

**OPENING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN
PROVIDES ISRAELIS WITH ONLY
TV ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) — The Knesset election campaign opening on television last night was more theatrical than political. The half hour of air time allotted for the messages of all parties was in any event a welcome relief for viewers deprived of TV this week by the ongoing strike of broadcast journalists.

The Supreme Court ordered the electioneering to begin for the purpose of informing the voters of the positions of the parties on various issues. The journalists complied, lifting their blackout for 30 minutes, after which the screens went dark again.

The show itself was a testimonial to the methods of Madison Avenue: entertain the public and they will buy your product, or in this case, vote for the sponsoring party.

The Labor Alignment opted for light comedy. Its segment was opened by the popular "Gashas Hahiva trio, known for their comic skits, who told the viewers "I too used to vote Likud. I too made a mistake." That confession of repentance was followed by film clips of the Alignment troika—Shimon Peres, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and former President Yitzhak Navon — who summed up their political credos in the few seconds allowed them.

Labor Seeks Sephardic Vote

Labor's stress was clearly on wooing the Oriental community which voted heavily for Likud in the last two elections. Apart from the fact that Navon himself is Sephardic, the voters were shown Peres as a pleasant family man sitting at home with his grandson, one of whose parents happens to be Sephardic. The faces of unmistakably Oriental Jews were in fact very much in evidence throughout Labor's commercial.

Likud went in for endorsements, featuring film clips of people from all walks of life who said they supported Likud.

Another clip was of a meeting of the Likud ministers. The camera zoomed in for a close-up of Premier Yitzhak Shamir wearing an unusually stern, non-sense expression in contrast to the paternal smile he normally presents to the public. There were also views of the country, with emphasis on the Temple Mount in Old Jerusalem which puzzled some observers since it is the site of Islamic shrines and an emotional issue for many Jews.

Likud's most ubiquitous slogan was "The people want Likud", a direct retort to Labor's "You need the Alignment" slogan. The voters will have to decide between what, presumably, they "want" and what presumably they "need."

According to Likud "the poor neighborhoods support Likud" and "traditional Jews support Likud." There were also clips of former Premier Menachem Begin signing the peace treaty with Egypt in Washington in 1979.

The Lebanon situation, easily the most divisive issue debated in Israel these days, was glossed over by both major parties. Labor criticized the govern-

ment's policies, but only mildly. Likud prided itself for securing "peace for Galilee."

The smaller parties on the left wing of the political spectrum, Shinui and Shulamit Aloni's Civil Rights Movement, were sharply critical of the Lebanon war. Both aimed their campaign messages at Labor supporters, claiming that by voting for them they had a better chance of moulding future policy than by voting the Alignment ticket.

The National Religious Party warned observant Jews that the State-subsidized religious education system would be endangered without the NRP. It directed its message to voters who might support the more ultra-Orthodox Aguda Israel party, implying that only the NRP can strengthen the influence of the religious camp.

Tami, which represents a largely Sephardic, low income constituency, featured its leader, Aharon Abu-Hatzela, in a fireside style chat. Former Finance Minister Yigael Hurwitz plugged his new Ometz party which calls for economic austerity and a broad-based national unity government.

Mordechai Ben-Porat, a member of the late Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's now defunct Telem party, stressed his experience and personal integrity. All of the various parties' messages were pre-recorded.

Drama critics observed, afterwards that unless the broadcast journalists end their strike, the election programs will run away with the ratings. They would be the only show in town.

SHEKEL DEVALUED FOR 2nd CONSECUTIVE DAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) — The Shekel was devalued again today for the second consecutive day. It dropped by 1.1 percent following a 2.6 percent devaluation decreed by the Bank of Israel yesterday.

Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad and Bank of Israel officials said they did not anticipate any further small devaluations in the near future because the gap between the Shekel and inflation has been sufficiently narrowed. The Shekel has fallen in value by about 13 percent this month after dropping at an average rate of nine percent a month since the first of the year.

The back-to-back devaluations caused concern and confusion on Lillienbaum Street in Tel Aviv, the country's black market money center which has been flourishing since the early days of the State without police intervention.

Nervous black marketers, uncertain of where the Shekel will be tomorrow, lurked in doorways clutching their currency-filled paper bags but refusing to buy or sell. Later, when the new official rate of 230.30 Shekels to \$1.00 was announced, the black market rate, circulated by word-of-mouth, was set at 295 Shekels to the Dollar, a 28 percent difference.

**JEWS EXPRESS OUTRAGE AT FARRAKHAN
CALLING JUDAISM 'GUTTER RELIGION',
ISRAEL DESCRIBED AS 'OUTLAW' STATE**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA) — Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan's latest attack on Judaism as a "gutter religion" and Israel as an "outlaw" nation was greeted today with outrage from the Jewish community and

renewed calls on the Rev. Jesse Jackson to repudiate the political support Farrakhan has given to his Democratic Presidential campaign.

Jackson, who was in Havana for a meeting with Fidel Castro, was annoyed when asked to react to Farrakhan's latest attack on the Jewish community. "I think it's absurd ... that you are trying to get a reaction from me on this," he told CBS News. "In America, people have freedom of speech to say what they want about whom they want to. Don't keep putting me in the middle of that."

Nevertheless, representatives of leading American Jewish organizations called on Jackson to unequivocally repudiate Farrakhan, whose 10,000 member Nation of Islam group has provided support for Jackson's campaign efforts in recent months. Similar calls were issued to Jackson after Farrakhan had called Hitler a "great man" and after the Muslim leader had warned American Jews from interfering in Jackson's quest for the Democratic nomination.

Israel Called 'Outlaw Act'

In a speech last Sunday broadcast in Chicago, Farrakhan said "the presence of a state called Israel is an outlaw act" and charged that if "you aid and abet someone in a criminal conspiracy, you are part of the criminal conspiracy. So America, England and the nations are criminals in the sight of Almighty God."

In the speech, delivered from the headquarters of the Nation of Islam, Farrakhan also said that Israel "will never have any peace because there can be no peace structured on injustice, lying and deceit and using the name of God to shield your gutter religion." The speech followed a recent visit by Farrakhan to Libya where he met with Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

The Muslim leader called the formation of Israel "cold, naked scheming and plotting and planning against the lives of a people there in Palestine." He also said that Zionist leaders had made a deal with Hitler not to boycott German products before World War II after he allowed 65,000 German Jews to emigrate and \$100 million in Jewish assets to be transferred to Palestine. He said the "deal" was outlined in the recently released book "The Transfer Agreement," by Edwin Black, who Farrakhan described "as one of their own."

Schindler Decries Silence

Describing Farrakhan's rhetoric as "poisonous hatred" and "foul mouthed slander," Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), assailed the "silence of the religious forces and political leadership in our society that should be publicly denouncing" Farrakhan.

"Where are the voices of conscience among the American people? Where is the National Council of Churches? Where is the National Conference of Catholic Bishops? Where is the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference?" Schindler declared. "Are Jews to be left to protest alone in the face of Farrakhan's ugly and contemptible anti-Semitism."

Nathan Perlmutter, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, condemned Farrakhan's comments attacking Judaism and Israel as the "mouthings of a demagogue." He said that "the continued reluctance of Jesse Jackson to repudiate his political ally appears to have emboldened Farrakhan into spewing his poison wantonly and without restraint."

Howard Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, described Farrakhan's remarks as "despicable and un-American. It calls for the strongest denunciation of racial, ethnic and religious groups." Friedman called on Jackson to "disassociate himself completely from" the Black Muslim leader.

Action By Mondale Urged

Henry Siegman, national director of the American Jewish Congress, challenged former Vice President Walter Mondale, who is expected to be the Democratic Presidential candidate, to "screw up enough courage to make a public break with Jackson unless Jackson 'clearly and unequivocally' repudiates the political support of Farrakhan. Siegman declared that the "test of integrity" for a political candidate is whether he is prepared to "pay the price of this convictions in a concrete and specific situation."

Farrakhan was today compared to Nazi propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels and the imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The Center said that Jackson's continued refusal to disassociate himself from Farrakhan "makes a mockery" of everything that Jackson claims to stand for and "call into question whether he should be given a prominent role as a so-called 'moral force' at the upcoming Democratic convention" in San Francisco next month.

Harris Gilbert, chairman of the Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said Farrakhan's recent outburst is "the latest in a long series of obscenities." The executive committee of the Commission, meeting in Washington, said:

"We are deeply concerned that in the past, the media has portrayed such pathological bigotry and subsequent condemnation of it as part of a Black-Jewish confrontation. The repudiation of Farrakhan's efforts to legitimize racism and anti-Semitism in American public life must come from all Americans, including leaders of religion (including Black Muslims) civil rights and political groups."

NON-JEW HEADS MARKS & SPENCER By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 26 (JTA) — Marks and Spencer, Britain's largest retail chain whose commercial involvement with Jewish Palestine began more than a half century ago and is today a major importer of Israeli products, is undergoing a change of leadership.

Lord Sieff, a leading supporter of Israel will hand over the chairmanship this week to Lord Rayner, the first non-Jew to head the chain since its beginnings 90 years ago as a stall in the marketplace in Leeds. Sieff, who will stay on as president, assured the press today that the company's involvement with Israel will continue as dynamically as in the past.

Lord Rayner attended the economic conference in Jerusalem last month and knows Israel well, Sieff said in an interview with the Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce. "He will continue our close affiliation with Israel, though of course bringing his own, new ideas to bear," the Jewish peer declared.

Marks and Spencer currently has an annual turnover of 2.8 billion Pounds Sterling. Sieff disclosed that its business with Israel is worth about 75 million Pounds Sterling and is expected to grow by 17-18 percent this year. That means that almost a third of Israel's exports to Britain are purchased by this single company.

Sieff said he expected improvements in Israel's balance of payments. "They now have to export more because the demand of their home market has been substantially reduced. There are therefore better prospects of profitable exports than there were nine months ago."

SPECIAL REPORT

ENVOY SAYS ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH S. AFRICA OVERBLOWN BY DETRACTORS

By Sheldon Kirshner

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

TORONTO, June 26 (JTA) — Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Linkin, in an interview, brushed aside a suggestion that Israel is sensitive to its relations with South Africa. But he pointed out that these ties are exploited by critics. Linkin's chief assistant, Meir Padan, noted that anti-Israel detractors embroider the Israeli-South African link so as to defame Israel wherever possible.

Both Linkin and Padan said that too much is made of Israel's relations with South Africa.

Trade, which is worth approximately \$200 million annually, is overblown. According to the International Monetary Fund, Israel — which has been criticized in the United Nations for its commercial links with South Africa — accounts for 0.4% of South Africa's imports and 0.7% of its exports.

Apart from manufactured goods, fish, corn and processed foods, Israel buys steel and coal from South Africa. From Israel, South Africa purchases chemicals, agricultural products and fertilizers. Israel's largest export items, being classified as electronic equipment and metal products and machinery, fuel speculation that Israel contravenes the United Nations embargo by selling arms to South Africa.

Arms Link Denied

Recently, U.S. Presidential contenders Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson said that Israel was shipping weaponry to South Africa. Jackson went as far as to accuse Israel of acquiescing in the oppression of Blacks in South Africa.

Two months ago, the Sunday Times of London reported that Israel and South Africa have close military ties. The Times claimed that around 300 Israeli advisors are in South Africa helping to train soldiers, sailors and pilots, and that Pretoria and Jerusalem cooperate in the nuclear field on the basis of South African uranium being exchanged for Israeli technology.

Linkin said he doesn't know "anything" about such links.

South Africa, he declared, can manufacture its own arms. Linkin acknowledged that, many years ago, South Africa bought Israeli patrol boats and Uzi sub-machine guns. "I read about it in the newspapers," he said.

He described as "sheer nonsense" the notion that Israeli advisors are attached to the South African armed forces. "South Africa is not Syria, and Israel is not Soviet Russia. South Africa has a very well-equipped and trained army. The South Africans can take very good care of themselves, although we have more experience than they do."

A South African strategist offered a slightly different view of the situation.

"Officially, South Africa has no formal military ties with Israel. But there is military cooperation, which is a classified matter."

The strategist, who is associated with a university, said South Africa and Israel share information on missile development and counter-insurgency. (Like Israel, South Africa has carried out retaliatory raids against its neighbors, principally Angola and Mozambique, for aiding African National Congress guerrillas — which have had relations with the PLO.)

He said he doubted whether the two are working together in nuclear research.

Linkin, who was an Irgun Zva' Leumi fighter against the British in pre-state Israel, debunked the myth that Israel supports apartheid.

Moral questions, such as apartheid, should not be the foundation upon which nations base their relations, Linkin said. However, Israel's view on apartheid is clear.

"We can't condone it," the 69-year-old diplomat said. "We, as Jews, cannot accept it as a conception. It is against Jewish convictions."

Why, then does Israel reject United Nations resolutions on apartheid? Because, Linkin said, they equate apartheid with Zionism. Israel, he noted, would vote for an anti-apartheid resolution on its own merits. "We are against discrimination of human beings because of their race, status and nationality."

Linkin, too, derided suggestions that Israel backs the South African Black homelands of Ciskei, Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda, none of which has been accorded recognition.

There have been reports that Israeli businessmen — notably Yoram Aridor, the former finance minister — have been deeply involved in the homelands. Last month, the Sunday Times of Johannesburg reported on its front page that Israelis had landed contracts in "the dirt-poor" republic of Ciskei to build an airport and a harbor. Last November, The Jerusalem Post disclosed that 18 Ciskeians were in Israel for a 1-year pilot training course.

Israel Does Not Recognize 'Homelands'

Scuttling any idea that the Israeli government is behind these schemes, Linkin said Israel favors its policy of non-recognition of the homelands (which have been described by critics as mere Bantustans completely subservient to South Africa.)

"We feel bound by United Nations resolutions not to recognize the homelands. We have enough troubles with the United Nations without recognizing these homelands. We are too small a nation to start breaking resolutions which do not affect us directly."

Linkin, personally, is in favor of a pro-homeland policy by Israel, for international recognition of the homelands would render them more independent of South Africa, he argued.

Padan, in addressing himself to the issue, said South Africa has never pressured Israel to recognize the homelands. And he emphasized that Israel does not encourage Israeli entrepreneurs to do business there.

Observers do not feel that Israel's negative view of South Africa's Black homeland policy affects Pretoria's positive outlook toward Israel.

South Africa has a long history of philo-Zionism, and the Afrikaner elite identifies with the Israelis as an embattled, Biblical people. Jan Smuts, a revered figure in South African history, was an ardent Zionist and one of the authors of the 1917 Balfour Declaration. Smuts admired the tenacity of the Jews and said they reminded him of his fellow Afrikaners — a blend of Dutch, French, German and Portuguese settlers.

In the 2 1/2 years he has been ambassador, Linkin has had nothing but friendly contacts with Afrikaners. "They have a certain admiration for Israel and I have felt it in every contact with them. They say the Old Testament is their guide, and they respect the courage of the Israelis."

Carter Ebraim, a colored politician, agrees with Linkin. "Israel has an epic impact upon the people of this country, although non-whites, especially blacks, tend to sympathize with the Palestinians."

A senior official in the South African foreign ministry, a relatively young man who has served in

the U.S., said: "The Afrikaners here identify very strongly with Israel's struggle, and there has always been a desire on our part to enter into a close relationship with Israel."

The general sympathy exhibited for Israel by the Afrikaner-dominated National Party — which has been in power since 1948 — expresses itself on a practical level.

Before South Africa was suspended from the United Nations General Assembly in 1974, the South African delegate usually cast pro-Israeli votes. Although South Africa hewed to a policy of "strict neutrality" when the Six Day War broke out, the government waived its ban on the transfer of charitable funds to Israel on the second day of that conflict.

In 1971, after Israel's ill-fated offer of 10,000 Israeli pounds to the Organization of African Unity, South Africa temporarily suspended fund transfers pending "clarification" from Israel. Following a series of diplomatic exchanges, the ban was lifted. Indeed, during the Yom Kippur War, South Africa adjusted its foreign currency regulations so as to permit the transfer of greater private donations to Israel.

Today, South Africa has no public policy toward the Arab-Israeli dispute. But the South Africans are clearly in Israel's corner. As one South African diplomat put it: "We would go along with any policy that recognizes Israel's right to secure borders."

To cynics, South Africa can afford to be totally behind Israel: Pretoria has no real relations to speak of with the Arab or Islamic world — except for Iranian and Lebanese interests sections in the Swiss and French embassies in South Africa.

Egypt, under Gamal Abdel Nasser, severed ties with South Africa in the late 1950s, ostensibly over apartheid. Iran, formerly a significant oil supplier, cut relations with South Africa — and Israel — in 1979, the year of the Khomeini revolution.

S. Africa Trades With Islamic World

Despite the fact that Israel is the only Middle Eastern country with which South Africa maintains full, normal relations, Pretoria has unofficial trade relations with the nations of Islam. "We're interested in expanding our relationship with the Islamic world," a foreign ministry official said. "There is tremendous economic potential there."

South Africa, which reportedly purchases oil on the international spot market, is not likely to down-grade its multi-faceted friendship with Israel even if it succeeds in further penetrating Islamic markets, or normalizing its relations with Moslem nations.

Theo Aranson, the only Jewish member of parliament representing the National Party, told this reporter that South Africa wants "to intensify" its already thriving political, commercial and cultural relations with Israel. "It's a wonderful relationship and there's no chance it'll sour if Israel re-establishes ties with Black Africa." (Since 1983, Israel has reestablished relations with Zaire and Liberia, and its trade with Africa has increased.)

Meanwhile, no one at the South African Foreign Ministry will be surprised if the Prime Minister, P.W. Botha, visits Israel in the near future.

There had been speculation that Botha would stop in Israel upon the completion of his recent European tour, but the possibility was not really considered, said a South African official.

"A trip to Israel is not out of the question," he went on to say. "I wouldn't be surprised if the Prime Minister turned up in Israel one of these days."

DESPERATE PORTRAIT OF FALASHAS PAINTED AT LOS ANGELES DEMONSTRATION MARKING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WEEK

LOS ANGELES, June 26 (JTA) — An increasingly desperate portrait of conditions facing Ethiopian Jewry in the northern Gondar province was presented here by Simcha Desta, an Ethiopian who recently fled his homeland. He delivered the keynote address at a rally marking the International Week of Solidarity with Ethiopian Jewry attended Sunday by some 200 community activists.

Desta, who escaped Ethiopia after months of imprisonment and torture, portrayed a worsening situation of the plight of the Ethiopian Jews, known as the Falashas. He said Jewish synagogues have been closed and the local religious leaders are subjected to continued threats of arrest and violence. These factors coupled with the severe drought affecting the region and the increased clashes between the military and rebel groups, have caused many Jews to flee the region.

"We are Beta Yisrael," he declared. "We have used all of our wisdom and knowledge to survive. Our faith in God is strong, our spirit and our dream to go to our homeland Israel will not die. As I speak today many Jewish people in Ethiopia and many more in refugee camps continue to suffer, to sleep on the ground without blankets, to go hungry and without water, to be deprived of their rights to practice their Jewish religion. We need the help of our Jewish brothers around the world and from everyone concerned with human rights."

Mayor Tom Bradley, in a message to the rally, lauded Israel's efforts in rescuing Ethiopian Jews. "The life saving rescue of thousands of people who wish nothing more than to practice their religion in peace and comfort serve as a model to countries throughout the free world. Perhaps one day there will be no more need to rescue people from tyranny and oppression; until that day comes, I pledge to you my continued support"

Among the sponsoring organizations of the event were the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Union for Saving Ethiopian Jewry.

ISRAELI, SYRIAN FIND COMMON TIE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 26 (JTA) — There are ties that bind even two countries that are officially in a state of war. They are sold in an elegant shop on Geneva's fashionable Rue du Rhone.

Israel's Ambassador to France, Ovadia Soffer, discovered this when on a visit here he went to the shop to purchase a tie. Immediately he was surrounded by Arab-speaking security men. The envoy says he thought to himself: "I have been recognized. My final hour has arrived."

But such was not the case. The security men were guarding Riffat Assad, brother of President Hafez Assad of Syria who was in the shop with his wife. When Soffer picked a tie and handed it to the sales woman for wrapping, Mrs. Assad, looking over his shoulder, told the woman, "This model I would like for my husband, but in different colors."

NEW YORK (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee has hailed the decision of the Voice of America to double the air time of a special weekly radio program aimed at Jewish audiences in the Soviet Union. The program, Jewish Life, was expanded from 15 to 30 minutes a week.