

POPE MEETS CANADIAN JEWISH LEADERS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Pope John Paul II, the first Pope to visit Canada, met around midnight last night for 10 minutes with a delegation of 10 Jewish leaders who urged him to have the Vatican extend official recognition to Israel.

The Pope's response to this and other statements by the Jewish leaders, headed by Alan Rose, executive vice president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, was not disclosed on an understanding that the Pope's comments would not be made public by the delegation.

Also represented by the delegation were the Allied Jewish Community Services of Montreal and the Canada-Israel Committee. The meeting took place at the Holy Mary Queen of the World Cathedral here.

The appeal for Vatican recognition, withheld from Israel since its re-birth, was made in a statement for the delegation, read to the Pope by Rose.

A source explained that the unusual timing of the meeting was due to a mixup in train schedules which brought the Jewish leaders to the Cathedral two hours before the scheduled meeting time, and the Pope's hectic 18 hours of visits to various Catholic shrines in the Quebec province.

The Message To The Pope

In the delegation's message, the Pope was told that the Jewish group greeted him "as one who lived through the terrible years of Nazi occupation of Poland" and "thus, you have a special and indeed unique understanding of the Holocaust."

The statement added that "this has been evident on many occasions and during your visit to Auschwitz to honor the memory of innocent Jewish victims of genocide and those who resisted evil, many of whom went to their death."

"We yearn for the day when the spirit which pervades Catholic-Jewish relations will enable the Holy See to recognize the State of Israel. Such an act would be of profound universal significance."

Arrangements for the meeting of Canadian Jews with the Pope were made by Archbishop Gregoire of Montreal. The source said the meeting was arranged in accordance with the Pope's practice of seeking to meet with representatives of the Jewish community of any major city the much-traveled pontiff visits.

Rose and Rabbi Robert Steinberg, CJC director of national religious affairs, in radio interviews today broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Service, stressed the "warm and cordial" attitudes the Pope expressed to them and commented on the pontiff's positive attitudes toward Jews and Judaism.

LABOR APPROVES A UNITY GOVERNMENT

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) — A unity government appeared assured today with the Labor Party's Central Committee voting 394-166 last night to ratify the Labor-Likud agreement. The four-hour meeting was stormy, marked by sharp criti-

cism of the unity accord. Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, speaking against a backdrop of frequent jeers and catcalls, told the Committee members that his government would withdraw the Israel Defense Force from south Lebanon and would halt further settlements in the West Bank.

Earlier in the day, the United Kibbutz Movement, a component of the Labor Party, voted against a unity government but at the same time decided that if the party approved such a government the kibbutz movement would agree to have its representative serve as a Cabinet minister.

A New Wrinkle Develops

Meanwhile, a new wrinkle developed in the formalization of a unity government when Premier Yitzhak Shamir told Peres yesterday that he would not allow Ezer Weizman, the leader of Yahad, to deal with foreign affairs issues in the new Cabinet where Weizman is slated to be Minister for Special Affairs. This ministry will deal with special missions such as improving the relations with Egypt and renewing the peace process.

Shamir also objected to setting up a National Security Council, which was one of the key planks in Yahad's platform and one of the main points of agreement between the Labor Party and Yahad which provided the basis for the Labor-Yahad parliamentary bloc. Shamir's opposition to Weizman's role in the new Cabinet and to the Security Council is reportedly final.

Nevertheless, Peres indicated that he still intends to set up a Security Council which would be part of the "inner Cabinet" and to appoint Yahad's secretary-general Avraham Tamir as advisor to the "inner Cabinet" on the functions and activities of the Council.

Tamir, a general in the reserves, headed the national security unit at the Defense Ministry under Weizman and also during the Peace for Galilee operation. Tamir left the post after Moshe Arens became Defense Minister. Subsequently, the national security unit was abolished.

Will Try To Establish Facts

Despite Shamir's objections to giving Weizman and his people key roles in the security and foreign affairs of the national unity government, it seems that Weizman, with the help of Peres, will simply try to establish facts.

Defense Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin reportedly agrees with the idea of a National Security Council and it seems that he intends to cooperate with Weizman and Tamir. However, observers noted that this might be one of the first pitfalls of the new government — considering the presence of former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's presence in the Cabinet where clashes between him and Weizman are expected over foreign affairs and security issues. Sharon has been designated Minister of Commerce and Industry in the new Cabinet.

The Beginning Of New Factions

Last night's meeting of the Labor Party Central Committee to ratify the unity accord was also, in effect, the end of the Labor Alignment, with Mapam as a partner. Mapam left the Alignment after the unity government was announced, and will now seek to join with

the Civil Rights Movement and Yossi Sarid, a Labor dove who quit the party in protest over its concessions to Likud, in a new Socialist-Zionist faction. The Labor Party, aligned with Yahad, will not function as a centrist-left faction.

Peres is expected to present his unity government to the Knesset tomorrow after a final meeting with Shamir tonight on the government's policy platform. Earlier today, the two met to conclude arrangements for the allocation of portfolios in the new Cabinet.

Shamir reportedly intends to convene the outgoing Cabinet briefly in the Knesset building before the parliament begins its debate on the new government. Peres is also expected to convene the new Cabinet briefly for a formal meeting after the Knesset's vote of confidence. Peres is also scheduled to lead his ministers to the traditional meeting with President Chaim Herzog tomorrow evening or Thursday morning.

JEWISH SETTLEMENTS FACE BANKRUPTCY UNLESS DRASTIC STEPS ARE TAKEN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Dozens of Jewish settlements in the administered territories may go bankrupt unless drastic steps are taken, Nissim Zvilli, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, warned at the weekly session of the Agency's Executive yesterday.

Zvilli said that despite the difficult economic situation, the department was dealing simultaneously with three problems — the establishment of new settlements, preventing the collapse of existing settlements and future planning.

He said the choice is almost "impossible," and therefore one must choose between the desire to set up new settlements, and the wish to preserve existing ones. Zvilli said his department prepared a salvage plan to help needy settlements, but that it did not enjoy sufficient cooperation by government agencies.

Five-Year Plan For Galilee Urged

Regarding future planning, Zvilli said the department undertook upon itself agricultural research and development, without which the settlements in the Jordan Valley would not be able to exist for long. He also urged the Executive to prepare a five-year development plan for the Galilee, which would double the population in the rural settlements there.

Matityahu Drabless, the number-two ranking official in the settlement department, said that since the beginning of the decade, some 200 new settlements were established throughout Eretz Yisrael, on both sides of the green line. The green line is the point between Israel proper and the occupied territories captured in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Drabless continued, saying that the current rate of building new settlements was only equivalent to the first four years of the Jewish State. He also urged the Executive to enlarge the budget of the settlement department, currently at \$70 million, to allow the department "to cope with the challenges of the future."

Avi Levy, director of the special Jewish Agency project for settlements in the Galilee, the Negev and the Arava, told the Executive that the Jewish Agency would invest some \$30 million in social and welfare projects in 60 new settlements, in order to raise the standard of living in those places, and put an end to the existing trend of emigration to the center of the country.

Levy asserted that some 105 such projects were already completed or were in the process of comple-

tion, with another 80 still waiting for potential financial contributors. The proposed projects include public libraries, youth clubs, swimming pools, sports installations, and public halls. Special efforts are underway to open day care nurseries in lookout posts in the Galilee, to allow mothers to go out and work, in the absence of employment opportunities in the lookout posts themselves.

New Arava Settlements Requested

Residents of the Arava meanwhile, demanded today that alongside every settlement that will be built in the future in the West Bank, a new settlement will also be built in the Arava.

That this provision be made part of the guidelines of a national unity government was requested by a representative of Kibbutz Yotveta in the Arava who met today with Deputy Premier-designate Yitzhak Navon.

The Kibbutz representative protested that only settlements in the administered territories were subject to coalition negotiations, whereas both sides — Labor and Likud — ignored the settlements in the Arava. Navon promised to raise the issue before the new government.

MAJOR COUNTERFEIT RING BUSTED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Police in Israel and the U.S. have uncovered a major counterfeit ring and seven men were arrested here yesterday while in the act of printing \$12 million worth of \$100 bills.

Police spokesmen said the bills they had found were of excellent quality, among the best counterfeits they had ever seen. They would even pass the test of the expensive small dollar testing electronic machines now popular in Israel because of the plague of counterfeit currency on sale on the black market.

The counterfeiters were so taken by surprise by the police raid that they did not have time to turn off the small press and the fake dollars, in sheets of six bills to a sheet, continued to flow out of the press as the police detained the suspects.

One of them was quoted by police as saying: "How could you be such sadists? We worked so hard at printing. You could at least have stopped us before we started work."

The tip-off for the operation appears to have come from the U.S. some months ago, when reports of a major counterfeit operation by Israelis surfaced. Both Israeli and American police have been keeping a careful watch on the gangs at both ends since then.

Three Men Arrested In Brooklyn

Meanwhile, in New York yesterday the United States Secret Service announced the arrest of three men in Brooklyn who were connected with the Israeli counterfeiting ring.

James D'Amelio, a U.S. Secret Service special agent, who coordinated the raids with the Israeli National Police, said that Secret Service agents arrested Avraham Batashvilli, 52, and his sons Michael, 22 and Irshak, 26. The Batashvillis are Soviet Georgian emigres and are related to the seven Georgian emigres who were seized in Israel.

All three men were charged with conspiracy to counterfeit currency. An indictment is expected to be obtained this week. Conspiracy to counterfeit carries a maximum 15-year sentence.

According to Raymond Dearie, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, the raid last Friday netted large quantities of ink and paper, four printing machines, and plates and negatives for \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills. More arrests are expected.

PROMINENT NEO-NAZI GOING ON TRIAL

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Karl-Heinz Hoffman, a prominent neo-Nazi leader who has a long record of cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, will go on trial tomorrow in Nuremberg for allegedly having plotted the murder of Jewish publisher Shlomo Levin and his female companion Frida Poeschke. The murder took place December 19, 1980, in the couple's house in Erlangen, near Nuremberg.

The trial is characterized by several highly symbolic elements. First, it takes place in the very same hall of the Nuremberg court, in which the allies tried the Nazi leadership after World War II.

Secondly, it attracts public attention to the leader of one of the most extremist neo-Nazi organizations in the country, the banned para-military group named after Hoffman. And thirdly, it gives a nationwide coverage to the cooperation between West German neo-Nazis and the PLO, which has been training the Hoffman group for many years.

Rudolf Brunner, the Nuremberg prosecutor, told journalists that 60 witnesses, 21 experts and many documents and objects will be brought to court to convince the judges that Hoffman was the man behind the murder. But the actual killing was carried out, according to the prosecution, by 29-year-old Uwe Behrendt, a member of the Hoffman group who committed suicide in a PLO military camp in Lebanon September 16, 1981.

A few weeks ago, West German police officers went to the former camp, where they found the body along with other evidence on the contacts between Hoffman's group and the PLO.

ALLIED POWERS IN WEST BERLIN BAR
NPD FROM TAKING PART IN ELECTIONS

BONN, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- The Western Allied powers in West Berlin have issued an order barring the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) from taking part in the March 10, 1985 elections to the city's Parliament. The NPD is banned in Berlin but has nevertheless a following estimated at several thousand people.

The Allied command order is meant to head off a possible NPD initiative to try to gain seats in the local Parliament. Elsewhere in West Germany the NPD is not barred from participation in election campaigns.

On the national level it failed to win the five percent of the popular vote necessary to qualify it for a representation in the Bundestag. On the local level, however, it did manage to penetrate into some elected Assemblies.

West Berlin is a case apart because there is no West German sovereignty there and the ultimate powers lie with the Allied powers.

ARAB DEFENDS KAHANE'S
U.S. CITIZENSHIP RIGHT

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- "The State Department should not interfere with Rabbi Meir Kahane's right to his American citizenship regardless of the fact that the rabbi has become an Israeli citizen and has been elected to the Israeli Knesset and taken an oath of allegiance to Israel," an Arab spokesman wrote to Secretary of State George Shultz in defense of Kahane's right to his American citizenship. There are reports that the State Department is studying the possibility of stripping Kahane of his citizenship.

Citing a landmark Supreme Court decision, *Afroyim v. Rusk* (1967), Dr. M. T. Mehdi, president of the American-Arab Relations Committee, a pro-Arab organization which is strongly opposed to Zionism and what it terms "Kahane's political theory," said that an American citizen cannot be stripped of his citizenship except if he "voluntarily renounces his citizenship."

He said that under the *Afroyim* case, "an American citizen may become a citizen of another country; vote in foreign elections; be elected to foreign parliaments and accept high foreign posts" without losing his American citizenship.

Even more, Mehdi, whose academic field at the University of California (Berkeley) was American Constitutional law, said "a U.S. citizen may join foreign armies and fight in foreign wars" without losing his American citizenship. He even can join a foreign army "in a war against the United States without losing his American citizenship." In such a case he should be "tried for treason," Mehdi wrote.

Mehdi said that he disagreed with Kahane and all the Zionists. "The Jews have no right to occupy Palestine" as Kahane and the Zionists maintain, Mehdi said. "But this disagreement should not be a ground to violate Kahane's Constitutional right to U.S. citizenship."

B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATIONS
HAS NOT ENDORSED SUCCAT SHALOM

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Robin Miller, coordinator of Succat Shalom (Shelter of Peace), which will stage an anti-nuclear protest in Lafayette Park in Washington and in a number of other cities from October 10 to October 14, is notifying all participants nationally to delete all references to the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations from a list of sponsoring organizations.

The move follows an assertion by Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith, the parent agency of the Foundations, that the Foundations had not endorsed the Succat Shalom project. A memorandum sent out by Miller regarding "errors on brochure listing of endorsing organizations" said that "all future communications regarding Succat Shalom will not include" the name of the Foundations.

The memorandum also stated that "due to an error in proofreading" the Jewish Peace Fellowship, "one of Succat Shalom's first endorsers, was misprinted on the brochure to read Jewish People's Fellowship. All future communications ... will insure the correct spelling."

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TORONTO (JTA) -- Sheila Feinstone is the fifth and newest Jewish MP to be elected to the Parliament in last week's general elections. She was elected in Montreal-Mt. Royal as a Liberal, in spite of the Progressive Conservative landslide. This is the constituency of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. The other four Jewish MPs elected (as reported last week) are David Orlikow of Winnipeg, Robert Kaplan of Toronto, Herbert Gray of Windsor, and David Berger of Montreal.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israeli and American experience in Lebanon, the British experience in the Falkland Islands and the short and long-term psychological effects of the terrorist attack in Maalot some years ago are among the topics to be discussed at the Second International Congress on Disaster Management here next week.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWISH PRESENCE IN ASIA DECLINING

By Susan Bures

(Editor's note: Susan Bures is the editor of The Australian Jewish Times.)

SINGAPORE, Sept. 11 (JTA) — The ancient Indian Jewish community, its origins dating back 2000 years, and which endowed schools and hospitals and participated in all aspects of Indian life, is almost extinct.

Singapore Jewry, once 4,000 strong, intimately linked with the development of this island state, which in the person of David Marshall gave Singapore its first chief minister, now numbers less than 300 people.

The Jewish presence in Asia, which came in the main with the European trading links centuries ago, is now taken if it exists at all. This is partly historical, the result of wars and mass migrations of Europeans out of the region.

Most Of The Communities Appear Doomed

Whatever the causes, and despite the rebirth of these communities in some areas through the same trade links which formed them in the past, many, if not most, of the Jewish communities in Southeast Asia appear doomed.

Their populations have fallen below the critical mass necessary to ensure their natural continuance. The young Jews are either assimilating, moving to larger Jewish centers like Australia or the United States or making aliyah to Israel.

What is left in some communities is a geriatric core, overlaid with a pitifully small number of young to middle-aged, most of whom realize they must move on, or move their children on, to retain any semblance of Jewish identity.

Determination To Continue

These developments were reported here on Sunday at the Asia Pacific Jewish Association (APJA) conference attended by leaders from 10 Asian and Pacific Jewish communities. They represent communities ranging in size from 250 in Thailand to 75,000 in Australia.

In view of these developments, the APJA conference should have resembled a wake, with leaders mourning the demise of their once proud communities. But the meeting was far removed from that. What was apparent among the delegates was a determination to continue.

There was a clear sense that, while aliyah was the preferred, and in many ways the only long-term solution for the smallest communities, the onus was on the current leaders to provide sufficient Jewish education and Jewish identity for their young so they would not be lost totally to Judaism.

Despite their smallness in absolute terms, and the relative decline for some communities from their once inflated numbers, the leaders have decided not to despair but to plan for the future in cooperation with the other regional communities.

Australian Jewish Community Looms Large

Australia, which at most international Jewish conferences is the small relative, here looms inordinately large. For a community of 60 families, such as Manila, the 75,000 strong Australian Jewish community seems like paradise.

And it is Australia which is assuming the mantle of regional responsibility where, the conference

agreed, international Jewish organizations have not been active in the past. The APJA president, Isi Leibler, who also heads the Australian Jewish umbrella organization, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, warned that given the role the nations of Asia, particularly such significant powers as the People's Republic of China and Japan are already playing, and are certain to play in the 21st century, world Jewry ignores the region at its peril.

B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN RAP BBI PLANS TO OPEN ITS MEMBERSHIP TO WOMEN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA) — The president of the B'nai B'rith Women (BBW), Beverly Davis, has reacted to plans of the parent B'nai B'rith International (BBI) to open its membership to women with a blunt warning that "we will take all steps necessary to preserve our independence and our membership."

A resolution containing that proposal was adopted at the B'nai B'rith International convention last week. Davis said the 37 BBW delegates to the convention "came to the convention with a mandate given them by BBW leadership in 33 cities across the country, urging a firm stand in opposition to the resolution." She added that "we have fulfilled our mandate by making opposition clear."

In her statement, Davis said the BBW is "an independent Jewish women's organization, with its own program and priorities," which "has served and will continue to serve as a respected and important voice for Jewish women."

She asserted that when a woman joins BBW "she knows she will be adding her voice to those of 120,000 members to speak for issues of importance to her as a Jewish woman," adding that "it is only by joining a women's organization like BBW that a (Jewish) woman can be assured of having her concerns adequately addressed."

Davis had raised the issue in the June/July issue of Women's World, the official BBW publication, in her page one President's Column, in which she reported on the wording of the resolution she declared would be presented at the BBI convention in September.

According to Davis, the resolution read: "Commencing January 1, 1987, full and equal membership in B'nai B'rith shall be made available in accordance with a plan that shall be presented for approval at the next international convention of B'nai B'rith in 1986."

A resolution embodying that proposal was approved at the BBI convention last week but the B'nai B'rith has not yet officially released the resolution. A B'nai B'rith spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it will be released as soon as the wording is checked out, possibly by the end of the week.

In her column, Davis asserted she had attended a May meeting of the BBI Board of Governors, as a BBW representative, and that BBI president Gerald Kraft had discussed the matter in terms which led her to believe that "the resolution could lead to the complete integration of B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Women above the chapter, lodge and unit level."

She asserted that "the net effect" of such "integration" could be "the subordination of all that B'nai B'rith Women has struggled for and achieved through the years, and BBW's eventual elimination as an independent Jewish women's organization."

Kraft has denied that the proposal was intended to bring about the destruction of B'nai B'rith Women.