

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
ISRAELI AND JEWISH WOMEN HOPE TO
AVERT CONFRONTATIONS AT NGO FORUM
By Nancy Miller**

NAIROBI, Kenya, July 11 (JTA) -- Israeli Labor Party Knesset member Tamar Eshel is leading approximately 40 women from Israel at the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) gathering here which is meeting in conjunction with the world conference ending the United Nations Decade for Women.

In addition, Eshel is spearheading a group of Jewish women from all over the world in an attempt to avert the confrontations that marked the earlier conferences in Mexico City in 1975 which contained the "Zionism is racism" resolution and in Copenhagen in 1980 which accepted a "radical" resolution on the Palestinians.

At a meeting yesterday in the Nairobi Synagogue Community Center, 200 Jewish women and a handful of men met to develop strategy on how to handle hostility toward Jews and Israelis. It was decided to send groups of Jewish and Israeli men and women to workshops that could be potentially explosive. Many of these individuals have attended pre-conference meetings in Israel, Europe and the United States that were specifically designed to help them respond to attacks.

Many Jewish women are participating this time, Eshel said, with the intention of offsetting any attacks by Arabs, Communists and other groups that are not friendly to Israel. Nonetheless, Eshel said she is skeptical about the effectiveness of these plans. Theory and reality are worlds apart, she noted. Furthermore, the PLO and other delegations sympathetic to their cause far outnumber those sympathetic to Israel.

Important For Israel To Attend

But Eshel said it is important for Israel to attend these conferences. "If we didn't attend this meeting, we would be doing the best service to our enemies," she said. "They want to oust us from all meetings and to make us pariahs. They want to question whether we belong to the family of nations. We have an opportunity to raise our voice, to give our side of the story" by attending the conference.

Jewish organizations represented at the 10-day NGO conference, which began yesterday and will overlap the official UN Decade for Women conference which begins July 15 and ends July 26, include Hadassah, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Na'amat/Pioneer Women, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, National Council of Jewish Women, WIZO, the New Jewish Agenda, and Jewish groups from Europe.

Jewish Community Aiding Jewish Delegates

Meanwhile, the Jewish community here has opened its doors to the Jewish delegates attending both the official United Nations Decade for Women conference and the Non-Governmental Organizations gathering. In addition to volunteering the synagogue as a meeting place for all delegates, the community has extended its hospitality to those who have had difficulty finding accommodations.

This problem arose when the Kenyan government overbooked all of its hotels and then demanded that NGO participants vacate their hotel rooms for the official UN conference delegates. The NGO delegates were told they would be placed in university dormitories in Nairobi and in the surrounding suburbs.

**SENATE ADOPTS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING
UN ZIONISM EQUALS RACISM RESOLUTION**

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) -- The Senate yesterday adopted by unanimous voice vote a resolution "condemning" the infamous 1975 United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. The Senate said the UN resolution "is itself clearly a form of bigotry."

The Senate action was initiated by Sens. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) and Richard Lugar (R. Ind.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, along with support from 14 other Senators. Similar action is expected shortly in the House.

The Senate resolution "soundly denounces and condemns any linkage between Zionism and racism," and said it considers the UN resolution "to be a permanent smear upon the reputation of the United Nations and to be totally inconsistent with the organization's declared purpose and principles." The resolution said the Senate "formally repudiates" the UN resolution and calls upon all governments to do the same.

Bernice Tannenbaum, chairperson of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, hailed the Senate action and said a worldwide campaign undertaken last year "against this nefarious resolution is achieving major results."

The campaign was launched at the initiative of Zvi Narkis, head of the WZO-Jewish Agency information department, in November, 1984 during a meeting at the home of Israeli President Chaim Herzog. Subsequently, meetings were held in Buenos Aires, London, Paris, and Washington to heighten public awareness to the resolution.

The Washington meeting was held under the sponsorship of B'nai B'rith International, the World Jewish Congress, and the WZO-American Section. Tannenbaum urged the Reagan Administration "to take all appropriate actions necessary to erase this shameful resolution from the record of the United Nations."

LABOR STRIFE DIMINISHING

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- The labor unrest seemed to ease somewhat today as the government and Histadrut drew closer to a compromise agreement on the government's controversial emergency economic program.

The civil service workers union cancelled, at the 11th hour, a general strike by some 80,000 government employees that was to have begun today. The threat was removed after Premier Shimon Peres, Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar reached an understanding that dismissal notices to 10,000 government workers would be delayed.

The notices were to go out at midnight tonight. The delay did not mean that the jobs have been saved or that massive strike action has been averted. Histadrut's strike coordinating committee gave the go-ahead

to the various local unions today to proceed with plans for a nationwide general strike beginning Sunday morning if the current talks with the government fail to reach a compromise.

The outstanding issues are the erosion of wages and mass dismissals. Kessar said, after a meeting of the Histadrut Central Committee in Tel Aviv, that labor was as anxious as the government to rehabilitate the economy. It wants the economic program to succeed and the workers are prepared to carry additional burdens as long as they are fair and equitable and are determined through negotiations rather than imposed by decree.

The core of the conflict between Histadrut and the government has been the latter's plan to implement its economic program by invoking emergency regulations that are a holdover from the British Mandate regime.

Ready To Consider Alternatives

Finance Minister Modai, who drafted the emergency program, told the Ministerial Economic Committee today that he was ready to consider reduced wages as a substitute for large scale dismissals as long as there was no deviation from the basic goals of his program. He said he would ask the Cabinet to empower him to postpone the dismissals.

His position indicated that the Treasury realized that the prospects of implementing its economic measures were slim without the agreement of Histadrut. The latter has not proposed an alternative economic program, however, and apparently is not inclined to do so.

But Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy, the most outspoken critic of Modai's plan, suggested today that the Cabinet may have to reconsider it to avoid a situation where it would remain a paper plan, unenforceable. Levy was one of seven Likud ministers who voted against the program last week and the only one who continued to oppose it publicly after it was adopted.

Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, supported Modai in the Cabinet though he said the plan was far from perfect. He continued to support it today, saying there was no alternative. He urged the nation to back the government's measures.

Herzog Rejects 'Destructive Anarchy'

President Chaim Herzog, who has no political role but can bring to bear the prestige of his office, also urged the populace today to unite to save the economy from collapse even though it requires personal sacrifices. He said he was confident a majority of the people objected to the rash of wildcat strikes which disrupted public services this week. While it is just and legitimate to protest and demonstrate, Herzog said, he rejected acts that pushed the economy toward "destructive anarchy."

The labor unrest of the past few days seemed to be simmering down. Of the several unions that walked out Tuesday, only the Israel Electric Corp. workers continued their job actions today. For the second successive day, power output was reduced by 20 percent and rotating power blackouts hit various parts of the country. These were supposed to last no longer than 30 minutes at a time. But most areas reported blackouts of three hours' duration.

The massive traffic jams experienced yesterday because of non-functioning traffic lights worsened today. Many factories and shops were idle for the lack of electric power, causing lost production and lost

customers. The electric company workers said they would not restore normal power until the government rescinds the emergency measures invoked to implement its economic program.

PROSECUTION URGES STIFF SENTENCES FOR 15 JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) — Stiff sentences were urged by the prosecution today for 15 members of a Jewish terrorist underground who were found guilty by a Jerusalem district court yesterday of acts of violence against Arabs.

The three-judge panel is expected to pronounce sentences on Sunday. The prosecution stressed the violent nature of the crimes for which the defendants stand convicted; the large quantities of arms and explosives they stocked; their uncompromising ideological impulses and lack of remorse. The crimes committed by the terrorists were not the results of temporary aberration, the prosecution contended.

The defendants are allowed to address the court in their own behalf. The first to exercise that right, Yehuda Etzion, described as the No. 2 man in the terrorist ring, told the court today that his involvement in a plot to blow up Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount would be vindicated by history.

He contended it was naive to believe that the Dome of the Rock, also known as the Mosque of Omar, would remain forever. He said action for its removal should be initiated by the State. Etzion also maintained that the court erred in treating the 1980 car bomb attacks on three West Bank Arab mayors as evidence of systemic violence. Two other defendants will address the court tomorrow.

JEWISH HIJACK VICTIM SAYS HIS ORDEAL STRENGTHENED HIS RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) — Richard Herzberg, the one Jew among the four Americans held separately from the other hostages after a TWA plane was hijacked last month, said today that the ordeal strengthened his religious convictions.

The 33-year-old Norfolk, Virginia insurance salesman, said that he had always attended services on the High Holy Days but during his 17 days of captivity in Beirut by the radical Shiite group Hezbollah, he prayed constantly. "It deepened my conviction that there is a God," he said, adding that prayer gave him the "strength to just endure."

His wife, Susan, 28, said that she always had planned to raise their children in a traditional Jewish home and now with her husband's deepened convictions, this would be easier.

The Herzbergs were returning from a honeymoon in Greece when the plane was hijacked enroute from Athens to Rome. They appeared today at a press conference at B'nai B'rith International headquarters here, in part, Herzberg explained, to thank the American people and the Jewish community here and in Paris for their support during the hijacking.

Warren Eisenberg, director of international affairs for B'nai B'rith, said that after the hijacking, Mrs. Herzberg's father, Ted Deutsch, a member of B'nai B'rith in Virginia Beach, Virginia, telephoned B'nai B'rith to ask help in getting information which the organization sought to do on a daily basis.

Herzberg said that neither he nor the other three Americans who had been segregated were mistreated

by the Hezbollah. He said he tried to convince them that he was not Jewish and that his father was German and his mother Greek, something which he said he was not now "proud" of doing.

The two terrorists, after hijacking the plane, asked if there were any Israelis aboard. They then asked for diplomats, military personnel and Jews in that order. Herzberg said that reading from "Jewish sounding" names on passports, they called his name but couldn't pronounce it and so forced Uli Derickson, the plane's purser, to call out his name.

"I would do the same thing if someone held a gun to my head," Herzberg said. The hijackers then also took Richard Troutmann, Jr., of Norfolk, Virginia, because they thought he was Jewish although he is a Catholic; Jeffrey Ingalls, a Navy seabee; and Robert Brown of Salem, Mass., a former Navy man. Also taken was a man with a Greek name who was released after the Greek government released a third hijacker captured in Athens.

Another Jew aboard the plane, Michael Brown, 27, of North Miami Beach, who was also returning from his honeymoon, was not taken because he did not have a Jewish-sounding name and does not look Jewish, according to Herzberg.

Both the Herzbergs said that Derickson behaved heroically during the incident, taking blows meant for passengers. Mrs. Herzberg said that Derickson told her that she had hidden Mrs. Herzberg's passport which contained her marriage certificate signed by a rabbi.

Removed Ring With Hebrew Inscription

Mrs. Herzberg said she took off a ring with a Hebrew inscription which she hid. The hijackers found the ring and searched for its owner. They did find a woman wearing a Magen David and she and her husband were beaten until they were able to convince the terrorists that they were Catholics.

The Herzbergs said they will always have the trauma of the ordeal with them. "We are just normal people," Herzberg said. "We got on the wrong flight." He said "I was never as happy as I was on the day that I got on that flight." But now, he added, "I don't sleep at night and she cries."

Mrs. Herzberg said that "no matter what their cause was, it does not justify taking 36 hours of my life away from me and 17 days away from my husband." Mrs. Herzberg and the women aboard the plane were released in Algiers.

Had No Idea Of Their Whereabouts

Herzberg said that during his captivity with Hezbollah they were first questioned at Hezbollah headquarters similar to the way the FBI questioned him when he returned. He said they were then taken to a cell in what appeared to be a Hezbollah prison which contained many Arab prisoners who they could hear being beaten almost nightly. Eventually they were given a larger room with somewhat better conditions, although he noted the conditions were primitive.

He believes that Amal, which held the other hostages, did not know where the four were being kept. He noted that after they were taken to be interviewed by the Red Cross they were followed by a car which his captors eluded in a high speed chase. He believed the other car might have been members of Amal trying to learn their whereabouts.

He said that he and his three fellow inmates believed they could escape but they did not know where they were and had no idea how to get around

Beirut if they got out. They decided to put their faith in negotiations although they agreed they would try to escape if their captivity lasted two to three months.

Herzberg said the worst day was the last when first they thought they were going to be freed and they heard incorrectly on the radio that the other hostages were in Damascus.

He said they were constantly being indoctrinated and he began to feel sympathy for the plight of the Shiites which he likened to that of South African Blacks who are the majority in their country while being kept downtrodden. But he said he did not sympathize with their methods of fighting everybody, including each other, to get their way.

Herzberg refused to criticize some of the hostages who voiced support for their captors, noting that each hostage had his own experience. Herzberg also would not criticize media coverage of the event as some have. "You all helped us" get released, he said. He said that he was afraid that in any future hijacking the terrorists would not allow the press in but would use their own equipment to film the event.

Eisenberg noted that several years ago 130 persons were held hostage by Hanafi Moslems in the very room where today's press conference was being held. He said this gives many staff members of B'nai B'rith a "sense of kinship" with the TWA hostages.

CHICAGO'S MAYOR VISITING ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- Howard Washington, the first Black Mayor of Chicago, arrived in Israel today on a six-day visit as the guest of the Foreign Ministry. Washington, who has long been a firm friend of Israel, will meet President Chaim Herzog and Prime Minister Shimon Peres during his stay here.

He will also tour the holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Canaan and will attend the opening of the Maccabiah on Monday, before going on to Rome on Wednesday for an interview with the Pope. While in Israel, Washington will meet with former Chicagoans now resident in Israel.

IT'S A SNAP

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- Israel is shortly to export its first consignment of locally-raised alligators to the U.S. The first batch of several dozen gators, hatched and raised at the Hamat Gader crocodile and alligator farm in Galilee, are to be sent to buyers in Texas. The young animals, aged between one-and-a-half and two years of age, sell for between \$100 and \$200 each.

Ronni Lotan, the farm manager, reports that in the past few weeks some 900 alligator eggs were hatched, twice last year's total, and some 400 baby alligators should survive. Two adult female alligators died last weekend, following a fight between the two of them over the favors of a male.

One of the females was badly hurt by the other, and had to be shot. The keepers decided that the attacker was a rogue who had misbehaved previously. She, also, was shot as she was regarded as dangerous to the other farm residents.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Two bombs exploded in Hadera and Ashkelon Thursday but caused no casualties. The charge in Hadera went off in the town's central Independence Square, while that in Ashkelon had been placed at the fence of the swimming pool of the King Saul Hotel.

SHAMIR DOES NOT BELIEVE THE MIDEAST WILL BE A PROMINENT AGENDA ITEM DURING THE REAGAN-GORBACHEV TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir does not believe the Middle East will figure prominently on the agenda of President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev when they hold their summit meeting in Geneva in November.

Shamir noted, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday, that the Reagan Administration has run into serious difficulties in its efforts to revive the peace process on the basis of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team.

He did not appear to agree with some non-governmental observers who believe Washington must make progress in the Middle East before the Geneva summit in order to resist Soviet pressures to involve Moscow in the diplomatic process there.

Cites Obstacles To Progress

But according to Shamir, there are too many obstacles to progress. "There are differences between the PLO and Jordan, within the PLO itself and between the Arabs and the Americans," he said. The basic Arab aim is to promote direct dialogue between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organization, whereas the Administration's goal is to pave the way for direct talks between the Arabs and Israel, Shamir pointed out.

The Arabs, including Jordan, balk at this. They insist on an international peace conference on the Middle East which would include not only the so-called moderate Arab states but the regional hard-liners and the Soviet Union as one of the five participating permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Shamir said.

He said he has no idea whether Richard Murphy, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs would be coming to the region this month as planned. Murphy's trip reportedly has been postponed because the U.S. has not been given a list of Palestinians who would form part of the joint delegation with Jordan. To be acceptable to the U.S. and to Israel they must have no known connection with the PLO.

TWO BILLS SEEKING TO CURB RACISM IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PASS ON FIRST READING IN THE KNESSET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- The Knesset passed on first reading Tuesday night two government-sponsored bills that would curb racism in politics and public affairs. One of the bills concerns eligibility for Knesset representation. The other makes racial incitement a specific offense. Racism was not singled out in the existing general law against incitement.

Parliamentary and legal experts said the measures would prevent Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party from running in future Knesset elections. But it would also bar the Progressive List for Peace, a coalition of leftist Jews and Arab nationalists, Kach advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel, by force if necessary.

The Progressive List for Peace, led by Gen. (Res.) Mattityahu Peled and Muhammad Meiri, would fall into the category of parties that reject the principle of Israel being a Jewish state. It calls for a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Kahane abstained in the voting. Labor MK Shevach Weiss, an expert on constitutional law, declined to vote at all. He said that he would have abstained but did not want to be cast in the same role as Kahane. Negative votes were registered by the Progressive List, the Hadash Communist Party and Muhammad Watad of Mapam.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, who introduced the bills, said they were intended to combat "Kahanism" which he declared was "contrary to Jewish tradition." He noted that "Love of human beings in Jewish law includes love of gentiles. Yes, they hate us. But let us not hate them. Let us hate hatred," he said.

Nissim said the main purpose of the bills was educational rather than preventive. He conceded that racism "will not be eradicated merely by the arrest of a few people," a possible reference to the 15 West Bank Jews convicted yesterday of crimes of violence against Arabs.

MOSHE RON DEAD AT 81

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- Moshe Ron, veteran secretary of the Israeli Daily Newspaper Editors Committee and of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists and former secretary general of the Israel Journalists Association, died in his sleep at home yesterday.

Ron, who was 81, was laid to rest today, after lying in state at Beth Sokolow, headquarters of the Journalists Association in Tel Aviv which he was instrumental in building. Born Moshe Danzigerkron in Warsaw, to a Gur Hasidic family, he worked in Poland for the Yiddish Zionist daily paper, Haint, and represented that paper when he came to Palestine in 1935.

JOSEPH WILLEN DEAD AT 88

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- A special memorial service will be held for Joseph Willen, a former executive vice president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, who died Saturday at Mount Sinai Medical Center at the age of 88.

During his tenure as executive vice president, from 1941 to 1967, Willen organized a system to raise funds that brought in more than \$1 billion. Rather than campaigning to a small group of wealthy people, Willen directed his fund-raising efforts to trades and professions, boroughs, a women's division and other circles, a formula still used by the United Jewish Appeal today.

Willen, who served on numerous committees during his 50-year career, was responsible for the Federation's reserve fund which protected against economic decline.

Born in Russia, Willen came to the United States in 1905 and graduated with a B.A. from City College in 1919, the same year he joined the Federation as a clerk. He received honorary degrees from Boston University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

CORRECTION

Kalman Sultanik was incorrectly identified as chief New York executive of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) in the June 28 News Bulletin. He is vice president of the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A bomb exploded outside the Haifa district court Wednesday without causing casualties. Another bomb nearby was safely defused. The incident was the third of its kind in Haifa and the nearby suburb of Bat Galim in recent months.