

Vol. LXII - 67th Year

Tuesday, July 10, 1984

No. 128

JEW'S URGED TO RESPOND WARMLY TO CALL BY NAACP FOR STRONGER TIES BETWEEN JEWS AND BLACKS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA) — The American Jewish Congress has called on the Jewish community to "respond warmly" to the call by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a strengthening of ties between the Black and Jewish communities.

"We welcome the NAACP's call to its members to retain the close historical ties between Black and Jewish communities," AJCongress executive director Henry Stegman said. "At a time of tension and mistrust, it is an important reminder that the stake of Blacks, Jews and other minorities have in a responsible and mutually respectful political discourse far transcends the differences that we may have."

The NAACP, which met last week in Kansas City, Mo. for its 70th annual convention, adopted a resolution at its closing session calling on its local branches to create coalitions and help "our Jewish counterparts in all areas of relevance to our communities, civil rights in general and human rights in particular."

NAACP officials acknowledged that the resolution was significant in view of the deterioration of relations between the two communities. Factors which have helped exacerbate these tensions include anti-Semitic remarks made last month by Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who is a supporter and political ally of the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Jackson, who sought the Democratic presidential nomination, also made disparaging remarks about Jews, whom he referred to as "Hymies" and to New York as "Hymietown." Farrakhan referred to Judaism as a "gutter religion" and declared Israel an "outlaw" nation.

CHARGE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SABOTAGING DEPORTATION EFFORTS AGAINST NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA) — A senior official of the World Jewish Congress has cited a report by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives in charging that the State Department "was engaged in a deliberate and callous policy of sabotaging efforts to deport convicted Nazi war criminals from this country."

Kalman Sultanik, a vice president of the WJC, said he "was shocked" to find that the House Judiciary Committee had in its report confirmed the allegations that the State Department was actively undermining the work of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, the agency charged with acting against Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

Sultanik said he was also speaking on behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, to which he was appointed by President Carter in 1980 and subsequently named chairman of its anti-Semitism Commission.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Peter Rodino, Jr. (D-N.J.), states in his report on appropriations to the Justice Department for the coming year that the committee is "deeply concerned

about efforts by the State Department to assist the Justice Department in the deportation of war criminals," adding that the State Department has been "unwilling to pursue the subject aggressively."

The report charges that the State Department's posture "seriously undermines the work of the office of special investigations and tarnishes its numerous victories in court."

Cites Case Of Trifa

Sultanik cited the case of Archbishop Valerian Trifa as an example of "the State Department's continuing policy of undercutting the judicial process." Trifa, who currently lives in Michigan, was a leader of the anti-Semitic Iron Guard in Rumania during World War II and was responsible for anti-Jewish riots in Bucharest in 1941 in which hundreds of Jews were murdered. Although Trifa, now 68, was stripped of his American citizenship and in October 1982 agreed to leave the United States to any country that would accept him, he still remains in the U.S.

Problem Of Finding Country For Trifa

Neal Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations, in a meeting with the WJC, reported that Switzerland, Italy and West Germany had refused Trifa entry. In a subsequent written report, Sher stated: "Finding a country for Trifa continues to be both a high priority and a nagging problem."

Noting that at his request the State Department had officially asked Rumania to accept Trifa, Sher added: "We have continually stressed the importance of this matter and have urged the State (Department) in turn, to convey that message to the Rumanian government and to make them aware of the strong public interest in the United States." Trifa was tried in absentia by a Rumanian military tribunal during the war, and was sentenced to life at hard labor in that country.

"When the actions of one governmental agency -- in this case the State Department -- seeks to undermine the work of another agency -- the Justice Department -- the American people have a right to an explanation," Sultanik said.

Excerpt From Committee Report

Following is the relevant excerpt of the House Judiciary Committee report, "Department of Justice appropriation authorization act, fiscal year, 1985."

"Despite the excellent work of the Office of Special Investigations, the committee remains deeply concerned about efforts of the Department of State to assist the Justice Department and the Office of Special Investigations in arranging the deportation of war criminals ordered to leave the United States. Although, at the request of the Office of Special Investigations, the State Department has made routine inquiries to foreign governments about accepting these individuals, it seems unwilling to pursue the subject aggressively."

"Much of the burden, therefore, has fallen to the Office of Special Investigations to locate countries where these criminals can be sent. This must not continue to be the case. Only with the State Department's active and strenuous participation will those foreign governments with a moral or legal obligation to accept war criminals understand that the United States is fully

committed to this effort and expects cooperation from other nations. The State Department's apparent failure to recognize this fact seriously undermines the work of the Office of Special Investigations and tarnishes its numerous victories in court."

REBUKE FOR POLITICIAN WHO PRAISED NAZI OFFICIAL

By David Kantor

BONN, July 9 (JTA) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has indicated that he will personally rebuke a fellow Christian Democrat from his home state of Rhine Palatinate for publicly praising a former high ranking Nazi official.

He was referring to Dieter Hoerner, a member of the Rhine Palatinate Parliament and of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) who spoke in glowing terms of Josef Buerckel at the recent jubilee celebration of Germany's wine industry, attended by some 80,000 people.

Buerckel, who played a prominent role in boosting wines from the Palatinate, was an intimate friend of Hitler and the first district director in the Third Reich to declare that his jurisdiction was "Judenfrei" (free of Jews).

Replying to Werner Klein, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party in Rhineland Palatinate, Kohl said Hoerner's remarks "are not consistent with my idea of how to present the history of my homeland." He said he would "have a word" with Hoerner on the matter.

Hoerner was publicly repudiated by the Prime Minister of Rhineland Palatinate, Bernhard Vogel who refused to participate in the jubilee ceremonies.

PATT TO HOLD TALKS WITH REAGAN AIDES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) — Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt leaves for Washington today for a new round of talks with Reagan Administration officials on the projected U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area (FTA). He said, prior to his departure, that the two countries were in agreement on about 80 percent of the issues.

The FTA, agreed to in principle by President Reagan and Premier Yitzhak Shamir at their meeting in Washington last year, calls for the reduction or elimination of tariff barriers between the two countries.

In the latest round of talks, Israel is expected to demand that the introduction of duty-free American goods to the Israeli market be on a gradual basis to avoid worsening the country's balance of payments deficit.

The Americans are expected to insist on a gradual withdrawal of government subsidies for Israeli exports which they consider unfair competition. Patt is reported to be ready to agree to a wide range of concessions in that regard.

15 FAMILIES DECLARE NEW SETTLEMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) — About 15 families pitched tents on a patch of land near Bethlehem yesterday and declared a new settlement, Naot Adamim, the second set up on the West Bank within a week without sanction by the appropriate authorities. Additional settlers arrived today.

The site was approved by the World Zionist Organization's settlement department some two-and-a-half years ago for a settlement to be part of the Etzion bloc. But plans were frozen for lack of

funds and it was decided to eventually allow private developers to take over. But West Bank settlers have begun an ad hoc settlement drive and are determined to establish as many new settlements as possible in the Judea and Samaria regions before the Knesset elections July 23 and regardless of budgetary constraints. An unauthorized settlement was planted on a site near Ramallah last week.

A spokesman for the Etzion Bloc regional council said the unauthorized activity was in fact encouraged by the WZO's settlement department. But its co-chairman, Mattityahu Drabess said on an Army Radio interview today that there was no official approval of the new settlements.

GERMANY'S OLYMPIC BASKETBALL SQUAD IS COACHED BY AN ISRAELI

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA) — West Germany's basketball squad competing in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles later this month is coached by an Israeli, Ralph Klein, a veteran player and former coach of the Tel Aviv Maccabi team which he guided to several championships and into a number of European finals in recent years.

For the past two years, Klein has worked full time as coach of the Cologne team of the German National Basketball League. He is credited with raising the Cologne hoopers to contender status and Germany's hopes in the Olympic basketball competition repose largely on his shoulders.

The German team has replaced the Soviet quintet as one of the four hoop squads qualified to represent the European zone in Los Angeles — since the Soviet government decided to boycott the games.

Klein will continue to coach the Cologne team for one more season and then return to Israel. His wife is a vice president of a major business firm in Tel Aviv and it is her desire and that of the family to return. Klein will have no trouble connecting with one of the better basketball teams in Israel. His past performance leaves no question as to his merit, however the German players do at Los Angeles.

COMMITTEE SET UP TO HELP ABSORPTION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) — The Cabinet decided yesterday to establish a committee consisting of the directors general of various ministries to coordinate the absorption of Jewish immigrants from Ethiopia — Falashas. The committee will also include the heads of the Jewish Agency's aliya and finance departments and youth aliya.

Its task will be to eliminate as much as possible of the red tape that clogs the bureaucratic process for Ethiopian newcomers and to coordinate the activities of the ministries and agencies that deal with them.

IBA ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS DECLARE A THREE-DAY STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 9 (JTA) — Administrative employees of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, declaring a three-day strike, walked off their jobs this afternoon after wage negotiations with management reached an impasse.

The walk-out silenced radio and television broadcasting which had only just returned to normal after a weeklong strike by broadcast journalists was settled Friday. The administrative personnel are demanding wage increases equal to those won by the broadcast journalists. The latter had gone on strike to equalize their wages with those of print journalists.

The latest strike will not effect the daily half hour political program in which all of the parties and individuals standing for election to the Knesset are allotted time segments for their campaign messages. This is because the Supreme Court has specifically forbidden any blackout of the electioneering process. The Army Radio, meanwhile, is providing regular news bulletins.

Elsewhere on the labor scene, publicly employed engineers and academicians in the social and political sciences continued their work-stoppage today as did employees of the Foreign Ministry whose two-week strike was supposedly ended by court order over the weekend.

SHAMIR AND PERES TO HOLD MAJOR POLITICAL DEBATE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres will have their major debate of the political campaign tomorrow. It will be taped during the day and broadcast on radio and television during the nightly half hour allotted for electioneering.

Politicians and the public, meanwhile, were puzzled by the sharp disparity in the results of the latest election polls conducted by Likud and the Labor Party. The Likud poll showed the gap between the two parties narrowing significantly with election day only two weeks off. According to Labor's poll, the Alignment's comfortable lead is holding steady.

Likud's pollster is Dr. Sarah Shemer, until recently with the Modlin Ezrachi poll organization, and a well known professional in the field. Her survey, covering 4,000 voters gave Likud 41 Knesset seats to 48 for Labor, by far the best performance that Likud has registered in public preference polls since the election campaign began.

If the Shemer poll is accurate and if the right-wing Tehiya Party picks up five Knesset seats, as expected, Labor would find it difficult if not impossible to put together a stable coalition even with a margin of Knesset mandates in its favor.

The Labor Party's poll over the weekend, was conducted by Dr. Avi Diskin. The party's poll director, Yossi Beilin, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it covered more than 2,000 persons who were interviewed in person or by telephone.

The results gave Labor 53 Knesset seats to 37 for Likud. They were consistent with a poll published in Yediot Achronot last Friday which gave Labor a 53-38 lead over Likud. Beilin offered no explanation for the disparity between the Labor and Likud polls.

Format Of The Debate

Likud activists have been buoyed by the poll results and consider them partly the result of television campaigning. They also attach great importance to tomorrow's Shamir-Peres debate.

It will be taped at the Likud studios in Herzliya, that having been decided by the toss of a coin between Labor MK Yossi Sarid and Likud MK Ronni Milo.

Each party leader will be given two minutes to respond to three identical questions posed by journalist Dan Patfir. Each will then be allowed a brief concluding statement summarizing his basic policy goals. Sarid apparently lost another coin toss because Shamir will make the final concluding statement.

Meanwhile, the campaign has cooled down somewhat after a spate of mud-slinging by both major contending parties in their nightly pre-taped television pitches. Supreme Court Justice Gavriel Bach, chairman of the Central Elections Committee which acts as a non-partisan referee in the campaign, laid down the law yesterday to the Labor and Likud campaign chairmen, MK Mordechai Gur and Deputy Premier David Levy. Bach has already used his authority to delete offensive or unduly inflammatory material from both parties' messages.

First Outbreak Of Partisan Violence

But political observers were disturbed by the first outbreak of partisan violence since the campaign began. This occurred in Tiberias last night when pro-Likud rowdies prevented Peres from completing his speech to an otherwise friendly audience. Chants of "David (Levy) King of Israel" and "Arik (Ariel Sharon) King of Israel" were a prelude to a hail of bottles and stones aimed at the speaker. Five persons were arrested.

The episode was mild in comparison to the 1981 campaign when mobs chanting "Begin King of Israel" repeatedly disrupted Labor election rallies. Labor made good use of those incidents by showing them on their television time and many experts believe they gained votes as a result.

Beilin told the JTA today that there was no intention to repeat the tactic in this campaign. He said Labor hoped the disruption in Tiberias was an isolated incident.

ISRAELI PRESS AND KNESSET HAVE SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) — The press and the parliament in Israel have a symbiotic relationship far stronger than in any other country in the world, according to a recent study by Prof. Shevah Weiss who is a Labor member of the Knesset.

He found that 63 percent of the questions submitted by MKs to government ministers and 84 percent of the motions presented in the Knesset are based on material or disclosures published in the media.

Of the 120 Knesset members, 29 are regular contributors to the press and eight were in fact journalists before they entered politics. Weiss said that a comparison between "quality" newspapers in the U.S. and Israel showed that the latter devoted proportionately three times more space to news of the Knesset than the American papers gave news of Congress.

JEWS IN THE OLYMPICS

LOS ANGELES, July 9 (JTA) — The first Modern Olympic Games held in 1896 in Athens attracted nearly 300 athletes from 13 countries to compete in 42 events. Five Jewish athletes from three European nations won a total of 11 medals, including nine gold, according to "Jews in the Olympics" exhibition running through September in the Jewish Community Building, 6505 Wilshire Blvd.

Jewish medal-winners of 1896 included Austria's swimmers Otto Hirschmann and Paul Neumann, Germany's gymnasts Gustav Flatow and Alfred Flatow, and Hungary's swimmer Alfred Hajos-Guttman. Alfred Flatow's prominence as an Olympian did not, however, save him from the fate of millions of Jews with whom he perished in the Nazi death camps.

The international exhibition documenting the achievements of Jews in sports is a project of the Southern California Jewish Historical Society. A commemorative poster and medal are available. Call 213-852-1234.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE HEBREW LETTERS ON THE CATHEDRAL WALL

By Charles Okstein

SANTA FE, July 9 (JTA) — Visitors to this city's St. Francis Cathedral with a keen eye for architectural details are often surprised to see Hebrew letters inscribed in the sandstone above the main entrance. Enclosed in a prominent triangle are four Hebrew letters spelling "Yahveh" or God.

How the Hebrew inscription came to be placed on this Roman Catholic church is a question which goes back to the time of the construction of the church. But the answer to this question is not easily found and remains a source of controversy.

One frequently heard tale about the inscription involves the original construction of the cathedral in 1869. Building was started under the direction of Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, who, parenthetically, earned notoriety as the subject of a 1926 novel by Willa Cather, "Death Comes for the Archbishop."

Jewish Businessman Credited

Legend has it that the Archbishop ran out of construction funds, and it appeared for a time that the cathedral could not be completed. Abraham Staab, a Jewish businessman in Santa Fe, who was a friend of Lamy, is often credited with having helped finance the completion of the project.

It is said that there was understanding between Lamy and Staab in which Staab would make available the funds necessary to complete the building by cancelling a loan which he had previously made to Lamy. In return, Staab could place an inscription of his own choosing over the entrance of the cathedral during construction. Lamy agreed, and the inscription suggested by Staab was placed according to the agreement: the Hebrew word for God.

However charming an explanation, there is reason to believe that this loan theory involving Staab may not be true. An interesting research report on the subject was written by Rabbi Floyd Fierman of El Paso, Texas. Writing in the New Mexico Historical Review in 1962, Fierman noted that Dr. Edward Staab, Abraham Staab's son, indicated that his father was not the type of individual who would require that his own inscription be placed over the entrance to the cathedral in return for his donation of funds.

Fierman also pointed out that the Hebrew word for God is enclosed in a triangle, which in Europe was a common religious symbol denoting the Christian sense of Trinity. For example, the same symbol is said to exist inscribed in northern European churches and embroidered in various religious garments. In fact, a similar triangle with Hebrew inscription has been found in a vestment which Lamy or his successor had sent from France to the Cathedral in Santa Fe.

Hebrew Inscription In Other Churches

The current Visitor's Guide to the cathedral also puts emphasis on the importance of the triangle surrounding the Hebrew word for God. The Guide points out that since the inscription is located within a triangle, it was not meant as a "compliment" to Jews, although "it could have been mutually meant and interpreted as such."

The cathedral in Santa Fe is not the only Roman Catholic institution to utilize the Hebrew inscription, and it is said that similar letters have been used in other church materials. Fierman, for ex-

ample, noted that at another church in New Mexico, a similar image of the lettering was found inscribed in the base of a set of brass candlesticks.

A similar inscription is located at the Church of St. Louis IX in St. Louis, Missouri. That church was constructed in 1834, 35 years before St. Francis in Santa Fe. When contacted for more information, a representative of the St. Louis Church indicated that she thought that the Hebrew inscription in that church was originally placed to denote the "outgrowth of Catholicism from Judaism."

With the knowledge that there are contradictory theories of the origin of the inscription, current day visitors to the Santa Fe cathedral can speculate whether it may have been the generous donation made by one of Santa Fe's pioneer Jews which led to the Hebrew word over the entrance. Or, as seems more likely from an academic review of the available evidence, whether the friendship of Lamy and Staab was a coincidence, having no bearing on the origin of the famous triangle and Hebrew inscription.

Whichever interpretation might be true, it is clear that Archbishop Lamy was friendly with Staab and other early Jewish settlers in Santa Fe, and that there were Jews among early contributors to the construction of the cathedral. The legends surrounding this unusual inscription still stimulate controversy and interest, particularly among visitors.

REMAINS OF 500 PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN ENGLAND EIGHT CENTURIES AGO REBURIED IN JEWISH FUNERAL SERVICE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 9 (JTA) — The remains of 500 people who have lived in England eight centuries ago were reburied at York yesterday in a Jewish funeral service conducted by Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits.

The bodies, believed to be mostly of Jews, were reinterred in a part of the city called Jewbury, the reputed site of one of the most important Jewish cemeteries of medieval England. The remains had been discovered during development of the land to make way for a supermarket. Until then, the site had not been recognized as a Jewish cemetery.

At yesterday's ceremony, Jakobovits noted that the Anglo-Jewish community had ceased to exist with the expulsion of Jews from this country in 1290 and was not revived until 1656 when Oliver Cromwell authorized the readmission of Jews to England.

A century before the expulsion, York had also been the site of a notorious massacre of the city's Jewish community, many of whom preferred to take their own lives rather than die at the hands of their Christian attackers.

In consecrating Jewbury as a Jewish burial ground, the Chief Rabbi was disregarding the tradition that the city of York should be boycotted by Orthodox Jews because of the medieval massacre which occurred there. Eight years ago, the Chief Rabbi, together with leading Christian clergy, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the base of Clifford's Tower, the Norman stronghold, in which the Jewish massacre took place.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Immigration fell sharply in June when only 896 olim arrived representing a 22 percent drop from May and a 36 percent decline compared to June, 1983, the Absorption Ministry reported Monday. The largest single group—219—came from the U.S. There were 167 from Rumania, 83 from France, 52 from Britain, 44 from Argentina and 119 from all of Africa. Only 24 immigrants arrived from the Soviet Union.