

**ROLE OF AGUDAT ISRAEL LOOMS LARGE
IN EFFORTS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- Agudat Israel, the two-man Orthodox faction in the Knesset, became the focus of intense political attention today. Premier Yitzhak Shamir met with the two Aguda MKs, Avraham Shapira and Menachem Porush at his office in Jerusalem hours after Israel Radio reported that Aguda's former member of the Knesset, Shlomo Lorincz, had met secretly last night with Labor's Premier-designate Shimon Peres.

Lorincz, who was dropped from the party's Knesset list in last month's elections at the insistence of some Aguda Council of Sages members, is still reputedly the most powerful single politician in the party, with important influence over its spiritual leader, Rabbi Eliezer Schach of Benei Berak.

Schach is a key figure not only because of his sway in Aguda, but also because he has spiritual authority over the fledgling Shas Sephardic Orthodox faction which won four Knesset seats in the July elections.

According to well-informed political sources, Aguda was close to striking an accord with Labor a week after the elections -- when Lorincz and Schach stepped in to stop it. Porush and Shapira are known to be closer to Labor than to Likud, but Lorincz, who served as chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee for the seven years of the Likud administration, is staunchly supportive of Likud.

It may therefore have been of some significance that Lorincz met with Peres, which Israel Radio described as secret. Shamir, for his part, was anxious today to ensure the Aguda's position, declining to join a Labor-led narrow government, is maintained.

Meanwhile, Peres, who was given a 21-day extension yesterday by President Chaim Herzog to form a government, said a great deal of progress had been made in the first 21 days and agreement "in principle" had been reached with Likud on several issues, namely, the economic and religious issues, on Lebanon and on continuation of the momentum for peace. Peres said yesterday, "I'm hopeful that in the coming three weeks that a government will be formed."

Late today a Labor source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Peres-Lorincz meeting had produced no progress in terms of Aguda's possible readiness to help Labor set up a narrow government. The source said Lorincz "did not slam the door," and there would be further contacts, but there was no cause for encouragement.

**THE PUMPELLING OF FOUR MKs BY KACH
SUPPORTERS CONTINUES TO MAKE WAVES**

by Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- The verbal and physical assault of four Knesset members by supporters of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party as they tried to visit Tel Mond prison yesterday, and the refusal of Interior and Police Minister Yosef Burg to allow them to enter, continued to make waves throughout the country today.

The four MKs -- Mordechai Virshubski of Shinui, Jennie Shalita of Likud, Yair Tzaban of the Mapam wing of the Labor Alignment, and Mordechai Bar-

on of the Citizens Rights Movement -- had announced their intention last week of seeing whether members of the Jewish underground were getting preferential treatment in prison while awaiting trial. Kahane also announced his intention last week to stop the MKs from getting in.

Issue Of Immunity Scrutinized

The parliamentarians contended that their visit to the prison was a right given them under Knesset immunity and did not have to be coordinated with the prison authorities or the Minister of Police, although they did inform Burg of their intention.

Legal experts, however, said today that the legal issue was not clear regarding whether parliamentary immunity allowed a Knesset member to enter a prison without prior coordination with the authorities. Most held that MKs appeared to be in error since immunity referred to public places, not to closed institutions such as a prison. But the detained Jewish underground members have been visited by a number of rightwing Knesset members, including Science Minister Yuval Neeman of the Tehiya Party, shortly after they were arrested.

Another Visit Set For Thursday

Nevertheless, Virshubski said today that he and other MKs would visit Tel Mond prison and the Ramle prison where Arab and other security prisoners are held to compare the conditions of incarceration. This time the visits have been coordinated with the proper authorities and the date for their inspection has been fixed by Burg and the prison administrations for Thursday.

Burg again repeated his charge today that the four MKs were engaged in a political and public relations ploy by trying to get into Tel Mond prison yesterday without having coordinated their visit with the authorities. Burg also said he was still awaiting a full report from the police and would give a detailed report to Abba Eban, acting Knesset Speaker, as requested by him.

When the four MKs arrived yesterday at the Tel Mond prison they were surrounded by between 20 and 30 Kahane supporters, many of them wearing yellow shirts with the Kach emblem on them. Among the demonstrators was the family of an Israel Defense Force soldier who was killed by terrorists in the West Bank two weeks ago. The PLO claimed responsibility for the murder.

Demonstrators pumelled and cursed the MKs and yelled "terrorists," "PLO lovers," "We will smash in your faces ... we will break your legs." Police denied that any physical violence had taken place. Prison guards behind the gates stood by passively as the MKs were being pumelled. After a half hour of tumult, the Sharon district police deputy inspector, Kalman Bornstein, arrived. He later told Israel Radio that he had plainclothes policemen in the crowd and had arrived as soon as he thought police reinforcements were warranted.

Unrest In The Knesset

Meanwhile, there was unrest in the Knesset today over yesterday's incident. Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir was asked to prepare a legal opinion on what constitutes parliamentary immunity and under what conditions it applies. Once the legal opinion is ready the Knesset will discuss the matter in its entirety.

ISRAELI SCHOOLS TO STRESS DEMOCRACY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Teachers throughout the country will be asked to stress to students the nature of democratic values, the meaning of tolerance and openness to varying views, and to warn the children against phenomena which could destroy the relations between Jews and Arabs.

This was announced here by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer at a meeting with parents. He said that the pedagogic secretariat of the Education Ministry has already set up a team which would prepare a special study curriculum in democracy. However, Hammer added, until the program is ready, teachers will be asked at the beginning of the school year to devote time to this issue.

EARTHQUAKE FELT IN MUCH OF ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27 (JTA) — An earthquake registering five on the Richter scale was felt throughout much of Israel, especially in the north around Haifa, yesterday. The Israel Seismological Institute said the epicenter was deep under the seabed 18 miles east of Haifa.

There were no casualties, apart from several cases of shock and one death from a heart attack, in Haifa. Over 600 homeowners reported to the municipality that cracks had developed in the walls of their dwellings, and engineers were sent to examine the damage.

There were temporary electric power cuts in Tiberias and the Jordan valley, and one of the four major generating units at the Hadera power station was put out of commission, but engineers hoped to have it back in commission by tonight. Very slight tremors were felt by some people in Tel Aviv and further south.

Israel lies on what is known as the Turkish-Syrian-African fault line, a majorquake area, but not at its more vulnerable sections.

DST ENDS IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Daylight Saving Time was ended yesterday in sun-soaked Israel in another though minor dispute between Orthodox Jews, who said DST interfered with religious practices, and non-Orthodox Jews who want more daylight hours to enjoy the outdoors during the summer period.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg decided to end DST a month earlier than had been recommended so that the change would come before the school year starts. DST was started this year on an experimental basis after a lengthy legal battle and public debate. The extra hour of daylight was estimated by energy experts as having saved Israel's inflation-ridden economy about \$3 million on electricity alone.

Israel's DST started on May 5, though in Europe it begins at the start of April and ends at the close of September. Burg's main objection was that DST would cause desecration of the Sabbath and would be a problem for observant Jews in their morning prayers.

TUNISIAN CHIEF RABBI DEAD AT 84

PARIS, Aug. 27 (JTA) — The Tunisian Chief Rabbi, Fraqji Uzane, died last Friday in his home in La Goulette near Tunis. He was 84 years old. The Tunisian government, which announced his death today, said President Habib Bourguiba sent his per-

sonal condolences to the Chief Rabbi's family and the Tunisian Jewish community. Bourguiba's chief of protocol attended funeral services at La Goulette synagogue and later called at the late rabbi's home.

There are reported to be some 5,000 Jews in Tunisia. There are large communities of former Tunisian Jews in Israel and France. Several Tunisian Jews here said they plan to fly to Tunis to pay their respects to their former spiritual leader.

CHARLES SILVER DEAD AT 98

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Funeral services were held yesterday at Temple B'nai Jeshurun for Charles Silver, who was president of the Beth Medical Israel Center, a founder of the Albert Einstein School of Medicine and a member of the board of Jewish Philanthropies, who died of a stroke at his home here last Friday at the age of 98.

Born in Rumania, he was brought to the United States when he was 30 months old and was raised on the Lower East Side. He dropped out of high school at 15 to work as an office boy at American Woolens and retired in 1954 as the company's vice president and director.

Silver served as president of the Board of Education; a trustee of Yeshiva University; a member of the board of overseers of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and president of Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

He was a trustee of the Urban League; a member of the the New York Council on Economic Education; and a member of the economic advisory committee of Fordham University.

In 1967, Silver was appointed advisor of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The National Conference of Christians and Jews gave him its Man of the Year Award in 1976. He had been president of the Beth Israel Medical Center for the 37 years before his death.

CABBAGE PATCH KIDS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27 (JTA) — An advertisement in The Jerusalem Post announced: "At long last . . . Cabbage Patch kids make aliya . . ." It noted that at long last "the original world-famous Cabbage Patch kids have finally arrived in Israel." Many children in Israel have heard about the dolls but only a very few lucky ones have received them along with adoption papers as presents from the United States and have been showing them off to friends who have not been as lucky.

KNESSET WON'T CONVENE NEXT WEEK

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Responding to requests from both the Labor Alignment and the Likud, temporary Knesset Speaker Abba Eban decided today that the Knesset will not convene next week to elect a permanent speaker.

Eban received the requests not to summon the Knesset on September 3, as he had originally planned. The two major parties apparently hope that by next week-end, the coalition scene will be clarified and thus the issue of choosing a permanent Speaker may also be resolved.

The Alignment reportedly fears that, under current circumstances, it would not be able to garner enough votes for its candidate, former Interior Minister Shlomo Hillel, who does not have the support of 60 Knesset members because the Hadash Party and the Progressive list decline to support him. The reason is understood to be disagreement with his role in the 1976 events on Land Day which led to the deaths of six Arabs.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWISH SETTLERS VIEW THEIR FUTURE

By Gerald Regan

OFRA, Aug. 27 (JTA) — A spokesperson for the representative body of the Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip exhorted a group of American and Canadian visitors to this West Bank settlement to accept a Jewish presence in the territories as a fait accompli.

"This is the future," asserted Shifra Blass, speaking on behalf of the Council of Jewish Cities and Settlements in Judeaea, Samaria and Gaza. "Israel is going to be in Judeaea and Samaria."

During a nearly one-and-a-half hour often heated but generally amicable encounter in the Council's crowded offices, Blass referred to the barrage of criticism which the settlements have generated abroad. "You're Jews, you're Zionists," she said. "When we look bad, you look bad." She said that "it's in everyone's interests, in this case maybe more in your interests, to think how to improve Israel's image abroad."

Says Settlement Process Is 'Irreversible'

The Wisconsin-born mother of five told the visitors and their Israeli escorts that putting the best face on the West Bank settlements was advisable because the settlement process in the territories was "irreversible," a view that she said is maintained by even some of the settlers' harshest critics.

The 17 American and Canadian visitors and their Israeli escorts were participants in a two-week study tour of Israel sponsored by Friends of Peace Now and the Mordechai Anielewicz Circle of the Americans for Progressive Israel.

Outside the window of the Council's office, red-topped rows of uniform-looking buildings, some of the 10-year-old settlement's 200 dwellings, appeared in the distance. Inside, two Ofra settlers, Blass and Yisrael Harel, the Council's executive director who acted as the meeting's moderator, said, in Harel's words, that they were attempting "not to change minds" but to inform their visitors "a little better" about what the settlers thought and what they were doing in the territories.

The Council, according to Harel, serves as an umbrella organization which "lobbies" on behalf of the political interests of the Jewish settlers. He said the settlers accounted for 20,000 votes in the July 23 elections, which is less than one percent of the total electorate.

The casual attire of the visitors was in sharp contrast to the scarf head-covering and modest dress of Blass, who said she, like most of the other 700 residents of Ofra, "identified" with the Gush Emunim which she said aims to "unite the people of Israel with the land of Israel."

Justification For The Settler's Presence

One visitor asked for a "personal" justification for the settlers' controversial presence in the territories whose nearly 1.3 million Arabs outnumber the Jewish settlers more than 30 to 1. Blass and Harel justified the presence on two levels: a "pragmatic" level, basically the belief that Israel's security requires control of the West Bank; and an "ideological" level, based on "principles of history, morality and religion," a mix which Blass noted settlement opponents had a hard time understanding.

Blass, who arrived in Israel 10 years ago after graduating from Barnard College in New York with a degree in English literature, described the settlers' motivation as the "instinctive and natural compul-

sion to settle in all parts of the land of Israel that are available to us." A large photo of an Israeli army officer cradling a child during the evacuation of a settlement in Sinai was removed from a wall and replaced, for the benefit of the visitors, by a map of Judeaea and Samaria. Blass and Harel then pointed out what they said was the necessity for Israel to have control of the ridge of mountains in Samaria, a control crucial to protect Israel's heavily populated and industrialized coastal plain.

A photograph of Rabbi Abraham Kook, an ardent Zionist and Chief Rabbi of Palestine's Ashekenazic Jewish community until his death in 1935, hung behind Harel as he told the group: "Gush Emunim said when it was founded 10 years ago that we will reach our goals when the entire people of Israel follow us. Otherwise we would be a sect." Gush is meeting its goals, Harel said, especially over the last two years. Settlers have been coming to the West Bank from "every part of the population," he said.

Settlement Movement Described As Vigorous

Harel described the settlement movement in the territories as vigorous. He said the 125 settlements in Judeaea and Samaria were home to nearly 40,000 Jews. Early on in the meeting, he suggested that the visitors, all but two Jewish, use the Biblical names for the regions which comprise the West Bank during the discussion, "just for politeness."

Blass said that the reclaiming of "the heart of the Jewish homeland," as she referred to the West Bank, presents Israel with a major dilemma, more acutely drawn, she said, by the failure of the government to expel the Arab population of the territory after the Six-Day War.

If all the Arab residents of the territories -- 800,000 in the West Bank and some 500,000 in the Gaza Strip -- were granted citizenship in the event of annexation, Israel will have a "severe demographic problem," Blass said, referring to the addition of the Arabs in the territories to Israel's present mix of 3.4 million Jews and 700,000 Arabs.

Because the present Arab birthrate in Israel and the territories is higher than the Jewish birthrate, some predict that the Jewish State could eventually be dismantled democratically by what would become an Arab majority in Israel.

"If Arab residents are not given full rights of citizenship, we have a democratic crisis," Blass added.

Prospects For A Solution

One solution embraced by the Council, Blass said, could be to offer the Arabs in the West Bank autonomy on the local level and the option of either retaining Jordanian citizenship or applying for Israeli citizenship. Those Arabs who desired Israeli citizenship would need to demonstrate allegiance to Israel, she said.

The Council has no official solution to the political problems posed by Gaza Strip's Arabs, who have neither Egyptian nor Jordanian citizenship, Blass said. Yehuda Litani, the West Bank correspondent for Ha'aretz and a critic of Jewish settlements in the territories, who served as a guide for the group's West Bank tour, said that Harel and other settlers in the area have made efforts to get closer to their Arab neighbors. The efforts were strengthened after the exposure of a Jewish underground planning to terrorize Israeli and West Bank Arabs, Litani said. Blass later revealed in a telephone interview that four of 27 individuals accused of being part of the underground are from Ofra.

She told the visitors before they left the settlement that neither this, nor any generation of Jews has the right to bargain over Israel's boundaries. She said she

found herself in rare agreement with David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, on this issue. She quoted him as saying that "no generation has the right to make concessions over part of the land of Israel."

**At The Republican Party Convention:
DELEGATES TOOK TIME OUT TO VISIT
EXHIBIT ON JEWISH LIFE IN THE U.S.**
By David Friedman

DALLAS, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- One of the pleasant ways delegates and other participants at last week's Republican national convention found to beat the 100-plus degree temperature here was to visit the Dallas Public Library where an exhibit is on display through September 9, "Jewish Life in America: Fulfilling the American Dream."

Sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the exhibit was first put on display in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the ADL's 70th anniversary last year and has been traveling around the country.

"We felt it would be very appropriate to have it" in Dallas during the Republican convention, Mark Briskman, the ADL's regional director for North Texas and Oklahoma, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He said it provided a means of demonstrating to delegates and the media from across the country the pluralism of American life.

At the opening ceremony August 12, among those participating were Maureen Reagan, President Reagan's daughter; Frankahrenkopf, Jr., chairman of the Republican National Committee; Sen. Paula Hawkins (R. Fla.); and Rep. Bobbi Fiedler (R. Cal.), according to Briskman. He said he was told that Hawkins urged many of the delegates to see the exhibit.

Elements In The Exhibit

The library told Briskman that by last Friday, some 7,000 persons had visited the exhibit, many of them delegates or others attending the convention. He said the exhibit was "helpful" in getting one of the two major parties to focus on major Jewish concerns.

The exhibit is divided into five periods representing the major waves of Jewish immigration to the United States. The first, from 1654 to 1819, is dominated by Jews of Spanish or Portuguese origin. The second, from 1820 to 1880, is made up of Jews from Germany and Central Europe, and the third period, from 1881 to 1919, covers the great period of East European immigration.

The fourth section, from 1920 to 1945, is a time when the effort at Americanization dominated Jewish life; and the final section, from 1946 to 1983, shows Jews becoming an integral part of the American mainstream. The exhibit shows the accomplishments of American Jews in many fields but also shows the struggle against anti-Semitism which they had to overcome.

A Good Jewish Environment

Briskman used his talk with the JTA to plug life in Dallas. He said if he were single, he might prefer New York or Washington, but Dallas was an excellent place to raise a family.

"It also has a good Jewish environment," he said. The Dallas Jewish community of some 30,000 lives mostly in North Dallas and nearby suburbs. It has three Conservative synagogues, two Reform temples, one traditional synagogue, and one Orthodox. Briskman added that it also supports

two day schools, one Orthodox and one Conservative; has a kosher butcher, and a mikveh. In nearby Fort Worth, where about 3,000 Jews live, there is also a day school.

HADASSAH RAISED \$3,172,000 TOWARD SUPPORT OF YOUTH ALIYA PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- Hadassah, described as the single biggest contributor to Israel's youth aliya program, raised \$3,172,000 this year toward support of its 315 residential and all-day facilities which provide care annually for its 18,000 youth, Sylvia Doppelt, youth aliya chairperson, reported today at the Hadassah annual convention here, attended by 2,500 delegates and guests.

She also reported that as a special gift to youth aliya, at the conclusion of its 50th anniversary year, the Hadassah board voted an additional \$250,000 for a new arts center in Israel. Doppelt said that there are many children in Israel who are "economically, culturally and socially deprived" children who do not know "the names of fruits, or of animals or of colors."

She said youth aliya had to remedy such gaps and to do so, established its art education section 20 years ago. A fully developed program was greatly helped in 1983 when Hadassah donated two "art mobiles" to youth aliya facilities.

Doppelt said the arts section works out of six rooms in the youth aliya offices in Tel Aviv. Uri Gordon, world head of youth aliya, said the Hadassah gift would make possible the redesigning of the present quarters and development of studios and laboratories to prepare audio-visual materials and slide shows.

MOROCCAN KING FREES JEWISH PRISONER By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- A Jewish mathematician, imprisoned in Morocco, was set free Saturday after having served 12 years of an 18-year sentence. Sion Assidon, 36, a self-confessed Marxist activist, was pardoned by King Hassan II and left Kenitra prison where he had been held.

Though Assidon, a prominent lecturer and scientist, was sentenced on charges not connected with his religion, many prominent French and Moroccan Jews have regularly interceded on his behalf. Assidon, who calls himself "an anti-Zionist," belongs to an old and respected Moroccan Jewish family.

Hassan reportedly decided to free Assidon together with several dozens other political prisoners as a gesture of good will towards the leftwing elements in his country. In Assidon's case, he seems to have taken into consideration the pleas of many Moroccan Jews close to his court.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Thieves broke into Weizmann House, the home of Israel's first President Chaim Weizmann, on the grounds of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, police reported. The house is now a monument and museum. Several art objects were stolen from the main reception room, including an ancient Chinese ceramic figure of a horse, valued at about \$200,000.

PARIS (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand will pay an official visit to Syria before the end of the year, according to the leftwing weekly Le Nouvel Observateur.