signed an agreement where by the government will call the Knesset into special session early next week for the first reading of a bill to dissolve the Knesset and approve the election date. A special session is required because the Knesset begins its Passover recess tonight.

The bill in question is the Labor motion for early elections which the Knesset approved last Thursday by a 61-58 margin. It must pass three readings to become final.

The law requires a 100-day interim from the time the Knesset votes to dissolve itself until election day. But the two sides agreed tonight to shorten that period to 60 days. Within that time frame, all civil servants and commissioned officers in the armed services must submit their resignations if they wish to run for elective office.

Date Represents A Compromise

The July 23 date represents a compromise reached after several days of hard bargaining between Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres.

Labor wanted the shortest possible campaign, ending before Israelis go abroad for their summer vacations, and proposed elections on May 22. Likud, hoping that the economy will show some improvement by next fall, argued for elections at the end of October. By agreeing on the second half of July, both parties take certain risks.

Labor Wants To Avoid Leadership Struggle

Labor is anxious to avoid an internal leadership struggle before the elections. After reaching agreement with Shamir, Peres met with former President Yitzhak Navon to discuss what role the latter will play in the Labor campaign and what position he would accept on the party's election list.

Details of their meeting were not disclosed and even the place of the meeting was kept secret. Navon reportedly promised Peres to let him know in the next few days if he intends to challenge him for leadership of the party.

There are elements in Labor who are promoting the popular former President for the top spot on the election list which would make him Prime Minister in the event of a Labor victory.

Navon is also scheduled to meet privately with former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Peres' principal rival for party leadership, to ascertain his intentions. Some Labor activists believe a Peres-Rabin-Navon troika -- in that order -- would have the best chance to defeat Likud. It remains to be seen whether Rabin would accept second place and Navon third.

EEC ISSUES SHARP DENUNCIATION OF ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY

BRUSSELS, March 28 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community's 10 member-states have issued a

sharp denunciation of Israel's settlement policy, calling on the Jewish State to "put an end to the territorial occupation it has maintained since 1967."

In a major declaration issued by the EEC's Foreign Ministers, adopted last week at the EEC summit meeting here and released yesterday, the statement also called for the Palestine Liberation Organization to be associated with any negotiations for peace in the Middle East, and reiterated a call for the establishment of a Palestinian homeland.

The EEC meeting ended in disarray and President Francois Mitterrand had urged that the Foreign Ministers back off from issuing a statement on the Mideast when it was apparent that they could not even solve their own problems, primarily related to the EEC's financial situation.

Nonetheless, the EEC Ministers decided to issue the declaration which also called on Israel to solve its disputes with the Arab community through negotiations and adopt a policy based on the "non-acquisition of territory by force."

The statement continued with a call for the cessation of the building of new Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza and pledged "to develop the European community's action in favor of the population of the occupied territories."

From Montreal To Tel Aviv In 11 Hours: EL AL SETS RECORD FOR FIRST NON-STOP TRANS-ATLANTIC COMMERCIAL FLIGHT BY A TWIN-ENGINE PLANE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA) -- El Al set a record for the first non-stop trans-Atlantic commercial flight by a twin-engine plane today, only hours after the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) ended its 39th annual conference here, the first ever held in Israel.

Coincidentally, the twin-engine Boeing 767 aircraft, adapted for long-range service, which El Al used on the 11-hour flight from Montreal to Tel Aviv was a subject of dispute at the IFALPA conclave.

The plane suits El Al's needs. It is economical in fuel, requires a smaller cockpit crew and is easier to fill than the 747 jumbo jets when bookings do not warrant larger aircraft. But IFALPA has called on governments and on international civil aviation agencies to conduct further studies on the safety of twin-engine planes on long over-water flights.

The pilots insist that such flights be limited to routes over which there is never more than 60 minutes flying time between suitable airfields. They want the safety margin in the event that one of the engines fails. But some governments and aircraft manufacturers, including Boeing, maintain that the plane is safe for 90 minutes' flying between airfields.

IFALPA is the umbrella organization of the various national airline pilots' associations. Its first meeting in Israel was not attended by the British, Eastern bloc and Arab pilots groups.

The latter not only objected to the venue but rapped Libya and Greece as "offending states" because they refuse to allow hijacked aircraft to land at their fields. The pilots claim that a hijacked aircraft is an aircraft "in distress" and must be allowed to land in any country.

The conference agreed to suspend the ban on Soviet aircraft until the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) completes its discussion of the ban, imposed after Soviet fighter planes shot down a Korean Air Line civilian jet over the Sea of Japan last September, resulting in the death of all aboard.

The conference also rejected a proposal to declare woman pilots who are pregnant "temporarily unfit" for duty. IFALPA has some 500 women members.

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS AIR VIEWS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, HELSINKI ACCORDS, JEWISH EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA) -- Both former Vice President Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart support tying Soviet-American trade relations to free emigration of Soviet Jews, while the Rev. Jesse Jackson believes this policy -- known as "linkage" -- would not be necessary "if we could create an atmosphere of solution with regard to arms control and reduction."

Their answers came in response to a questionnaire about U.S. human rights policy and Soviet Jewry issues, which was released today by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Herbert Kronish, chairman of the Conference, said, "Our organization does not endorse candidates for public office. However, with Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union at a virtual halt -- only 1,314 Jews were allowed to leave the USSR in 1983, compared with more than 51,000 persons just five years ago -- we feel it is important for people in our area to know where the candidates stand on issues that affect Soviet Jewry."

Among the issues the candidates were asked to discuss, Kronish said, were the linkage of U.S. trade policy to human rights violations, the success or failure of the 1975 Helsinki Accords, and whether the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration should be raised at all bi-lateral discussions between the U.S. and the USSR.

Positions On Jackson-Vanik Amendment

Asked to discuss their positions on the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which the U.S. Congress enacted in 1974, and which calls for linking "most favored nation status" for the Soviet Union with emigration of Jews and other groups from the USSR, the candidates gave the following answers:

Hart: "I support the policy of linkage and maintenance of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The principles of morality in foreign policy established by Section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 are laudable goals."

"Effectively, the amendment makes the President responsible for personal involvement, through the certification requirement, in the human rights climate in non-market countries with which we as a nation do business. These trade relationships are important to the Eastern bloc economic well-being; through linkage, we tie their emigration and human rights practices directly to those economic interests, constructively emphasizing our real commitment to basic human values at home and overseas."

Jackson: "If we could create an atmosphere of solution with regard to arms control and reduction, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment would be unnecessary. All questions of international relations are 'linked.' As the general environment of relations between the

Soviet Union and the U.S. improves, this question will be easier to answer."

Mondale: "I was proud to join with Senator Henry Jackson ... to tie Soviet Jewish emigration to U.S. Soviet trade relations as an original co-sponsor of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and I continue to support it. 'Most-favored nation' status should not be accorded to a nation with as dismal a record in the human rights area as the Soviet Union has. Our policy enables us to put our support of the principle of human rights into practice, to show the world that we mean what we say, to remind human rights violators that their transgressions will be met by our reprisals."

View Of Helsinki Accords

Asked whether the 1975 Helsinki Accords, which U.S. and European leaders hoped would provide certain guarantees on human rights in the Eastern Bloc countries, had proved to be a failure, the candidates replied:

Mondale: "The process behind the Accords resulting from the Helsinki Final Act has not failed. Continued discussion between the Soviet Union and the West is not only healthy, it is necessary. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union doesn't seem to be willing to adhere to the principle of human rights and for this reason, international progress in the field of human rights has not been achieved to the extent desired."

"As President, then, I would institute regular summit meetings between the leadership of the U.S. and USSR, because it is always more dangerous not be talking and because no progress in human rights and the treatment of Soviet Jews can be made in the absence of dialogue. Consequently, we must continue to participate in follow-up conferences to the Helsinki Accords such as the Madrid Conference."

Jackson: "Yes (Helsinki has been a failure). Because our relationship with the Soviet Union has deteriorated, and because we are without a platform for the relations between the two countries, we have no leverage with the Soviets."

"When the international environment is one which includes sincere attempts to dialogue with the Soviets, there is a more relaxed society with regard to human rights. As general discussions with the Soviets are advanced, they would become more responsive to the Helsinki Accords. It is one of the obligations of the United States to strongly pursue and advocate the issue of human rights."

Hart: "The Soviet failure to comply should not be interpreted as a failure of the Helsinki process. If anything, it has allowed the U.S. and other countries to focus their attacks on Soviet human rights violations. Even bearing in mind the many obstacles facing attempts at assurance of compliance, we have to maintain vigilant efforts. As President I would use all the powers of that office to remind the Soviet leadership of our constant attention to this issue."

"The U.S. should continue to participate in follow-up conferences on the Helsinki Accords. Any perception on the part of the Soviets that we are inconsistent in our belief in the legitimacy of an international monitoring role will be a sign that the U.S. is not truly committed to basic human rights as a primary tenet of our foreign policy."

Mondale said that as President, "I would reinforce our support of human rights principles by introducing the subject (of Soviet Jewish emigration) at all bi-lateral meetings between the U.S. and the USSR."

Hart said, "I would call for a discussion on Soviet Jewish emigration issues and individual cases at all

levels of official contact between the two governments, whenever appropriate." Jackson said that the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration "should be raised within any broad-based discussion between the U.S. and the USSR."

B'NAI B'RITH ASKS UN TO EXAMINE VIOLATION OF SOVIET JEWS' RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith International has called on the United Nations to examine "the gross violation" of the right of Soviet Jews to be reunited with their families as prescribed by both the Helsinki accord and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to urge the USSR to permit those Jews to emigrate.

In a letter yesterday to UN Assistant Secretary General Kurt Hermal at the Center for Human Rights in Geneva, Gerald Kraft, B'nai B'rith president, pointed out that the Soviet Union has signed the Helsinki pact and ratified the covenant.

The letter was in response to a request by Hermal for comments on a resolution by the UN's Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, adopted last September.

Kraft described the resolution as "a vitally important contribution to both peace and human rights." He noted that the resolution states that "international peace must be founded upon freedom, equality, justice and respect for fundamental human rights" and that in today's world "the relationship between human rights and questions of peace and security is emerging into sharper focus."

Core Of Helsinki Final Act

Kraft said that the Helsinki Final Act, adopted in 1975, stresses that respect for human rights is "an essential factor for peace" and a major element in the "mutual relationship between states." The core of the act's human rights provisions, said Kraft, mandates that the signatories "deal in a positive and humanitarian spirit with persons who wish to be reunited with members of their family."

Kraft said that an important UN subcommission's study observes that the right to leave is "a constituent element of personal liberty" and should be subject to no other limitations other than those provided in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"In the view of the report's author," Kraft added, "the right to leave can be considered a prerequisite for the exercise of human rights and to ignore it frequently gives rise to discrimination in respect to other human rights and fundamental freedoms...."

Breach By The Soviet Union

The B'nai B'rith president said that the Helsinki accords' principle of family reunion is observed today in the breach by the Soviet Union. "This gross violation of human rights cannot but be considered as subverting" the Helsinki Act, "a basic current document of international peace and security," Kraft said.

"When a signatory to the act chooses to grossly abridge its provisions on human rights, how sacred can its signature be on any international agreement, including arms control? How can mankind place trust in the signatory? Clearly, gross violations of a crucial human right inevitably impacts upon interstate relations, detente and security considerations."

While urging all governments to release those persons "who have been incarcerated or deprived of their freedom simply because of their views and who have not used or advocated violence," Kraft

emphasized the need for the Soviet Union to free the Prisoners of Conscience and allow them to rejoin their families. "Such a gesture would improve the international political climate and reduce tension, thus foster detente and peace," he declared.

KOHL SAYS NO DECISION YET BY GERMANY TO SELL ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA

BONN, March 28 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl reiterated at a meeting with World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman here Monday night that "no decision" has been made yet on West German arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

He added assurances that only "defensive weapons" would be involved in any arms deal with the Saudis and that the sales contracts would contain specific "safeguards" against the transfer of the weapons to another Arab country.

Bronfman's meeting with Kohl was a follow-up to the meeting they had in Washington on March 5. At that time, the German leader met with a delegation of American Jewish leaders who expressed strong opposition to the sale of German arms to Arab countries technically in a state of war with Israel.

Kohl promised them that Bonn would exclude the highly sophisticated Leopard II tank from sales to the Saudis and would place limitations on other types of weaponry that might be sold.

Bronfman said after Monday night's meeting that he was convinced that the Bonn government was the most steadfast supporter of Israel's interests within the European community. He said Kohl promised to help the WJC in its efforts to aid Jews in Eastern Europe and in Arab countries.

3 CIVILIANS KILLED, 10 WOUNDED IN A CLASH IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA) -- In a clash between villagers and members of the militia that had been headed by the late Major Saad Haddad, three residents of the south Lebanese Shiite village of Jibshi were killed and 10 were wounded today when the soldiers opened fire on a mob surrounding them. Israeli Defense Force units encircled the village after the incident and imposed a curfew.

The clash began when militia members entered the village to search for arms. They were reported to have uncovered large quantities of military hardware and sabotage material. Lebanese army sources said the militia members opened fire only after they had been attacked by enraged villagers and some of the militia-men had been injured by rocks thrown from rooftops. The village is reportedly a hotbed of supporters of Iran's leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

In another incident, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon when their patrol was ambushed near the village of Arab Selim.

LONDON (JTA) -- A high-ranking Egyptian official on a formal visit to Nigeria has told the country's rulers that they and other Black African countries should not re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel, the World Jewish Congress reported Wednesday. Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Ghali, was reported to have pressed this view on the Nigerian government during his visit there last week, according to a broadcast of the domestic service of Radio Nigeria. Ghali was quoted as saying that Egypt was using a "carrot" in its efforts to bring about Middle East peace and that Nigeria could use the "stick."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWS OF LATIN AMERICA SAID TO BE BOTH THRIVING AND IMPERILED

By Harriet Rochlin

(Editor's note: Harriet Rochlin is a free lance writer and author of "Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West" which will be released by Houghton Mifflin Company next October.)

ALBUQUERQUE, March 28 (JTA) -- The Jews of Latin America are both thriving and imperiled, ensconced in the middle and upper classes, yet few can gain access to social and political power in their class conscious and predominantly Hispanic Catholic societies.

This configuration of Latin American Jewry emerged at a research conference here earlier this month co-sponsored by the Latin American Institute of the University of New Mexico, a long-established area studies center, and the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, a newly-burgeoning international association of scholars.

The aim of the three-day meeting was to provide information on the treatment of minorities in Latin America for the Institute and to augment the Association's data on Latin American Jewry, one of the least studied and currently among the most powerless and vulnerable Jewish communities. More than 24 specialists from Latin America, the United States and Israel presented papers in English and Spanish.

Frustration Turns to Fear

The general view of the specialists was that Latin American Jews, are frustrated in their efforts to translate their economic well-being into some modicum of political power. This frustration turns to outright fear when discrimination takes an official turn, as it tends to do during periods of economic and political stress.

During last year's currency crisis in Mexico, for example, a legislator, Miguel Angel Olea Enriquez, a member of Mexico's ruling party, charged in the Chamber of Deputies that Jews were responsible for economic crimes, specifically, speculation, tax evasion and profiteering.

The experts also point out that equally offensive is the feigned tolerance -- such as visits to synagogues during the high holidays -- by government officials in countries headed by rightwing dictators. But most alarming in recent years, it was pointed out, was the disproportionate number of Jews -- between 1,200 to 1,500 -- kidnapped and in some cases tortured under the military regime in Argentina between March, 1976, and October, 1983.

In the view of Dr. Carlos Waisman, a sociologist at the University of California in San Diego, Latin American Jews are outnumbered, politically powerless and vulnerable to scapegoat tactics. He described their situation as being "riders on a bus."

Efforts To Solve The Dilemma

One way Latin American Jews have tried to solve their dilemma is by emigrating to Israel and to other countries. Dr. Sergio dellaPergola, a demographer at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University, reported that between 1970 and 1980 more than 35,000 Jews left Argentina. Jewish emigration from other Latin American countries also rose during that period.

Dr. Judith Elkin, author of "Jews in Latin American Republics" (North Carolina Press, 1980),

pointed out that assimilation is another way of solving the dilemma. "The trend ... accelerates as more Jews enter the university and go on to the free professions," she said.

But emigration and assimilation have not been the only responses. Increased tensions in recent years have caused some Jews to return to or devote more attention to Jewish culture and tradition. Dr. Dan Levy of the State University of New York in Albany reported upswings in activities of Jewish day schools, community centers and the Conservative synagogue movements in Latin America.

Dr. Henrique Ratner of Fundacao Getulio Vargas in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was among the speakers who said that he was encouraged by the recent election in Argentina of President Raul Alfonsin, whom he characterized as a champion of social pluralism and human rights, and of persistent calls for democratic elections in Brazil and Uruguay.

But Dr. Gilbert Merk, director of the Latin American Institute, said that these developments did not necessarily mean that there would be an abatement of anti-Semitism. His forecast was that the continuing credit indebtedness, inflation and unemployment in Latin America throughout this decade would create more political and economic unrest and with it, a continued high level of anti-Semitism.

The Latin American Jewish Studies Association was organized in 1982 by historian Judith Elkin and other academics. The group claims to have 300 members and two offers to co-sponsor conferences, one at the Hebrew University in 1985 and the second at the University of Florida in Gainesville in 1986.

HERZOG REJECTS APPEAL TO PARDON MAN SERVING PRISON TERM FOR SPYING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog has rejected an appeal to pardon Udi Adiv, a kibbutz member who has served 11 years of a 17 year prison term for spying.

Adiv was sentenced in 1973 after his conviction on charges of passing information to Syrian intelligence agents during visits to Syria and Greece. Prison authorities have refused to allow the customary one-third reduction of his sentence for good behavior to which Adiv's conduct has entitled him.

Herzog's office said the President had given most serious consideration to the numerous public appeals for a pardon but decided to abide by the recommendations of Justice Minister Moshe Nissim against a pardon. A statement released on behalf of Herzog said, "In the light of the essence and seriousness of the crime, there is no justification to grant a pardon or to reduce the punishment set by the court."

Herzog favored a furlough for Adiv to allow him to marry. But his fiancée reportedly rejected the offer because she would not marry a man who must return to jail immediately after their wedding.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Aguda Israel is pressuring the government to enforce religious bans, particularly the Sabbath laws. Its four Knesset members extracted promises from Health Minister Eliezer Shostak and Transport Minister Haim Corfu on Monday to crack down on doctors who perform abortions outside the strict limits under which they are allowed and from the Dan and Egged bus companies for running buses on the Sabbath.