

**At The Democratic Party Convention:
MIDEAST ISSUE TAKES BACK SEAT**
By David Friedman

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17 (JTA) -- The Democratic Party apparently does not expect the Middle East to be a major issue in this year's Presidential campaign, although the party's candidates are expected to remind voters of the period when the Reagan Administration was castigating Israel.

This can be seen from the the opening of the Democratic national convention last night and from the party's platform schedule to be adopted tonight. New York Governor Mario Cuomo barely mentioned the Mideast in his keynote address which was largely devoted to domestic U.S. issues and the fear that President Reagan's policies could lead to a nuclear war.

Cuomo's one comment about Israel was, "We have been less than zealous in our support of our only real friend we have in the Middle East, the only democracy there, our flesh and blood ally, the State of Israel."

Former President Jimmy Carter, who also spoke last night, did not mention the Mideast in a speech which criticized Reagan for abandoning the Carter Administration's concern with human rights.

However, Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona, who introduced Carter, praised the former President as a "peacemaker" for bringing Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin together at Camp David. Cuomo also noted Carter's accomplishment in bringing about "the nearly miraculous Camp David peace accords."

Issue Of The U.S. Embassy In Israel

With both former Vice President Walter Mondale, who is expected to be nominated as the Democratic Party's candidate for President tomorrow night, and President Reagan considered strong friends of Israel, and with both parties expected to adopt strong planks in support of the Jewish State, the major difference may be over the status of the U.S. Embassy in Israel.

The Democratic platform endorses moving the Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. But while in 1980 Carter said he would not abide by that plank, Mondale is on record as saying that he would move the Embassy if elected. Reagan has up to now opposed any move pending a negotiated Mideast settlement.

Democratic Mideast Platform

The Democratic platform accuses Reagan of vacillating in the Mideast. "He has had as many Middle East policies as he had staff turnovers," the platform charges. "First, he offered strategic cooperation to Israel as if it were a gift. Then he took it away to punish Israel as if it were not our ally. Then he pressured Israel to make one-sided concessions to Jordan. Then he demanded that Israel withdraw from Lebanon. Then he pleaded with them to stay. Then he did not accept their offer of medical help for our wounded marines."

"He undercut American credibility throughout the Middle East by declaring Lebanon a vital interest to the United States and then withdrawing."

The platform then stresses that "the Democratic Party believes that the security of Israel and the pur-

suit of peace in the Middle East are fundamental priorities for American foreign policy. Israel remains more than a trusted friend, a steady ally, and a sister democracy. Israel is strategically important to the United States, and we must enter into meaningful strategic cooperation."

"The Democratic Party opposes this Administration's sales of highly advanced weaponry to avowed enemies of Israel, such as AWACS aircraft and Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia. While helping to meet the legitimate defensive needs of states aligned with our nation, we must ensure Israel's military edge over any combination of Middle East confrontation states."

"The Democratic Party opposes any consideration of negotiations with the PLO unless the PLO abandons terrorism, recognizes the State of Israel, and adheres to UN Resolutions 242 and 338."

Favors Jerusalem As Israel's Capital

The platform also states that "Jerusalem should remain forever undivided with free access to the holy places of all faiths. As stated in the 1976 and 1980 platforms, the Democratic Party recognizes and supports the established status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. As a symbol of this stand, the U.S. Embassy should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

"The Democratic Party condemns this Administration's failure to maintain a high-level special negotiator for the Middle East, and believes that the Camp David process must be taken up again with great urgency."

"No nation in the Middle East can afford to wait until a new war brings even worse destruction. Once again we applaud and support the example of both Israel and Egypt in taking bold steps for peace. We believe that the United States should press for negotiations among Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states."

"We re-emphasize the fundamental principle that the prerequisite for a lasting peace in the Middle East remains an Israel with secure and defensible borders, strong beyond a shadow of doubt; that the basis for peace is the unequivocal recognition of Israel's right to exist by all other states; and that there should be a resolution of the Palestinian issue."

Soviets Human Rights Record Condemned

The platform also "condemns continued Soviet persecution of dissidents and refuseniks, which may well have brought Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov and his wife to the verge of death in internal exile in Gorki. We will not be silent when Soviet actions, such as imprisonment of Anatoly Shcharansky and Ida Nudel and thousands of others, demonstrate the fundamentally repressive and anti-Semitic nature of the Soviet regime."

"A Democratic Administration will give priority to securing the freedom to emigrate for these brave men and women of conscience, including Jews and other minorities, and to assure their fair treatment while awaiting permission to leave. These freedoms are guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by the Helsinki Final Act which the Soviets have signed and with whose provisions they must be required to comply."

"Jewish emigration, which reached the level of fifty thousand per year during the last Democratic Administration and which has virtually ended under its Repub-

ican successor, must be renewed through firm, effective diplomacy. We also recognize that Jewish emigration reached its height at the same time there was an American Administration dedicated to pursuing arms control, expanding mutually beneficial trade and reducing tensions with the Soviet Union -- fully consistent with the interests of the United States and its allies. It is no contradiction to say that while pursuing an end to the arms race and reducing East-West tensions, we can also advance the cause of Soviet Jewish emigration."

The platform also criticizes Reagan for being "the first president to fail to support publicly the ratification of the Genocide Convention."

Last night, two Jews who are Mayors in opposite ends of the country also participated in the opening session of the convention. Dianne Feinstein, the Mayor of the host city, welcomed the delegates to the convention, and Edward Koch of New York, who hosted the previous convention, stressed the need to wage a war on drugs.

At The Democratic Party Convention: FEINSTEIN CALLS ON JEWS AND BLACKS TO COOPERATE

By David Friedman

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17 (JTA) -- Mayor Dianne Feinstein called on American Jews today to continue to support the Black community and urged Blacks to show understanding for Jewish issues.

Speaking at a breakfast sponsored by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) at the Fairmount Hotel, Feinstein noted that she is Mayor of a city whose largest ethnic community is the Black community and her relationship with it "is positive and mutually supportive." However, she noted, many Blacks still do not understand "how we feel when the word 'quota' is used." The Mayor noted that, in the past, quotas had been used to deny places to Jews.

She said there was also a misunderstanding among Blacks and non-Jews of what Israel means to American Jews. "Israel means that no Jews will ever walk into gas chambers again." She said once this is made clear to Jews, the reason for Israel's existence is understood.

On the presidential campaign, Feinstein noted that when she was interviewed by Walter Mondale as his possible Vice Presidential running mate, she was not only the first woman and the first Mayor to be interviewed but also the first Jew. She predicted that a Jew will be elected President in the near future.

Joan Mondale also appeared before the 700 persons attending the AIPAC breakfast. She revealed that all three children of the New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, who the former Vice President has chosen as his running mate, have climbed Masada in Israel.

Numerous Senators, Congressmen and other elected officials and would-be elected officials were introduced at the AIPAC meeting. The loudest applause came for Governor James Hunt of North Carolina, who is opposing the re-election bid of Republican Senator Jesse Helms.

Thomas Dine, AIPAC's executive director, stressed that it has finally been realized in this country that "Israel is important to the United States and the United States is important to Israel."

Meanwhile, the theme on Black-Jewish cooperation was also sounded by Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey during a tribute to slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Democratic convention last night.

"I am distressed when I see division within our country or within our party, especially when it is between those who have shared common, painful experiences," Lautenberg declared. "Jews and Blacks, for instance."

He said that "these two people have historically identified themselves with the goals of the Democratic Party. Their kinship is that they have suffered bigotry, experienced the ghetto, been barred from schools, restricted and red-lined from neighborhoods and know too well the stigma of second class citizenry."

He said that since Jews and Blacks have "a profound need for one another" they should work together in searching out the real enemy which has been "stripping away the meagerest of gains."

SPECULATION OVER BEGIN'S ROLE IN LAST INNING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- Election issues appeared to take second place today to speculation over whether former Premier Menachem Begin will indeed emerge from his self-imposed seclusion to campaign on behalf of Likud before the voters go to the polls next Monday. Asked if he would, in a brief telephone interview with a Kol Israel Radio reporter this morning, Begin said: "We'll see in the next two days."

His non-committal response elated Likud politicians who have been spreading the word during the past week that Begin, a formidable campaigner, will break his silence to help his party win the elections.

But Labor Alignment campaign manager Mordechai Gur maintained today that Begin's entry into the campaign would be too late to have any effect on the election results. It is generally believed that Begin's involvement, if any, would be in the form of a pre-recorded message broadcast on television.

Begin has been a semi-recluse since his sudden retirement nearly a year ago. He has made no public appearances and has not attended Knesset sessions, even when matters crucial to the Likud government were up for a vote.

One theory advanced to account for his withdrawal from public life is that he is bitterly resentful of former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon for having led, or misled him into the Lebanon embroglio. Begin flatly denied to the Kol Israel reporter today a widely circulated media report that he expressed his anger toward Sharon in a recent telephone conversation with a prominent lawyer.

According to The Jerusalem Post, it was "reliably learned" that Begin told the lawyer, with respect to Sharon, "Please don't mention that name in my hearing." Begin's response today was that the report was "totally unfounded." "I didn't speak to any lawyer about Sharon," he said. But he refused to reply when the Kol Israel reporter asked him if he was "angry with Sharon."

LATEST POLL GIVES LABOR A 14-SEAT LEAD OVER LIKUD IN THE ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- The latest independent poll published today gave the Labor Alignment a 14-seat lead over Likud in next Monday's Knesset elections. It contradicted the results of two polls published last Friday which indicated that the gap between Labor and Likud was rapidly narrowing.

The new poll, conducted by the Modiin Ezrachi Organization has Labor winning 48 Knesset mandates to 34 for Likud, a substantial margin but not enough to ensure the establishment of a Labor-led coalition government.

The poll gave seven seats to the ultra-nationalist rightwing Tehiya party, hardly likely to join a Labor government, and a combined total of six seats to the leftist Shinui and Civil Rights Movement, both natural allies of Labor. The remaining mandates would be scattered among the small parties, religious and secular, according to the poll.

Assuming continuation of Likud's alliance with Tehiya and the religious parties and several of the small secular parties adhering to Labor, the Alignment would have an extremely difficult time establishing an effective governing coalition. According to some observers, this situation increases the prospects of a Labor-Likud national unity government.

Private Polls Considered Suspect

Private polls conducted on behalf of the major parties are considered suspect, the pollsters in each case reflecting a bias toward their respective clients. A recent Labor poll gave the Alignment 53 Knesset seats, sufficient to put together a workable coalition with relative ease. The latest Likud poll, however, showed the gap between the two parties down to five mandates.

All of the polls published to date were taken before the latest inflation figures were released on Sunday which showed a 13.3 percent increase in the June cost-of-living index. It is the highest rise on record for that month which is normally a time of low inflation.

Labor promptly seized on this as further evidence that the government's economic policies are leading the country to ruin. Likud countered by putting Premier Yitzhak Shamir on television last night to argue that reckless wage demands by trade unionists were responsible for the inflationary spiral.

Issue of Inflation

According to Shamir, his government had just launched an economic program to curb inflation when the Knesset voted early elections. Histadrut, he said, refused to enter into a "social contract" and the government therefore was forced to postpone its program until after the elections.

Shamir cited statistics showing that inflation is a worldwide problem that compounds the problems peculiar to Israel and accounts for the extremely high inflation rate of the past year. Likud's newspaper advertisements and campaign speeches warn the voters that if Labor takes power it will attack inflation by creating a recession and widespread unemployment.

But independent economic experts have agreed that whichever party wins next Monday, the new government will have to initiate very painful measures, including the dreaded phenomenon of unemployment, if Israel is to grapple with its massive economic problems.

HASSAN HONORS MOROCCAN JEWISH LEADER

RABAT, July 17 (JTA) -- The head of Morocco's Jewish community, David Amar, was awarded the high decoration of "Officer in the Order of the Throne" by King Hassan at ceremonies held at the Royal Palace here, the World Jewish Congress reported today.

Amar, a prominent businessman, is secretary-general of the Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco, the central representative body of Moroccan Jewry and the WJC affiliate here. In conjunction with the WJC, Amar organized the historic conference of Moroccan Jews in the country two months ago. It was attended by leaders of Jewish communi-

ties throughout the world headed by WJC president Edgar Bronfman and included a large Israeli delegation of Knesset members and prominent officials.

The award ceremony at the Royal Palace was held on the occasion of the King's birthday and received wide media attention in the country. Its significance was underlined by the presence of the diplomatic corps, all senior members of the government, and the highest civil and military personalities of the kingdom.

A special message was cabled by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain, a large number of whom are of Moroccan origin, which congratulated Amar "on this distinction and expression of confidence on the part of the King."

SENTENCES IMPOSED ON TWO ISRAELIS CALLED TOO LENIENT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- The sentences imposed on two Israelis who confessed to acts of violence against Arabs or complicity in such acts, were too light considering the gravity of their offenses, according to appeals lodged with the Supreme Court by the State Prosecutor Tuesday.

Noam Yinnon, a resident of the Golan Heights, confessed last month to transporting 50 land mines for use by a Jewish terrorist underground in the manufacture of bombs that were planted in five Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem last April 27. Yinnon, who claimed he did not know how the mines were to be used, was given a three year jail term, half of it suspended.

The prosecution contends that he was in fact aware of the consequences of his crime. It is also contesting the four year sentence -- half of it suspended -- imposed on Levy Hazan, one of three men convicted of sabotage against Arab vehicles and houses in East Jerusalem. Hazan was also convicted of planning an attack on an Arab bus near Ramallah last March.

ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC WOVES AUDIENCES IN AUSTRALIA

TEL AVIV, July 17 (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is taking Australia by storm. Its gala concert in Canberra yesterday, under the baton of Zubin Mehta, received rave reviews in the Australian press, according to the IPO management here.

Shlomo Mintz was the solo violinist at the concert in the Australian capital which was attended by, among others, Prime Minister Bob Hawke, members of his Cabinet and most of the foreign envoys accredited to Australia.

The IPO, currently touring Australia, will fly to Los Angeles at the end of this month for a concert in the Hollywood Bowl in memory of the Israeli athletes murdered by terrorists at the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

AIR FORCE UNVEILS NEW RADAR EQUIPMENT

TEL AVIV, July 17 (JTA) -- The Air Force has unveiled its latest radar equipment designed for use by ground troops to detect small, slow, low flying aircraft. The mobile equipment was put on display in advance of Air Force Day this Thursday. It is installed on a truck and insulated against chemical and electronic warfare.

The Israel Defense Force claims it ranks with the best of its kind in the world. The manufacturer remains a secret but according to the IDF the equipment was adapted to suit Israel's requirements indicating it was made abroad. It has been used in Lebanon.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE ISRAELI TEAM AT THE OLYMPICS By Sol Marshall

(Editor's note: Sol Marshall, who will cover the Olympic Games for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, in earlier years coached championship municipal and Jewish Center volleyball teams in Milwaukee, Atlanta and Chicago. He was manager of the volleyball team at the Westside Jewish Community Center in L.A. which won the national AAU and USVBA and JWB titles during his tenure. He was manager of the U.S. volleyball team in the 1961, 1965 and 1969 Maccabiah Games. Marshall also was a sports writer in Atlanta and Milwaukee before serving as PR director for the Jewish Centers Association of L.A. for 18 years.)

LOS ANGELES, July 17 (JTA) -- Many distinguished passengers have flown with El Al during the first month of direct flights to and from Los Angeles. Topping the passenger list for the fifth flight, yesterday, were members of Israel's Olympic team.

After a good night's rest, they were welcomed officially today by representatives of the International Olympic Committee, the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, and the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. Heading the local delegation were Jacob Even, Israel's Consul General for the West Coast, and Yoram Ben Zeev, liaison consul to the local community.

The entourage of 56 includes 38 athletes, 12 coaches and 6 officials. Samuel Lalkin is chief of mission. Uri Afek, of the Ministry of Education, is deputy chief. Some of the athletes have been in the United States for several months, training with coaches at colleges and sports clubs. They joined their teammates at the Olympic Village yesterday.

Israel is not represented in any of the team sports—men's or women's basketball, field hockey, team handball, soccer, volleyball or water polo. Of the 33 competing in 10 of the other 16 sports, very few have the possibility of winning medals. Israel is among 120 countries which did not win a medal from 1960 to 1980.

Security Will Be The Watchword

Although security will be the watchword during their stay in the U.S., members of the team will enjoy visits to the usual tourist attractions, Ben Zeev said. They will also participate in five or six major community events, scheduled so as not to interfere with training, so that members of the local community can meet the standard bearers of Israel on the fields of sport.

Visiting southern California and meeting relatives and friends is not reason enough to send a team to the Olympics, Ben Zeev said. It is estimated that the 25 nations which won medals from 1960 to 1980 committed an average of \$2 million for each medal won. Israel has invested approximately \$1 million on its entire program from 1980 to 1984.

Israel spread such comparatively small sums on a dozen or more sports in order to give world-class opportunities to as many athletes as possible, Ben Zeev noted. It is hoped that in the future such participation will result in more attention paid to the Olympic sports so that Israel can enter the ranks of medal-winning nations.

In order to maintain security and to interfere as little as possible with training schedules, all

appearances of Israeli team members are being coordinated through the Israeli Consulate. Most events will require advance registration, and will not be open to "walk-ins".

Olympic Team Members

Members of the Israeli Olympic team are:

YACHTING: Eldad Amir, Yehuda Atedji, Shimon Broman, Eitan Fridlander, Yoel Sela.
TRACK & FIELD: Yitzhak Ben-Molech, Mark Handelman, Maya Bentzur, Arye Gamliel, Sabag Shemtov, Yehuda Zadok.
FENCING: Nilli Drori, Shlomo Eyal, Moshe Chumut, Haim Hatoel, Lydia Hatoel, Itzhak Hatoel.
BOXING: Yehuda Ben Haim, Shlomo Niazov.
SHOOTING: Yair Davidovitz, Itzhak Yonassi, Gary Aramist.
WEIGHTLIFTING: Meir Daloya
GYMNASTICS: Nancy Goldsmith, Liat Haninovit, Yohanan Moyal, Limor Fridman, Yaacov Levy.
SWIMMING: Yoram Kochavy, Hadar Rubinstein, Eyal Shtigman, Yaron Eilat.
JUDO: Eddy Koaz, Yona Melnik, Moshe Ponte.
CANOEING: Aviram Mizrahi
ATHLETICS: Zehava Shmuel
TENNIS: Amos Manddorf

ISRAELI PROFESSOR WINS PRIZE AT CEREMONY IN THE KREMLIN

NEW YORK, July 17 (JTA) -- A Weizman Institute professor was awarded the prestigious annual prize of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) at a ceremony in the Kremlin earlier this month, it was reported here by the American Committee for the Weizman Institute of Science.

Prof. Benjamin Geiger, of the Department of Chemical Immunology in the Institute in Rehovot, was one of the 100 scientists from Israel, about one-quarter of them from the Weizman Institute, among the 5,000 delegates who came to Moscow from all over the world for this year's FEBS conference.

At the one-hour closing ceremony of the conference, held in the Kremlin's Congress Hall, Geiger received the award signed by Prof. Yuri Ovchinnikov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Academy of Science who served as president of the conference.

Geiger was honored by the FEBS for his contribution to the understanding of the mechanism of cell movement and the means by which the activity of the cell membrane is controlled. Last year, he was awarded the Weizman Institute's Morris Levinson Biology Prize for his work on the structure and function of the cytoskeleton. Levinson is deputy chairman of the International Board of Directors of the Weizman Institute and the immediate past president of its American Committee.

Upon his return to Israel from the FEBS conference, Geiger went into the Israeli army to do his annual reserve duty.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry denied Tuesday that Israel was in any way involved with Raoul Mizrachi, a wealthy Jewish merchant of Beirut murdered last Friday. Rumor had it, after his body was discovered near Beirut airport that he was killed by militant Shiite Moslems because of alleged connections with Israel.