

**LABOR PARTY LEADERS EXPRESS
PESSIMISM ABOUT ITS PROSPECTS
OR THAT OF LIKUD'S TO FORM
A NARROW-BASED GOVERNMENT**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Leaders of the Labor Party are "rather pessimistic" about its prospect or that of Likud's to stitch together a narrow-based government. There was also some pessimism about the possibility of forming a national unity government. The talks that have been going on since last week between Labor and Likud and between the two major parties and the smaller parties appear to be stuck in dead center.

Sources participating in the negotiations between Likud and Labor praised the cordial atmosphere but said there has been no substantial progress on the two key issues: the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and negotiations with Jordan. Each party, the sources said, advanced its own line.

Rabin Proposes A Possible Solution

The only possible breakthrough was former Premier Yitzhak Rabin's proposal Sunday night that Labor and Likud seek to set up a unity government for two years only that would focus mainly on the economy and the need to withdraw from Lebanon.

This proposal has not been formally endorsed by either party, but given the ongoing disputes on foreign and domestic policies, Rabin's scheme may gather support as a practical way of forming at least a two-year government. Both Labor and Likud leaders acknowledge privately that any narrow-based government that either party might manage to put together would probably be much shorter-lived than two years.

But even if agreement is reached on Rabin's proposal, the thorny issue of who would head a two-year government -- Labor leader Shimon Peres, who was chosen as Premier-designate by President Chaim Herzog, or Premier Yitzhak Shamir -- has still to be resolved.

The "rather pessimistic" prospect of either party being able to form a narrow-based government was confirmed today in a radio interview by Victor Shemtov, secretary-general of Mapam, the Labor Party's partner in the Alignment, after a three-hour meeting in Tel Aviv between Labor and Mapam leaders.

Mapam Expresses Its Views

Shemtov said that unlike the Labor Party leadership, he was more optimistic about the narrow-based option but less optimistic about the possibility of a national unity government. Explaining his view regarding the narrow-based option, Shemtov noted that the "negotiations have not reached their climax yet ... different dynamics are possible ... especially when people come to realize that the alternative might be early elections."

On the unity option, Shemtov said Mapam's position remained unchanged: it was "not putting obstacles in the way of Peres negotiating with Likud on behalf of the entire Labor Alignment" but Mapam did not believe a unity government is possible given

the wide differences between the Alignment and Likud on major issues. He said he doubted that Likud would modify its positions just to form a unity government. "I know the Likud and I respect the Likud," Shemtov said. "They mean what they say."

The Mapam leader cited ongoing West Bank settlement activities and government plans for further settlement as proof of his contention. In economic affairs moreover, he said, the Likud-led transitional government was going ahead with moves that were creating unemployment.

Regarding the idea -- that has been raised unofficially in Likud quarters -- for a "rotating" Premiership, this was "a non-starter," Shemtov said. It would mean a paralyzed government, he noted. He charged that there was "a deliberate optical illusion being created that Mapam is thwarting the unity effort" whereas in fact it was Likud that is thwarting it by balking at a unity government under Labor leadership.

Unity Talks Going Ahead

Meanwhile, with the far-from enthusiastic mandate from Mapam for the Labor Party to go ahead with the unity talks, Labor is continuing its talks with Likud -- in two working groups. Rabin, Yitzhak Navon, Abba Eban and Moshe Shahal met in Tel Aviv this afternoon to prepare for the first session of the "foreign policy" working group to be held tomorrow with Moshe Arens, David Levy, Ariel Sharon and Moshe Nissim of Likud.

Navon told reporters that Labor's purpose would not be to bridge the gaps but to suggest "formulations that could enable us to live together despite our differences." He acknowledged that agreement would probably be much more easily reached in the economic working group, which is also scheduled to convene tomorrow.

Asked if Peres would be able to present a government within the 21 days allotted him by Herzog on August 5, Navon said there were numerous precedents for Premiers-designate failing to do so and requesting an additional 21 days -- and receiving them from the President.

A Desultory Dialogue With The NRP

Labor, meanwhile, is maintaining a desultory dialogue with National Religious Party representatives on State-and-religion issues. NRP leader Yosef Burg said last night that he had secured Peres' and Shamir's agreement to the NRP being brought into the unity talks.

He said he expected that Yahad leader Ezer Weizman would also join the talks -- so that ultimately the unity government would "rest on four legs: Labor, Likud, the NRP and Yahad." It could, Burg added, be subsequently broadened to include other interested parties.

Observers note that the NRP is a pivotal factor at this point in the unity talks since neither Labor nor Likud would want to set up a government without any religious representation -- and both major parties see the NRP as the most preferable religious partner.

**STATE DEPARTMENT STUDYING IF
KAHANE SHOULD BE STRIPPED
OF HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- The State Department is studying whether Rabbi Meir Kahane

should be stripped of his United States citizenship now that he has sworn allegiance to a foreign government in taking a seat in the Knesset yesterday.

But State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg stressed today that it is a "very long process, very complicated" and will take "several months or longer." Romberg had indicated, after the controversial founder of the Jewish Defense League was elected last month to the Knesset, that he might lose his citizenship.

In Jerusalem yesterday, Kahane balked at first at taking the statutory pledge of allegiance to the Knesset and to Israel. But Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who was acting Speaker, demanded that Kahane take the pledge or he would not be a member of Parliament.

Romberg said there had been two previous cases of Knesset members who lost their citizenship, one of whom was reinstated and the other who lost his American citizenship. But he said he could not give any details.

Procedural Steps Outlined

Whether Kahane will lose his citizenship will be determined by the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs which will look into "all the relevant circumstances," Romberg said. If Kahane's citizenship is revoked, he would then have a year in which to appeal to the Department's Appellate Review Board, an autonomous body made up of three persons not in the Consular Affairs Bureau.

If the Appellate Board upholds the revocation, Kahane could then go to the United States District Court. Romberg stressed that during the present review, Kahane can make his argument for keeping his citizenship in person or through a lawyer.

The American-born rabbi has indicated he wants to retain his U.S. citizenship to continue his frequent trips to the United States where he has raised funds for his Kach movement in Israel. If he loses his American citizenship, the United States can deny Kahane entry because of his previous convictions in the United States and Israel.

FIVE SYNAGOGUES AND A DAY SCHOOL IN S.F. ARE HIT BY ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALS

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 14 (JTA) — Police are continuing to investigate the occurrence of anti-Semitic vandalism at five synagogues and a Jewish day school. The buildings were plastered last week with posters declaring "Death to the Jews" and "Long Live the PLO," with a large swastika in the center.

Peggy Isaak Gluck, a Northern California Jewish Bulletin staff writer, reported that Inspector Tom Dickson, liaison to the Jewish community for the San Francisco police department, said the police would examine each of the affected synagogues in the hope of finding the perpetrators.

Two worshippers on their way to Tisha B'Av services discovered the posters. Identical posters were found on Congregations Adath Israel, Ner Tamid, Beth Shalom, Sherith Israel, and Chevra Thilim, plus Hebrew Academy, Gluck reported. Similar posters were found on San Francisco synagogues about three years ago. But, according to Dickson, "they weren't as threatening as this one. This is a threat to all Jews. We suspect it may be the same person or group who did the last one."

Dickson said his investigators would "call people who deal with the PLO," but noted that he suspect-

ed vandals other than that group. "This is an out-and-out threat and very serious," he said. Theodore Seton, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Council, who visited the synagogues and school, indicated that he shared Dickson's uncertainty about the origin of the posters. Gluck reported Seton as saying that "the combination of pro-PLO and pro-Nazi sentiments in these posters is not traditional for most anti-Semitic groups."

He added, "We are doing everything possible to cooperate with the police to find the source of these outrages," and expressed gratification that the police department "has been responsive and has launched a serious investigation."

Rabbi Michael Samuel of Congregation Chevra Thilim, one of the target synagogues, said, "It should be a reminder to Jews -- and other minority groups -- that in this country these hate groups are unfortunately alive and well and will do anything to promote their campaign of hatred." But, he added, "we are not phased by this."

Rabbi Malcolm Sparer, president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, blamed weak political leadership in the United States for the growth "of seeds of hate and bigotry that have permitted disgraceful incidents like this to flourish. In retrospect, when a whole country is enjoying goosebumps and renewed patriotism because of the Americans at the Olympics, Jews in 1984 find that on Tisha B'Av things are not really that different than the days of the original Tisha B'Av."

SYNAGOGUE-COMMUNITY CENTER VANDALIZED

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (JTA) — A rabbi who serves as spokesman for a Lubavitch synagogue-community center in Brooklyn said today that vandals who broke in last night for the second time in two weeks caused "many thousands of dollars" in damage to the structure and its equipment.

Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the more than 40-year-old Israel Leventhal Synagogue had been sold to the Lubavitch movement in 1982 and re-named the Educational Institute Oholei Torah. He said that, in addition to worship services, the institute served children by sponsoring camps and school classes and in other ways serves the Lubavitch community. The Institute is located near the world headquarters of the Lubavitch movement on Eastern Parkway.

Rosenfeld said police had still not found any clues to the identity of the vandals. He said the vandals had smeared anti-Semitic graffiti on the structure's marble sections and on the walls of the main floor of the building. Rosenfeld said the obscenities had been scrawled on the walls, as well as a "Heil Hitler" and a drawing of a soldier giving the Nazi salute.

The vandals failed in their efforts to break into a synagogue in the building's upper floor. In a playroom, a variety of costly electronic machines and school supplies were either destroyed or stolen, Rosenfeld said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES SOME ARABS VOTED FOR KAHANE

By Gerald Regan

HADERA, Aug. 14 (JTA) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Kach Party, got some unexpected support from Israeli Arabs in his successful bid for a Knesset seat. According to an Israeli expert on Arab-Jewish relations, Moshe Gabbay, director of the Arab Studies Institute of the Givat Haviva Center for Advanced Studies, as many as 500 Arabs may have voted for Kahane.

Gabbay said he determined the size of the Arab vote for the Kach leader by examining the election results in Israel's Arab villages. The village-by-village results have been published in newspapers here along with detailed counts from all towns, villages and kibbutzim.

Gabbay said that it was nearly impossible to determine the actual countrywide number of Arabs who voted for Kach outside the Arab villages because of the large number of Arabs in cities like Acre, Jaffa and Haifa which have large numbers of Arab as well as Jewish voters. Kach received 25,907 votes, or 1.2 percent of the electorate.

Most of the Arab vote went to Hadash (Communist) Party which has four Knesset seats, and the Progressive List for Peace, which ran for the first time and won two seats. The Progressive list supports the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, to exist alongside Israel.

Rationale For Voting For Kach

Gabbay, an Iraqi-born Jew, said he interviewed a number of Arabs who said they voted for Kach. He said a high school teacher told him that he thought all Jews in Israel shared Kahane's attitude towards Israel's Arabs but that they expressed tolerance to curry favor in the world public opinion.

An Arab born in a small village and now working in Haifa, was reported by Gabbay to have told him that his vote for Kahane presented Israel's Arabs an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the world "the danger we are in."

Gabbay, who came to Israel in 1949, said that voters for Kahane whom he interviewed were ideologically aligned with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by George Habash, a group that split from the PLO 10 years ago. Those who professed support for Habash said they felt they were sending a message to the Arab world to "come help us" by voting for Kach.

Gabbay said that last week three Arab Institute Studies staffers went to the nearby town of Umm Al-Fahm to calm down some of the young residents who, he said, were agitated by Kahane's proposal to set up in the town an office for Arab emigration. "I think more and more Arabs feel now that it is increasingly dangerous for them to have Kahane in the Knesset," Gabbay said. There are 700,000 Arabs in Israel out of a population of 4.1 million.

TRIFA HAS LEFT THE U.S. FOR PORTUGAL; JUSTICE OFFICIAL SAYS TRIFA WILL NEVER RETURN TO THE U.S.
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA) — Archbishop Valerian Trifa, who was ordered deported from the United States in October, 1982, for his activities in leading the Rumanian Iron Guard in a pogrom against Jews in 1941, left the U.S. yesterday for Portugal, the Justice Department announced today.

"Mr. Trifa's departure is permanent," Stephen Trott, Assistant Attorney General, criminal division, said at a press conference at the Justice Department. "We have taken steps to ensure that he will never ever come back into the United States of America."

Trott noted that Trifa's departure ends nine years of legal efforts by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) to first strip Trifa of his citizenship because he entered the U.S. in 1950 after lying about his Nazi past and then to deport him.

Neal Sher, director of the OSI, noted that before the legal activities began, several persons had sought to bring Trifa to public attention, particularly Dr. Charles Kramer of Rumania, now a New York dentist.

Trott said that U.S. officials were present when Trifa left from Kennedy International Airport in New York yesterday and when he arrived in Portugal. "This represents a highly significant victory of the Office of Special Investigations, because Trifa, who has been highly visible, as the Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church of America, was a symbol of this country's recent concerted efforts to move against Nazi war criminals," Trott declared.

"His departure proves that denaturalization and removal from the United States of individuals engaged in persecution under the Nazi regime are not idle threats," he said.

Other Cases Cited

Trott noted that Trifa is the third Nazi war criminal under prosecution by the OSI to have left the U.S. in recent months. In April, 1983, Hans Lipschitz, of Chicago, a Lithuanian-born SS Deaths Head guard at the Auschwitz death camp, was deported to West Germany. In July, Anatoly Hrusitzky fled the United States for Venezuela and renounced his U.S. citizenship.

Sher said the OSI presently has 35 cases in litigation and is investigating some 300 others.

The 70-year-old Trifa entered the U.S. in July 17, 1950 and was naturalized on May 13, 1957. He lived in Grass Lakes, Michigan, near Detroit. In May, 1975 the U.S. began denaturalization proceedings against him in Detroit. But in September, 1980, on the eve of trial, he surrendered his certificate of naturalization.

The OSI then instituted deportation proceedings. The trial began on October 4, 1982, but after three days of testimony establishing Trifa's role in the anti-Semitic persecution of Rumanian Jews by the Iron Guard, Trifa agreed to deportation.

Sher explained that in an agreement with him, Trifa was given two years to find a country to go to and if he could not do so by October, 1984, he would be deported to Rumania. Sher said that since then, the OSI has been in discussion with Rumania, Israel, West Germany, and Switzerland about taking Trifa. He said that Trifa, apparently fearful of going to Rumania, obtained a visa to Portugal on his own. Sher said he believed that Israel is pleased by this result.

Trott said that a deportation charge is a civil proceeding and that if Trifa was to illegally enter the country again he would face criminal charges. He noted that Trifa is well known so that he could be spotted if he re-entered the U.S.

Trott said that the U.S. cannot prosecute people for the crimes they committed during World War II, but can order them deported. Both Sher and Trott stressed that even if Trifa is not prosecuted, he is still being punished by being forced to leave the United States. "This was not a man picking up and leaving because he wanted to spend his golden years outside of the U.S.," Sher said.

David Brody, the Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who attended the briefing, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the "successful culmination of the nine year effort of the Justice Department will leave every Nazi who lied to get into this country many a sleepless night. Its a signal that our government is going to proceed and has been proceeding with vigor and determination to remove every person who lied about his wartime activities in order to" get into the U.S.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE OSWEGO REFUGEES ARE REUNITED AFTER 40 YEARS

By Rochelle Saidel

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (JTA) — Forty years after their August 3, 1944 arrival at New York harbor as refugees from Hitler, some of the 982 survivors who were sheltered at Oswego, New York returned here to reunite, remember, and share their stories with families and friends.

The Oswego refugees are unique, because they were the only Jews rescued by America and brought here during World War II: 872 of the refugees were Jewish, and the rest were Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox, or of mixed marriages.

In a "humanitarian gesture" that was never repeated, President Franklin Roosevelt agreed to bend immigration rules for this one group of survivors from 18 countries. Sailing from Naples on the troopship Henry Gibbins, they were brought here in a convoy of warships, with prisoners of war and wounded soldiers.

The refugees were interned for 18 months at Fort Ontario, an abandoned army camp in upstate Oswego, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior. In order to be accepted for rescue, each had to sign papers agreeing to return to his or her country of origin after the war. Only a special directive by President Truman prevented their deportation in December, 1945.

Mutual Love Continues

Author-journalist Ruth Gruber, then special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, was sent by him to Italy to escort the refugees to America. With love and compassion that went well beyond the call of duty, she became their symbol of hope and salvation in America. Forty years later, the mutual love was still evident, and her title of "Mother Ruth" was repeated by many of those at the reunion.

Gruber's book, "Haven," describes some of the survivors so vividly, that one expected to meet them 40 years later and find them as they were in 1944. But 40 years have brought with them better circumstances and two generations of growth:

* Olga Maurer gave birth to the Henry Gibbins' youngest passenger on her way to the ship. Delivered in an American jeep by GI medics and a Jewish Brigade doctor from Palestine, the baby was nicknamed by them "International Harry." Now a computer expert living in Canada, Harry Maurer was at the reunion with his mother, his wife, and two children.

* Manya Breuer, who survived five concentration camps, sang to entertain the refugees and wounded soldiers on the Henry Gibbins. She was the first bride at Fort Ontario. She now works in an art gallery in Los Angeles, and has also sung professionally. At the reunion, she sang in Italian, Yiddish and English.

* Another Oswego refugee at the reunion, Yolanda Bass Fredkove of Minneapolis, was only two when she arrived at the camp. Her mother, Eva Bass, had been a nightclub singer in Paris and lived in Milan before the war. When the Allies landed, she carried Yolanda and another child 60 kilometers through the fighting lines. Eva Bass' singing was remembered at the reunion, although she died in 1971. Yolanda introduced and played a recording by her mother, and Yolanda's brother, Jack, also attended.

All of the survivors had 40 years of changes to report to each other, and for the most part, they were success stories; among them are a vice president of the American Stock Exchange, a composer of classical music, a pathologist, an anthropologist, film makers, artists, psychologists, and owners of large and thriving businesses.

"Those who opposed (our entry) have been relegated to historic oblivion, but many of you have succeeded in leaving indelible marks on this country's culture, arts, society," Dr. Adam Munz, director of psychological services at St. Luke's Hospital in New York, told his fellow survivors.

Governor Mario Cuomo, who has always emphasized that he is a child of immigrants, attended the reunion and said: "Whatever debt the (Oswego) refugees had to this state, they have repaid." He spoke of their contributions to New York City, New York State, and the "great strength of our nation." He also referred to the "anonymous heroism of a small number of Italians," righteous gentiles who harbored some of the refugees during the war.

The reunion was held at the Public/Newman Theatre on the East Side, former headquarters of HIAS, which served as a shelter for many refugees. Joseph Papp, founder of the Public Theatre, welcomed those at the Oswego reunion, and spoke of the history of the building.

A permanent Holocaust exhibit being planned for the New York State Museum in Albany will highlight the experience of the Oswego survivors. According to New York State Senate Democratic Leader Manfred Ohrenstein, chairman of the Advisory Board for the exhibit, the uniqueness of Fort Ontario as the only sanctuary for Jewish refugees in the United States during the Holocaust is an important part of the history of the state.

THEODORE BROIDO DEAD AT 56

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (JTA) — Funeral services were held today for Theodore Broido, administrative secretary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) and a long-time Reform Jewish leader, who died Sunday after a long illness. He was 56 years old.

A life-long Zionist, Broido was one of the prime movers in the establishment in 1977 of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) — a UAHC affiliate — and was a former secretary of the organization. He represented ARZA as a delegate to the Zionist Congress in Jerusalem in 1982. He was a member of the Zionist General Council, the Jewish Agency Assembly and the Board of the American Zionist Federation.

Broido, a native New Yorker, was graduated from De Witt Clinton High School and attended the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the administrative staff of UAHC in 1949 where he served as director of regional activities, director of administration, director of both the New York State and New Jersey regions, and associate director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues.

Broido also served as secretary of the Rabbinical Pension Board — a joint instrumentality of the UAHC and the Central Conference of American Rabbis — and as director of the National Commission on Rabbinic-Congregational Relations of the UAHC-CCAR. Both bodies deal with developing professional standards between rabbis and their congregations.