

**TENSION MARKS LABOR-LIKUD TALKS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- The talks between the Labor Alignment and Likud on forming a broad-based government was tinged with tension today as Likud leaders insisted that the issue of the Premiership should be subject to negotiations and that Likud, like the Labor Alignment, would continue parallel negotiations with other parties in an effort to form the basis for an alternative coalition should the current efforts by Labor Party leader Shimon Peres to form a government fail.

The position of the Labor Alignment is that the issue of the Premiership is not subject to negotiations since President Chaim Herzog gave Peres the mandate last Sunday to form the new government. At the time, Herzog said that the nation desires a national unity government and that "the country needs a quick decision." Peres has 21 days, from last Sunday, to form a government. He can get a 21-day extension if he needs it.

The insistence by Likud today on the issue of the Premiership and parallel negotiations with smaller parties came after Likud leaders met in Jerusalem to map the next steps of their talks with the Alignment. Deputy Premier David Levy rejected charges that Likud was trying to foil an Alignment-led national unity government. Earlier this week, Likud said that if Peres should head the next government, it would seek the Defense and Foreign Ministry portfolio.

**Talks To Continue Thursday**

Negotiations between the Alignment and Likud were scheduled to continue tomorrow morning. The focus will be on the sensitive issues of Lebanon and the settlements in the West Bank. Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Peres met Monday, but nothing substantive emerged from their talks. They agreed to meet again tomorrow for a private session.

Likud sources said today that the party's tactics in its talks with the Alignment was to gain time. These sources, according to Radio Israel, said that Likud wanted to drag out the negotiations until the allotted time for Peres to form a government ran out.

**Special Interest Focused On Aguda**

Meanwhile, special interest was focused today on Aguda Israel, which until now has opposed a national unity government and has supported a Likud-led coalition. However, in the past 24 hours, Aguda sources were quoted as saying that once Herzog asked Peres to form the government "a new situation was created."

Avraham Shapiro, an Aguda leader, said that his party, which has two seats in the Knesset, does not intend to take a position on a Peres-led government until it knows what Labor has to offer on religious issues. He added that any decision to join a Labor government would have to be approved first by the Council of Torah Sages.

Talks continued, meanwhile, in Tel Aviv between Labor Party and Mapam leaders. Mapam said yesterday that it is opposed to a national unity

government but will not impede steps in that direction. Separate talks were also scheduled today between Labor leaders and the National Religious Party, Tami and Aguda Israel over what concessions Labor is ready to grant on religious issues.

**EGYPT STIPULATES THREE CONDITIONS FOR RETURNING ITS ENVOY TO ISRAEL**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Egypt will return its Ambassador to Israel only after "a total and unconditional" withdrawal of all Israeli forces from south Lebanon, according to the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Emet Abdel Meguid said in a press interview published here today that Israel must fulfill three conditions before Egypt will resume full diplomatic relations on an Ambassadorial level. The Egyptian Ambassador in Israel was recalled to Cairo in September 1982 after the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The Minister, who met with President Francois Mitterrand today, told the French daily *Le Quotidien* that the other two prior conditions Israel must fulfill before the return of the Egyptian Ambassador are:

"Substantial progress on the way to a settlement of the Palestinian question" and an Israeli withdrawal from the Taba enclosure, a small enclave near Eilat which Cairo claims as Egyptian territory.

Today's statement was the first major foreign policy declaration by Abdel Meguid since his appointment as Egyptian Foreign Minister last month.

The minister reiterated Egypt's stand recognizing the PLO as "the sole representatives of the Palestinian people" and called on the forthcoming Israeli government to change Israel's former interpretation of the Camp David agreements which, Abdel Meguid called "a negative and unacceptable approach."

**SHAMIR APPEALS TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION TO PRESS FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWISH POC BEGUN**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir has appealed to world public opinion to press for the release of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Isosif Begun, who is currently serving a 12-year prison term for "anti-Soviet agitation."

Shamir told the Cabinet last Sunday that Begun's health had suddenly deteriorated. The Soviet authorities, Shamir said, allowed Begun to receive medical treatment in a prison hospital after he was held in confinement, but he was returned to solitary confinement after the treatment.

Begun's mother has not been permitted to visit him, nor has he been allowed to consult with a lawyer, Shamir said. He added that Begun's only crime was that he taught Hebrew to others who, like him, were denied the right to come to Israel.

**A History Of Harassment**

The 51-year-old Begun, an engineer and unofficial teacher of Hebrew in Moscow, was sentenced last October after a three-day trial to seven years imprisonment to be followed by five years of internal exile. This was the maximum sentence the court could have imposed on Begun.

Begun has been the target of harassment by the Soviet authorities. He was first arrested on March 3, 1977 and charged with "parasitism," having lost his job at the Moscow Central Research Institute years before when he first applied for an exit visa.

He was tried in June, 1977 and sentenced to two years of internal exile which he spent in the remote city of Magadan. He completed his sentence in February, 1978 but was re-arrested that June and sentenced to three more years in Magadan. He returned in August 1980.

On November 6, 1982, he was arrested a third time and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." He was reportedly held in solitary confinement for most the time until his trial opened. He could have drawn a possible sentence of 2-3 years' internal exile or seven years in prison, plus five years' internal exile. He drew the maximum.

#### RITES TO BURY DESECRATED RELIGIOUS ARTICLES TURNS INTO RALLY FOR MASSIVE SETTLEMENT OF 'GREATER ISRAEL'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- The ritual burial in Hebron yesterday of torn pages of prayerbooks and other remnants of Jewish religious articles was transformed into a political demonstration for massive settlement of "Greater Israel" and criticism by the mourners of the Israeli army's "weak hand" toward the Arabs.

Jewish residents of Hebron and Kiryat Arba in the West Bank, led by newly-elected members of Knesset, a Deputy Minister and several rabbis, marched through the streets of Hebron -- target of hostile stares of local Arabs -- to inter the damaged holy texts in the local Jewish cemetery.

The torn sacred articles were found last weekend in the Hebron local flea market, once again raising Jewish-Arab tensions in the city of the patriarchs. The mystery of the identity of the desecrators remained unresolved and police still have made no arrests.

The rites began inside the Tomb of the Patriarch, filled with Jewish worshippers who had come from all parts of Israel. After rites in front of the Tomb, several hundred Jews marched to the nearby Jewish cemetery, where the desecrated items, assembled in an earthenware and buried, were then covered with a plate of glass. While evidence of deliberate vandalism was considered dubious, the Jewish mourners showed no doubt it had been done deliberately by Arabs.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, the newly-elected Kach Party Knesset member, was loudest on the subject. He shouted, "How many times shall we have to gather here to mourn? I did not come here to eulogize. You can no longer say our hands have not spilled the blood, because we have. Those who have supported this co-existence (with the Arabs) collaborated in this murder and this desecration of God. The Arabs are guilty? No, we (the Jews) are guilty."

Border police and IDF troops were present in large numbers to prevent incidents. One incident occurred near the end of the ceremony when a group of yeshiva students charged that a stone was thrown at them from an Arab-occupied building. Security forces rushed to the scene, detained inhabitants for interrogation and sent the Jewish mourners away.

#### RABBI LOUIS RABINOWITZ DEAD AT 78

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz, former Chief Rabbi of the Orange Free State in South Africa and more recently a Herut Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, has died here at the age of 78. Funeral services were held today.

Rabinowitz made his mark on Jerusalem as a man of many talents. As a scholar, he was a senior editor of the Encyclopedia Judaica; as a writer, he contributed articles to many publications, including the popular weekly column "Torah and Flora" in The Jerusalem Post; as a man of public affairs, he was both a politician and an inveterate fighter for causes contributing to a better quality of life; and as a personality, he was recognized throughout the city.

His rabbinical career began in Britain in the 1930's where he made a name for himself as a powerful pulpit orator and impressive Talmudic scholar. During World War II he served as senior chaplain with the British forces in the Middle East and in Normandy.

According to his friend and colleague, Geoffrey Wigoder, eulogizing him in The Jerusalem Post today "his fearlessness (in the war) was legendary." After the war he took up the South African appointment, serving simultaneously as professor of Hebrew at Witwatersrand University.

Wigoder writes of this period: "His dynamism and courage made him one of the most outstanding figures of South African Jewry. Repelled by apartheid and the treatment of the non-white population ... he insisted on speaking out, often to the embarrassment of his congregants...."

#### A Consistent Revisionist Zionist

Referring to Rabinowitz's consistent and passionate belief in Revisionist Zionism, Wigoder recalled that he once tore off demonstratively his British war medals in protest against London's policies in Palestine. "This may have cost him the office of Chief Rabbi of the British Empire for which his name was mentioned ... in 1946," Wigoder wrote.

Rabinowitz moved to Jerusalem in the early 1960s and since then his multifaceted personality enriched the life of the city.

A halachic ruling of his that this writer recently heard about somehow typifies the man -- with his modern approach, Orthodox commitment and deep understanding. A young immigrant from a Commonwealth country, married to an observant Sephardic Israeli woman, yearned to play cricket. In Israel, however, cricket games are mainly played on Shabbat--and the wife protested. They decided to ask Rabinowitz.

The rabbi's reply was: "Yes, I could probably find a 'heter' (permit) enabling you to play cricket without technically transgressing the Shabbat. But, for the sake of 'shalom bayit' (happy home life) I rule that you do not play but spend the day with your wife."

#### SPECIAL TO THE JTA LA DOLCE VITA -- ISRAELI STYLE By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- A new Hebrew-language magazine is trying to lure the Israeli community in New York City, and according to all indications, not without success. The new monthly, "Le'an Ha'erev" (Where To Tonight), is the first Hebrew newspaper in the city that does not deal with politics, hard news or the Middle East conflict.

"We are the only Hebrew newspaper in New York for entertainment, arts and leisure," says Isaac Tourel, the magazine's publisher and editor. "We aim at the successful Israeli in America and we provide him with all the details about the good life and the beautiful people here."

The magazine was launched a few months ago and its first issue, containing eight pages, was merely a guide to dining and entertainment in the city. The current issue has 80 pages with many features and photos, mainly about New York's night life.

According to Tourel, the publication already enjoys a circulation of 25,000 copies and sells for \$1. It is available at newsstands.

Tourel, 32, is a well-known producer of light entertainment shows in Israel and in the Israeli community in New York. He has produced shows in New York featuring major Israeli artists and actors. Born in Israel, he came here three years ago from his native Tel Aviv. He divides his time between Israel and New York.

There is only one other Hebrew-language paper in the city, a newsweekly called "Israel Shelanu" (Our Israel).

According to various estimates, there are some 200,000 Israelis living in the New York metropolitan area.

#### VILLANOVA BASEBALL COACH TO HEAD U.S. MACCABIAH GAMES SOFTBALL TEAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Villanova baseball coach Larry Shane, who has been involved in athletics nearly all his life, has been named America's first World Maccabiah Games softball coach by the U.S. Committee/Sports for Israel. The appointment was based on the recommendation of B'nai B'rith's Maccabiah Softball Committee. The 12th quadrennial games will be held next July in Israel.

Sponsored by B'nai B'rith International, the U.S. fast-pitch softball team has scheduled try-outs for the 14-member squad in October in Philadelphia and December in Los Angeles, with additional sites under consideration. Positions are open to Jewish U.S. citizens — men and women — of all ages. Applications can be obtained at most B'nai B'rith Hillel college campus offices or from B'nai B'rith International, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Baseball has been Shane's primary interest since he was a small child, when, like millions of other American youngsters he began collecting baseball cards. (He and his two sons now have about 30,000). But Shane does more than just coach baseball.

For almost a quarter of a century he has also been teaching and counseling Philadelphia public school students. And since 1967 he has spent thousands of evenings taking graduate courses in education and studying and practicing art and sculpture. Recently he began operating and promoting sports memorabilia shows.

#### Long Career In Sports

Shane played baseball and football in Olney High School (former manager of the Chicago Cubs baseball club Lee Elia was on the team with him) and at West Chester State College. After his sophomore year he was called into the Army but upon his release, instead of returning to West Chester, he went to Utah State College. The Utah attraction, Shane says, was the coach; Shane had played for him while a GI in Germany.

After graduating from Utah State, Shane went back to Philadelphia to become a counselor and football and baseball coach during the day and a graduate student at Temple University at night. It was the kind of life he has followed ever since.

Informed of his appointment, Shane, a member of B'nai B'rith's Simon Wolf Lodge of Chester County, Pa., said "This is a great honor. I am looking forward to fielding a team that can compete with the best in the world; a team that, as the late New York Mayor Jimmy Walker told American athletes heading for the first Maccabiah Games in 1932, will 'bring home the bacon'."

#### Dawn Of A New Era

Steve Bloom, chairman of B'nai B'rith's Maccabiah Softball Committee, said that B'nai B'rith's sponsorship of the team marks "the dawn of a new era in B'nai B'rith's involvement in international sports competition."

Bloom noted that B'nai B'rith has supported the U.S. Maccabiah committee's efforts in previous quadrennials. But, he pointed out, B'nai B'rith's role had not been formal. "The U.S. 1985 softball team is the first to be sponsored by a single organization," he stated.

In sponsoring the team, B'nai B'rith committed itself to raise \$60,000 to subsidize the squad's expenses. Bloom said that "the effort is coming along nicely" with about \$25,000 committed so far. "But we still have a long way to go," he added.

Bloom called on the Jewish community to help recruit topflight players. "There is no minimum or maximum age and although softball is listed as a man's sport, women are welcome to try out, too," he said. "We are looking for the best players, and whether they are old or young, male or female is the least of our concerns."

#### BARON JAMES DE ROTHSCHILD DEAD AT 88

PARIS, Aug. 8 (JTA) — Baron James de Rothschild, a member of the British banking family who had, however, devoted himself to the production of the world-famous Rothschild wines, has died at the age of 88, it was announced here today.

Baron James, as he was generally known, was a combat pilot with the French Air Force during World War I. He joined Gen. Charles de Gaulle's forces in London in 1940 after the Nazis occupied France and was appointed Chief of Staff of the Free French Air Force with the rank of full Colonel. He was an officer in the French Legion of Honor and was awarded the Military Cross and a number of British and Allied medals for his wartime service.

Baron James never took any interest in the family bank or other family financial activities and spent most of his life raising race horses and producing the famous Bordeaux wine bearing his family name. In 1970 he created somewhat of a scandal when he married a movie theater usherette who was 26 years old at the time.

\*\*\*

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Safari Park in Ramat Gan, which now houses the Tel Aviv zoo, has begun exporting its surplus animals to Arab states as well as to the Moscow zoo. The animals are purchased by a wildlife dealer in Holland who ships them to Yugoslavia, for onward shipment to Saudi Arabia, Amman and Abu Dhabi. With the funds earned from the sales, the Safari Park has arranged to buy in South Africa a pair of tigers, four cheetahs and a pair of baboons.

# **SPECIAL TO THE JTA MEXICAN INDIANS DEMAND RECOGNITION AS JEWS**

By Joel Brooks

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Venta Prieta is a small village which resembles thousands of other anonymous and sleepy Mexican hamlets one frequently sees from the vantage point of Mexico's new, or newly improved highway system. A large market square where much of the village life is conducted, dominated by a large Catholic church, appears no different than any other.

Yet, there are significant differences. For among the 5000 inhabitants of the village, Venta Prieta is the home to more than 100 Mexican Indian families professing to be Orthodox Jews, tracing their lineage to the early Spanish conquests of Mexico almost 500 years ago, and to the Marranos, who were among the earliest families of Spanish conquistadors.

There are many similarities between Mexico's Indian Jews and the Beta Israel (the Jews of Ethiopia). Both are proud peoples who trace back their Jewish origins many generations. The Mexican Indian Jews, like their Falasha brothers, have experienced a life of poverty, violence and discrimination. Nevertheless they have refused to assimilate and give up the basic tenets of their faith.

Recent research by rabbis and scholars has indicated the likelihood of the Marranos inter-marrying native women in Mexico shortly after their arrival in the country, who although outwardly practicing Catholicism, secretly passed on the faith of their fathers to their wives and children.

## A Rich Jewish Spiritual Life

According to legend, Mexico's Jewish Community enjoyed a renaissance in the late 1800's. They trace their community to Ramon Girona, a descendant of a prominent Marrano family. Mexican Indian Jews, although poor in material possession, enjoy, nevertheless, a rich Jewish spiritual life.

A number of years ago they built their own synagogue, largely by hand, as they lacked modern machinery. Whenever possible, this unique Jewish community has attempted to reside in close proximity to the synagogue so that they would be able to walk to the synagogue on Shabbat, a day which all Mexican Jews revere.

## A Major Problem

One of the major problems affecting the Mexican Indian Jews has been the lack of recognition and support from Mexico's established Jewish community.

On a recent visit to San Francisco, one of Mexico's most prominent Ashkenazic Jewish leaders and a major supporter of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, told this writer that there is considerable doubt, in his opinion, whether or not the Mexican Indian Jews were in fact "real Jews," since their physical appearance is so vastly different from that of the 40,000 Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews who presently live in the country.

The individual quoted stated that the Mexican Jewish community is deeply troubled by the thought of intermarriage and assimilation. "Jews in Mexico are very affluent," he said. "Many of us reside in extremely large houses which require numerous servants to maintain. The Mexican Indian Jews, on the other hand, are closer economically to the majority of Mexicans, and frequently have great problems

making ends meet." Since the Mexican Indian Jewish community was "discovered" by Israeli emissaries, more than 20 young people from the village have visited Israel, with several of them currently serving in Israel's Defense Force. Like Jews everywhere, the Mexican Indian Jews are concerned with the future of their children and their education. Many of them have left their humble origins behind and are now graduates of Mexico's leading universities.

The current president of the community, Louis Perez Tellez, symbolizes the people's aspirations. At the age of 33 he operates a successful electronic supply business and is a graduate electronic engineer.

## **AJCONGRESS REPORTS SOME FEDERAL OFFICIALS MAY HAVE VIOLATED AMERICAN ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS**

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- An investigation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of Congress suggests that federal officials of a joint United States-Saudi Arabian trade commission violated U.S. anti-boycott laws by discriminating against companies doing business with Israel, according to an article in the current issue of the American Jewish Congress' Boycott Report.

The GAO has reported, according to the publication, that U.S. officials who act as procurement agents for the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation have been forced to choose between complying with the Arab boycott of Israel in order to facilitate projects in Saudi Arabia or obeying U.S. anti-boycott laws at the possible risk of delaying such projects.

This conflict has taken place despite a memorandum issued in 1982 by the U.S. director of the Joint Commission informing project personnel that "to be guided by a boycott list when placing orders is contrary to U.S. law and policy."

## Role Of The Joint Commission

The Joint Commission was established in June, 1974, to aid in the internal development of Saudi Arabia through cooperative programs in a broad range of fields including agriculture, trade and technology. The Saudi government has contributed more than \$960 million to an account with the U.S. Treasury to fund Joint Commission projects.

Ten U.S. government agencies are involved in the program, including the Department of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Treasury and Transportation, among others. The agencies have representatives on the Joint Commission.

The investigation was requested in 1982 by the late Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D. NY), then the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs. His successor, Rep. Douglas Barnard (D. Ga.), renewed the request after Rosenthal's death.

U.S. agencies serve as procurement agents for the Saudis because of that country's lack of trained, experienced personnel in contracting and procurement. Most U.S. government officials interviewed by the GAO in its investigation were aware of the existence of the Arab boycott of Israel and of the companies on the list, says Boycott Report. None acknowledged they had been instructed by the Saudis not to contract with companies that are on the Arab boycott list for doing business with Israel.