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**ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS OFFICIALLY,
24 HOURS LATE, AFTER COURT ORDERS
BROADCASTING OF ELECTION PROGRAMS
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, June 25 (JTA) — The election campaign began officially tonight, 24 hours late and in the midst of a labor dispute involving radio and television journalists who refused to accept a wage agreement concluded yesterday between Histadrut and public sector employers.

They appealed to the Supreme Court against a government back-to-work order but after a temporary injunction, a panel of five justices ruled today that the journalists must air election broadcasts. They were also ordered to pay 200,000 Shekels (about \$1,000) in court costs.

The high court's decision applied only to electioneering. Pre-recorded political messages went on the air at 9:30 this evening. There was no live commentary. Most of the broadcast day consisted of recorded music. That was made possible because the broadcast technicians accepted the two year wage agreement, ending a strike that started last week.

Under terms of the agreement, wages will be increased by 16 percent in most of the public sector. A 10 percent increase will be paid with July salaries, due August 1 and another six percent with August salaries, payable September 1. Histadrut was given an additional eight percent leeway for further bargaining with various professional unions which include teachers, social scientists, social workers, engineers and nurses.

Israel's election laws allow the major parties a total of five hours air time to broadcast their messages to the electorate before election day which is less than a month away. Likud reportedly has allocated most of its campaign budget to the electronic media. The Labor Alignment is relying more on face-to-face meetings with various voter groups.

NO VOTE FOR PRISONERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA) — The Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the Civil Rights Association today to allow prisoners to vote in next month's Knesset elections. The five justice panel that ruled on the issue declined to state their reasons but are expected to do so at a later date.

The court acknowledged that prisoners have the basic right to vote but took into consideration technical difficulties. Lawyers for the State argued that it was impossible to make the necessary arrangements, given the short time before election day, July 23.

Unlike many other countries where persons serving time in jail are denied their civil rights, Israeli law stipulates that every citizen has the right to vote. But the election law requires that the voters cast ballots at the polling place closest to their homes. The rule is waived only for members of the armed forces on active duty and seamen far from home.

Today's decision by the Supreme Court was interpreted by some to be a recommendation that the same waiver be extended to prison inmates, effective with the next elections.

SHAMIR, PERES TV DEBATE PLANNED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA) — A climactic debate between Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres who hopes to replace him, will be televised in two weeks, on or about July 10, when the Knesset election campaign is at its peak. The voters go to the polls July 23.

An agreement was reached today between Ronni Milo and Gideon Gadot of Likud and the Labor Alignment's Yossi Sarid and Yisrael Peleg on the ground rules of the half hour confrontation.

Each of the candidates for Prime Minister will be asked the same five questions and each will have 15 minutes for their answers. A moderator, acceptable to both parties, has not yet been selected nor has the subject matter of the questions been decided.

The debate will be the first such encounter between Peres and Shamir, although both appeared separately on French television earlier this month to discuss election issues. Peres debated former Premier Menachem Begin before the 1981 elections.

Meanwhile, the Labor Alignment announced today that the popular entertainment group, Hagashah Hahiver would be featured in its first television campaign broadcast tonight. Actress Eytan Shiloni will interview Peres, former President Yitzhak Navon and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

ISRAEL SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 25 (JTA) — Cpl. Avi Schechter, a 20-year-old Israeli soldier, died last night of wounds he suffered a month ago when his convoy was ambushed in south Lebanon, the army announced today. He is to be buried in Haifa this afternoon.

Schechter and another soldier were wounded and three of their comrades were killed instantly when they came under fire near Kamed E-Luz village in the eastern sector of the front.

**SHEKEL DEVALUED 2.6 PERCENT;
IT'S NOW 227.81 TO DOLLAR**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA) — The Bank of Israel announced today a 2.6 percent devaluation of the Shekel. It now stands at 227.81 to \$1.00.

According to the central bank the latest devaluation was a technical adjustment to accommodate price increases this month. Nevertheless, it was a relatively large devaluation for a single day. Devaluation normally does not exceed one percent per day. The Shekel has dropped in value by 13 percent since the beginning of the month and is down nearly 114 percent since the first of the year.

According to some sources, the latest devaluation was necessitated by the recent strengthening of the U.S. Dollar against the currencies of the European countries to which Israel sells most of its exports. Bank sources denied that the devaluation was in response to the high demand for Dollars on the black market.

Zvi Sussman, a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Israel, observed that with an annual inflation rate of 350-400 percent, a 2.6 percent reduction in the

value of the Shekel was not dramatic. It does not support speculation that the government will introduce a major devaluation before the July 23 elections.

According to Sussman, the situation does not warrant a large scale devaluation. He warned however that if the present pressure on the black market continues, the government may have no choice but to devalue the Shekel drastically to slow down the demand for black market Dollars.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON KAHANE PARTY ELIGIBILITY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA) — The Supreme Court has deferred until Wednesday a decision on the appeal by Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party against the Central Election Committee's vote last week barring its participation in the July 23 Knesset elections.

The Committee voted 18-10 against Kach on grounds that the philosophy it expounds would undermine the democratic basis of Israel's society. Kahane, who claims his platform is based on the Bible, argued in his appeal that the Central Elections Committee has political bias and should not be allowed to determine such issues.

He quoted earlier Supreme Court rulings that a political faction can be barred from elections only if it poses a danger to the existence of the State. According to Kahane, that consideration does not apply to Kach.

FEDERAL COURT GRANTS REHEARING IN SURVIVOR'S SOCIAL SECURITY CASE

SAN FRANCISCO, June 25 (JTA) — Setting aside a ruling made last year which denied Supplementary Security Income (SSI) to a disabled Holocaust victim because she receives reparations from the West German government, the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal has granted a petition by Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a local Jewish legal aid society, for a rehearing of the case. Terry Friedman, the agency's legal director, reported today.

According to an order filed here June 12 and signed by Chief Judge James Browning, a majority of the 23 judges on the Ninth Circuit voted to reconsider the appeal of Felicia Grunfeder, a 45-year-old who is psychologically disabled from wartime childhood injuries suffered in the Warsaw Ghetto and in a Nazi concentration camp. No date has been set for the rehearing.

The rehearing decision came almost exactly one year after a panel made up of three judges of the Ninth Circuit ruled unanimously in support of a lower federal court ruling denying Grunfeder's claim for SSI against the Social Security Administration, which treats German reparations payments as "countable income" in determining eligibility for SSI, a federal aid program for the needy disabled, blind and elderly persons.

Jana Zimmer, a Bet Tzedek attorney, said there are about 50,000 recipients of German reparations living in the United States. Bet Tzedek attorneys estimate that several thousand needy Holocaust survivors could be affected by the outcome of the Grunfeder case.

Grunfeder had been getting SSI payments until it was determined she was also getting small monthly benefits under the German Restitution Act as compensation for the injuries she suffered during the war.

In the ruling nullifying Grunfeder's right to SSI payments, the three-judge panel held that reparations were no different under the Social Security Act than annuity payments, gifts, prizes, workers compensation or other income that could be used to meet a person's basic needs. The new petition challenges the Social Security Administration's policy of treating German reparations payments as "countable income."

TONY BENNETT HONORED AT ISRAEL BONDS FETE By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA) — The natural wonders of Israel, as depicted in the colorful paintings of artist Philip Rater, set the stage for the gala Ambassador's Ball at the Washington Hilton Hotel last night where the popular entertainer, Tony Bennett was honored with Israel's Friendship Award.

The inscription on the plaque presented to the singer by Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne, cited Bennett for "his unique artistry and special talents" that "have captured the hearts of men and women everywhere" and "in appreciation of his friendship for Israel and identification with its humanitarian ideals and its aspirations for peace."

In making the presentation, Rosenne noted that Bennett's "own roots are in the joyous Italian folk tradition. We happily pay respects to a common heritage of humanity, to ideals of peace, freedom, justice, dignity and self respect that Israel has always striven to achieve and embody."

The Ambassador's Ball, an annual event under the patronage of the Israeli Ambassador in Washington and his wife, coordinated by the State of Israel Bonds, drew 1,000 guests including members of the Administration and of Congress, the ambassadors of many countries, Washington Mayor Marion Barry and leaders of American labor. Vice President George Bush, honorary chairman of the Ball, was unable to attend.

The co-chairpersons of the event were Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Scheer. Scheer praised Bennett the featured performer at the Ball, as "a good friend of Israel and our people."

BEGUN PUT IN CAMP PRISON

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA) — Jewish activist Isidore Begun, sentenced last October to 12 years in a Soviet labor camp for "anti-Soviet agitation", has recently been sentenced to six months in the camp prison for reasons unknown, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today.

According to the SSSJ, friends speculate that his imprisonment within the Perm labor camp complex could be punishment for insisting on religious observance. But nothing definite is known because his wife and son were not permitted to see him when they visited the camp earlier this month.

The SSSJ said Mrs. Begun was informed at the camp that her correspondence with her husband was being confiscated. She also learned that before his confinement to the camp prison he was denied the privilege of purchasing small amounts of extra food from the camp store and that last month he was placed in solitary confinement for 15 days.

Since his sentence seven months ago, Begun was permitted to see his wife only once, for 15 minutes, the SSSJ reported.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated July 4, a postal holiday.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE U.S. TRADE, INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA) — The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will mobilize the resources of its 38 member organizations to promote American trade with and private investment in Israel, it was announced here today by Yehuda Hellman, executive vice chairman of the Conference.

A Task Force on Israel's Economy will be formed for the purpose, Hellman said after a briefing of Conference members by Elmer Winter, chairman of the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel. Its members will be appointed by Kenneth Bialkin, chairman elect of the Presidents Conference, shortly after he takes office July 1, Hellman said.

Winter, a former president of the American Jewish Committee, was optimistic over the long term potential of Israel's economy despite its current difficulties. "I regard the present period in Israel's economy as the darkness before the dawn," Winter said. He praised the Israeli government for "imposing tough measures of economic reform and reaching an agreement with the United States on economic cooperation."

Free Trade Status To Be 'Boon'

He saw a major boost for Israel's exports after enactment of legislation for a bilateral Israel-U.S. Free Trade Area (FTA), one of the elements of the economic cooperation agreement, which will allow Israel-made products to be sold duty-free in the U.S. American products would be able to enter Israel free of tariffs under the bill now pending in Congress.

According to Winter, "FTA would substantially assist Israel's high technology industries and constitute a boon for Israeli exports, perhaps by as much as 30 percent." It would also open new export opportunities for American manufacturers, he pointed out.

Winter urged the Presidents Conference to launch a letter-writing campaign to Senators and Representatives in support of the FTA legislation. He also reported that the Jerusalem Economic Conference and the Isratech '84 exposition in Tel Aviv which he attended last month were both highly successful. The Economic Conference drew about 400 businessmen and industrialists from abroad to explore investment opportunities in Israel. Isratech was a showcase for Israel's high technology industries.

Hellman noted that the projected Task Force will seek to assist Israel's economy by encouraging investment in its export industries. "Israel's economic situation has a direct bearing on its political freedom of action. Only an economically independent Israel can be a politically independent Israel," he said.

NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PALESTINIANS OPENS AT UN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 25 (JTA) — A North American regional symposium for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) on the question of Palestine opened here this morning with the participation of representatives of 63 NGOs.

The three-day symposium is sponsored by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The symposium is scheduled to include sessions on discussions on various aspects of the Palestinian issue including "The role of North American Churches on the Question of Palestine," "A profile of the Palestinian People," "Factors Determining Policy-Making in North Ameri-

ca on the Middle East and the Question of Palestine," and "Paths to a Just and Comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Some 20 experts, mainly members of the academic community in the United States, are also participating in the symposium and are scheduled to address it.

The opening session of the symposium was addressed by Massamba Sarre of Senegal, the chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee. He said that the NGOs can play a major role in finding a solution to the difficult Palestinian question. He said that it was only by making the elements of the Palestinian question better known that progress toward a solution could be made.

The General Assembly adopted a resolution last December calling for the convening of symposia and meetings for Non-Governmental Organizations in different regions in order to heighten awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine.

The next regional symposium under the sponsorship of the Palestinian Rights Committee is scheduled to take place in Geneva August 20-22.

LANTOS PROPOSED HOLOCAUST STAMP

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA) — Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.), in a letter co-signed by some 69 additional members of the House, has urged the United States Postal Service to issue a special stamp to commemorate the Holocaust.

In a letter to Belmont Faries, chairman of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the Postal Service's Stamps Division, Lantos wrote: "As we prepare for the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II, we urge that your committee approve a stamp to commemorate the Holocaust to be issued April 14-21, 1985, during the annual 'Days of Remembrance' to honor and remember the martyrs of the Holocaust."

"This date falls just before the anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany on May 8," Lantos added. "The issuance of such a commemorative stamp could be most appropriate in marking the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. The horrors of the Holocaust must be remembered and kept alive in the hearts of peoples everywhere so that such an outrage never occurs again. An appropriate stamp would be a fitting way to remind us."

NEW MEAT PRODUCT MAY BE EXPORT ITEM

REHOVOT, June 25 (JTA) — The meat of the Yaez, an Israeli hybrid obtained by cross-breeding a male ibex ("yael" in Hebrew) with a female goat ("ez") in Hebrew), is likely to become a new, high quality Israeli export item.

At a recent "taste test" conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, at a barbecue held for some 300 guests including the members of the Hebrew University's International Board of Governors, the consensus was that the meat will appeal to palates of both American and Europeans. More than 70 percent of those who tasted the yaez meat there preferred it to lamb. Both the yaez meat and the lamb were prepared by the Hilton Hotel chef under identical conditions, using the same spices and cooking ingredients.

Dr. Dan Ratner of Kibbutz Lahav, began to develop the yaez in 1971. The project aimed at developing a new breed of domestic animal which would provide a high quality meat. Raising of the yaez has been incorporated into the regular farm activities of Kibbutz Lahav. Last year, the kibbutz sold 4 tons of yaez meat, and this year expects to sell 7 tons.

SPECIAL REPORT
ISRAEL-SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS
BASED ON PRAGMATIC SELF-INTEREST
 By Sheldon Kirshner

(Sheldon Kirshner was in South Africa for three weeks on assignment for the Canadian Jewish News. This is the first of a two-part report on Israel's relations with that country.)

TORONTO, June 25 (JTA) — South Africa and Israel, two of the world's most isolated and condemned states, are developing close ties on the basis of pragmatic self-interest.

In the lexicon of international relations, South Africa and Israel are pariah countries. South Africa, probably the richest nation on the African continent, is excoriated for practicing apartheid, or a policy of racial separate development. Israel, the pre-eminent military power in the Middle East, is attacked for merely existing, or because its policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians or the occupied territories are found to be objectionable.

As late as 13 years ago, South Africa's relationship with Israel was cool and even distant, no doubt due to the fact that Israel had substantial political interests in Black Africa and was content to play its "African card."

At the United Nations, Israeli representatives angered South Africa by joining the anti-apartheid crusade. South Africa, home to the biggest Jewish community in Africa, struck back by prohibiting Jews to send charitable donations to Israel.

New Era In 1970's

The 1970's ushered in a new era in South African-Israeli relations. In 1971, South Africa established a consulate-general in Tel Aviv, which signalled a dramatic improvement in the two nations' ties. Observers believe that the move was prompted by South Africa's respect for Israel's smashing victory in the Six Day War, and by Israel's gradual realization that South Africa was an important factor in the African equation.

Analysts unanimously agree that 1972 and 1973 were crucial years for the entente cordiale that was to develop between Israel and South Africa — which voted for the 1947 UN Palestine partition plan.

In two short years, Black African states, succumbing to Arab pressure and the promise of bountiful aid and cheap oil, broke relations with Israel.

Only Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho refused to join the African exodus from Israel.

The African betrayal, which occurred prior to and in the wake of the Yom Kippur War, came as a shock to an Israeli government which could not always see the handwriting on the wall. Only two years earlier, the Organization of African Unity's liberation committee rebuffed a symbolic cash donation from Israel.

Under the premiership of Yitzhak Rabin, Israel consolidated relations with South Africa. In 1976, Johannes Balthazar Vorster, the South African leader, visited Israel in a "private" capacity. Daniel Malan, one of his predecessors, had gone to Israel in 1952 on a pilgrimage, thereby becoming the first foreign head of state to visit Israel.

By 1976, Israel and South Africa had established diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level. By 1977, just before the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa was universally imposed, Israel had sold Pretoria military equipment, particularly patrol boats supplied with Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles.

Simcha Elisha, Israel's Finance Minister, went to South Africa in 1978 and signed a series of economic protocols that provided for the creation of joint ministerial committees that would meet every two years. Owen Horwood, Elisha's South African counterpart, headed a high-powered delegation to Israel in 1980.

Ties Grown Closer

In the past four years, the South African-Israeli connection has grown, nurtured by the community of nations' unrelenting hostility to Jerusalem and Pretoria. As a South African foreign ministry official put it: "Israel and South Africa are struggling against the world and that puts us on the defensive."

Louis Pienaar, a Cape Town lawyer who served as South Africa's ambassador to France, was equally forthright. "We have common interests," he said, "and we'll develop them, sometimes openly, and sometimes discreetly."

Considering the flak that each draws, South Africa and Israel do not exactly advertise the relationship — the object of much criticism at the United Nations and in progressive Jewish circles in Israel and the diaspora.

A South African diplomat, in reply to a direct question, conceded that Pretoria does indeed play down its relations with Israel. "Yes, to save Israel embarrassment," he said.

Ronald Miller, a representative of the moderate New Republic Party in parliament, is blunter. "Israel has no great love for South Africa," he said, referring to the ruling National Party's policy of apartheid. "But the existence of a large Jewish community here determines Israel's attitude to South Africa."

(Part II Tomorrow)

MYTHICAL ROCK SOUGHT OFF JAFFA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 25 (JTA) — There is a rock, just off the Jaffa shore where, according to Greek myth, the maiden Andromeda was chained as a sacrifice to the Sea God, Poseidon. The heroic Perseus slew the monster and rescued the maiden. Now some archaeologists are trying to rescue the rock from obliteration breakwater planned to protect a new marina.

But not all archaeologists are certain that the rock in question is indeed the rock of legend. There are many rocks in the waters off Jaffa, and more than a half century ago when Jaffa was the main port of entry to Palestine, they were a menace to passengers and freight being rowed ashore from steamers anchored a mile or more at sea.

Before the port at Haifa was opened in the early thirties, many of the rocks were blasted with dynamite, Andromeda's rock among them, some say. According to Yitzhak Lir, who designed the new breakwater, "We've been searching for months for an expert who will help us identify the right rock but nobody either from Jaffa or the Haaretz Museum knows and the ancient maps have been of no help."

GENEVA (JTA) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced here that its representatives in Syria visited the three Israeli soldiers captured during the war in Lebanon on June 18. The previous visit was on April 19. According to the ICRC, their representatives brought the soldiers letters from their families and took back letters to be transmitted to the families. They were not accompanied by a doctor and this indicates that they are in good health.