

**U.S. TEAM IN ISRAEL FOR POLLARD PROBE**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA) — A team of U.S. Justice Department officials, accompanied by FBI agents arrived in Israel today to question Israeli diplomats and others believed knowledgeable in the case of Jonathan Pollard, the U.S. Navy civilian counterintelligence analyst arrested in Washington November 21 allegedly for spying for Israel.

Abraham Sofaer, the Justice Department's legal adviser who heads the group, refused to answer reporters' questions at Ben Gurion Airport. He would not venture a guess as to how long they will be in Israel. Israel Radio said today the questioning would be conducted at a hotel in Tel Aviv. The hotel was not identified.

Tonight, Sofaer and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering met in Jerusalem with Hannan Bar-On, Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry who is heading the Israeli team in the investigation. American sources said that the progress in their investigation depends on the degree of cooperation on the part of the Israelis.

The parameter of the investigation was reportedly defined at a meeting last week in Washington between Secretary of State George Shultz and Minister Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens. Neither official has disclosed the content of their meeting.

**In The Aftermath Of A Tragedy:  
RABIN PROMISES THAT SOLDIERS WILL NO  
LONGER BE HOUSED IN PREFABRICATED  
BARRACKS LIKE THE ONE RAZED BY FIRE**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin promised today that soldiers will no longer be housed in flammable prefabricated barracks such as the one destroyed by fire early Monday morning in which eight soldiers died and seven were injured. There are thousands such barracks in army camps all over Israel.

Rabin, who visited the scene, an artillery corps camp in the Samaria district of the West Bank, said this was one of the lessons learned from the tragedy. The dead were buried yesterday. Five of the injured soldiers have been discharged from the hospital. One remains in the intensive care unit.

Eighty-four soldiers were asleep in the barracks, built of wood and synthetic materials, when the blaze broke out at 1 a.m. Monday and swept through the structure in minutes. Most managed to escape. Heat prevented rescuers from entering the barracks until later in the morning when the remains of the eight dead soldiers were found. The Defense Ministry has named a special team to investigate the disaster. It will report to Chief of Staff, Gen. Moshe Levy.

**Claims Tragedy Was Divine Retribution**

Meanwhile, anger was generated in the Knesset today when a member of the Orthodox Shas Party contended that the tragedy was divine retribution for the lack of religious observance in Israel. A similar explanation was given for the deaths of two dozen high school children in a train-bus collision

earlier this year by Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, the Minister of Interior.

**BRONFMAN, IN WARSAW, TO  
CONFER WITH POLISH PRESIDENT**

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA) — World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman arrived in Warsaw today for a two-day stay during which he will confer with Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski, meet local Jewish community leaders and attend a performance of the Warsaw Yiddish Theater now celebrating its 35th anniversary. Bronfman arrived in Warsaw from Moscow. No details were immediately available on his stay in the Soviet Union.

The Jewish leader was welcomed at Warsaw Airport by the Polish Minister for Religious Affairs, Adam Lopatki, who, because of the role of the Catholic Church in Poland, is considered one of the three most prominent ministers in the Polish government.

Jaruzelski's special adviser, Maj. Wieslaw Gornicki, said that Poland is "warmly welcoming" the eight-man Jewish delegation led by Bronfman. He said the main subjects to be discussed will deal with the protection of Jewish monuments, the preservation of Jewish culture, and the upkeep of Jewish cemeteries and museums.

Over three-and-a-half million Jews lived in Poland before the war and the vestiges of their civilization are considered a major chapter in the world Jewish cultural heritage. There are less than 20,000 Jews left in Poland today, most of them living in Warsaw.

According to foreign correspondents in Warsaw contacted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by telephone, Bronfman told reporters at Warsaw Airport upon arrival, "I have come to Warsaw to discuss strictly Polish Jewish problems." He denied rumors that he plans to discuss Soviet-Israeli relations or emigration plans for Soviet Jews.

The World Jewish Congress president met Jaruzelski in September in New York where the Polish President attended the UN General Assembly. He also visited Moscow earlier this year carrying, according to certain unconfirmed reports, a message from Israeli Premier Shimon Peres to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

**LABOR AND LIKUD TRYING TO STAVE  
OFF REVOLT BY RELIGIOUS PARTIES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Labor and Likud are expected to put aside their sharp differences to stave off a revolt by the religious parties in their unity coalition government.

Although political observers do not see it as a serious threat, Premier Shimon Peres called on Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, today for cooperation between the two major coalition partners to kill a non-confidence motion by the religious factions in the Knesset.

The latter, Aguda Israel, Shas, National Religious Party and Marasha, control a grand total of 12 seats in the 120-member parliament. According to observers, the only danger their non-confidence motion poses is that, given the delicate political balance in the coalition, it could snowball for reasons far removed from the religious issues that prompted it.

The four religious factions, meeting yesterday, threatened to introduce their motion next week for three reasons:

They are unhappy over the failure to bring their "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return up for another vote in the Knesset — it was twice defeated in recent years — and are furious with Peres' proposal to freeze the divisive issue for 10 years.

They are disappointed that so far they have been unable to stop Brigham Young University from building a new Mormon center adjacent to the Hebrew University campus on Mt. Scopus, a project approved by the Jerusalem municipality; and they are aroused by their failure to force the government to ban Saturday games at the new Ramat Gan football stadium.

The sound and fury of the religious MKs was aimed mainly at Peres. This may have heartened Haim Kaufman (Likud-Herut) who, as chairman of the coalition factions, attended the meeting as an observer. But he apparently was not pleased to hear his religious colleagues demand that Likud exercise party discipline to force its members to support the "Who is a Jew" amendment.

Kaufman is well aware that such a move would trigger a rebellion by Likud Liberals, most of whom are firmly committed to vote against the amendment and have done so in the past.

#### A Sharply Divisive Issue

The issue is sharply divisive among both Israelis and Jews abroad. It is strenuously opposed by Reform and Conservative Jewry in the U.S. It is passionately supported by Israel's Orthodox establishment. Avraham Shapiro of the Aguda Israel Party said he was prepared to forego all governmental special support for religious institutions in Israel "if there is a 20 percent chance of getting the amendment through" the Knesset.

Opposition to the Mormon center is motivated by fear of missionary activity for which the Mormon Church, based in Salt Lake City, Utah, is notorious. But the Mormon representatives here have promised explicitly to desist from proselytizing in Israel. Nevertheless, according to Shapiro, "They are bringing Jesus into Jerusalem."

#### Universal Abhorrence Of Kach Party

Although the religious factions are at odds with the much larger secular parties on these issues, they seem to share the almost universal abhorrence of Rabbi Meir Kahane's racist Kach Party. Kahane introduced his own non-confidence motion in the Knesset yesterday. The religious MKs joined the rest of their colleagues who absented themselves from the chamber while Kahane spoke. They returned to vote against the Kach motion.

Rabbi Eliezer Shach, spiritual leader of the Shas Party, has instructed his followers never under any circumstances to support Kahane on any issue whatsoever.

**MOVE TO REDUCE INTEREST ON ISRAELI DEBTS IS ABANDONED IN THE SENATE**  
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) — A move to reduce the interest on existing Israeli debts to the U.S. was abandoned last week in the Senate as too costly in the light of budgetary constraints. In a joint statement, Sens. Daniel Inouye (D. HI.) and

Robert Kasten (R. Wis.), who sponsored the bill, said they were withdrawing it in spite of "widespread support" because they were unable to resolve technical questions raised by the budget committee.

Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee in October, the bill would have reduced Israel's annual interest to five percent, saving the financially pressed Jewish State billions of dollars over the next several years. Many of the loans made to Israel since the 1973 War — amounting to nearly \$10 billion — carry a current annual interest rate of approximately 10 to 11 percent.

The proposed legislation had apparently met with reservations not only from within the Senate, but from among pro-Israel activists, who questioned the wisdom of further taxing the U.S. budget when cuts are being implemented elsewhere. Some lobbyists at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) reportedly feared that passage of the bill could backfire by fostering resentment over the effective appropriations of further American tax dollars to help the Jewish State.

As Congress was considering an aid package for Israel last spring, for example, the National Association of Arab Americans placed radio advertisements playing up the theme of American's being asked to sacrifice while Israel was raking in the U.S. taxpayer's money. Congress ultimately approved the \$3 billion aid package for 1986, plus \$1.5 billion in emergency economic assistance.

Recently, however AIPAC's executive director, Thomas Dine, came out publicly in support of the Kasten-Inouye bill, while acknowledging that the issue "is a toughie." There have been talks of revising the bill in a way that would spread out the effects over a longer period of time, such as applying the interest reduction only to military loans for the first year. But staff members at the offices of Kasten and Inouye said the Senators were unable to work out an agreement with the Budget Committee.

In their statement last week, the two Senators said they have concluded that pushing the bill would be inappropriate "at this time," suggesting they would take it up at a later date. One informed source said he had reason to believe that the issue is still very much alive and could be brought up again in the near future.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — The first new settlement to be established under the unity government was opened Wednesday at a ceremony attended by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The settlement, Migdalim, on the trans-Samaria road, is the first of six new settlements scheduled to be established in the West Bank and Gaza under the terms of the coalition agreement between Labor and Likud. The first civilian settlers will be moving into Migdalim within the next few days.

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NEW YORK (JTA) — The editors of The New York Times Book Review magazine selected "The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust 1941-1945," by David Wyman as one of the 10 best books of 1985.

# The First Bar Mitzvah Of Its Kind: UNIQUE COMPUTER HELPS MULTIPLE DISABLED BOY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN HIS BAR MITZVAH RITES

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) — A Michigan State University (MSU) telecommunications expert and his team are seeking to extend substantially the capabilities of the unique synthesizer-computer which made it possible for a cerebral-palsied boy—unable to talk or walk from birth—to participate fully in his Bar Mitzvah rite. It was the first such Bar Mitzvah of a multiple-disabled youngster in history.

Prof. John Eulenberg, director of the MSU Artificial Language Laboratory (ALL), discussed with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency — in a series of telephone calls from East Lansing — the unique computer-based ceremony which made it possible for Lee Kweller of Pittsburgh to present on November 2, before a selected audience, in a clear adolescent-sounding voice, all the elements of the traditional Bar Mitzvah ceremony.

Any Jew who might have happened to be present inadvertently that Saturday in the Helfant Chapel of Beth Shalom, a Pittsburgh Conservative synagogue, could not have helped but be flabbergasted at what he would have seen and heard, unless he also happened to be an advanced computer scientist.

There was the attractive young candidate, seated on the bimah at the keyboard of a computer which, responding to his fingered commands, emitted a normal adolescent boy's voice, chanting the blessings before and after his Haftorah; the weekly portion; the Haftorah itself; Lee's Bar Mitzvah speech, which he wrote; the chanting of Ashrei and Ain Kelohanu and a full kiddush. He did this with his left hand because his right hand is not adequately functional.

Eulenberg was asked whether the audience in the chapel, which included the boy's grandparents and two great grandmothers, appeared to know that they were not witnessing a miracle — in the Biblical sense — but the product of a highly-specialized, experimental communications unit, plus the intense training and determination of the boy to learn to use it the way its MSU developers intended it to be used.

## A Few Firsts For A Computer

He said a booklet was passed out to members of the audience to provide at least a minimum understanding of the "miracle." The computer, at Lee's command, declared for him: "I, too, have come to life, both in the tradition of my forefathers and in a very special way. I am able to speak with all of you; this marks the beginnings of a new world for me."

Eulenberg said the Bar Mitzvah rite involved the first use of a talking and singing computer to perform a traditional Bar Mitzvah. It is also the first portable Hebrew-speaking computer and the first to sing in Hebrew.

During the rite, Lee paid tribute to his mother, who quit her position as a Philadelphia Symphony publicist to devote all her time to helping Lee "find his voice." It took not only time and patience and personal courage but also years of speech therapy and go-ahead for a \$30,000 computer program funded not by Lee's parents but by contributions to the Lee Voice Project at the MSU language laboratory.

Eulenberg said the apparatus was "more than just a talking device." He said "this computer creates new vistas for bright people like Lee. The pieces of technology were available, but Lee put it all together. He is the catalyst who can open the way for others who have been denied because of inability to speak."

In preparation for his Bar Mitzvah, Lee mastered both Hebrew and the traditional Masoretic "trope" and laboriously programmed individual Hebrew letters and words into his machine — three lines of complex computer code for each corresponding line of Hebrew. Eulenberg said this was a very difficult task, requiring not only great determination but also great difficulty. He said Lee was "intellectually superior" and that, for Lee, "it is his great abilities that count, not his disabilities."

Eulenberg added, "We created a special code so that Lee could type in the special Haftorah and blessings." Lee had attended Hebrew school for years and knew the Hebrew elements of the Bar Mitzvah rite. He typed in on the keyboard his entire Bar Mitzvah speech in English.

Because the complex multi-level program enabled Lee to place words into the computer's memory both alphabetically and phonetically, and because his portions of the two-hour rite were so lengthy and intricate, Lee programmed his entire performance before the ceremony. He then controlled the speech, volume and pacing of the voice recitation at the ceremony.

## Broke Through The Painful Silence

In that unique ceremony, Lee broke through, in telecommunication terms, the painful silence which had been his destiny since birth. The boy, who usually gets around in a wheelchair, was held from behind by his stepfather, and walked determinedly to the chapel's first row.

He was then helped to the computer-synthesizer. Eulenberg gave a brief introduction, commenting that Lee's Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Vayera was fitting, since it is a day that celebrates miracles. Both the Torah portion (Genesis 18-22) and the Haftorah (II Kings 4:1-37) concern children who otherwise might not have lived.

Eulenberg said the computer used by Lee was based on software for which he was the chief writer. Two other experts worked with him at the ALL — David Grover, a computer engineer; and Marcy Goldstein, who worked in the laboratory all summer and is now studying for a master's degree in international relations at Washington University.

Eulenberg said Marcy created the set of Hebrew graphics. Explaining that "the computer we were using types words in English," he said Marcy helped create the computer's capacity to accept typing and storage of Hebrew letters, including all consonants, vowels and "trope" markings.

Eulenberg said the computer used by Lee was "based on software and circuitry which we have used in the recent past to develop Arabic, Chinese and Hebrew synthetic voices, in addition to the age-appropriate English voice."

Lee worked on the computer at home for several months before the ceremony. He also visited the MSU laboratory. Eulenberg visited Lee's home several times during the process of developing the software, modifying the machine, and teaching Lee how to feed material into the computer and how to instruct the computer to "speak" and "chant." Lee's model, the result of eight months of intensive programming work by Eulenberg,

produces a startling approximation of the timbres of the human voice. Eulenberg, an associate professor of computer science, audiology, linguistics and speech sciences at MSU, has helped many persons with severe physical limitations to communicate by computer.

The Jewish telecommunications expert said Lee, his family, and he "recognize the importance of extending this technology for the use of others. I want to make sure that what was done for Lee will be made available to other cerebral-palsied persons." He said the boy had told him that he wants to have put into the unit "all of the Jewish prayers so that he can pray daily."

Eulenberg said such an expansion of the computer's facilities would be part of a research program at MSU, which he told the JTA would cost upwards of \$100,000 during the next three years.

The families of Lee's parents, his mother, Beverly Morrow, and his stepfather, Michael Kweller, have obligated themselves for a substantial sum, he said. He said the parents were not wealthy. Some of the development costs have been met by contributions, he added.

Eulenberg said the historic Bar Mitzvah began when he made contact with Lee through the boy's speech pathologist, Marie Capozzi Hinchcliffe, at the Pioneer school in Pittsburgh. The pathologist, who was in the audience for the ceremony, "knew I was Jewish, knew that I had an interest in the development of a Hebrew-speaking voice output communication aid." He said she also knew about Lee's strong desire to perform the Bar Mitzvah "in the traditional way."

#### YIDDISH THEATER GROUP FILES CHARGES OF BIAS AGAINST NEW YORKER MAGAZINE FOR REFUSING TO LIST YIDDISH SHOW By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Charges of unfairness and discrimination have been filed with the New York City Commission of Human Rights and the New York State Division of Human Rights against The New Yorker Magazine for refusing to list the Yiddish show, "A Match Made in Heaven," in their "Goings on About Town" section.

In a letter addressed to Marcella Maxwell of the New York City Commission of Human Rights, Raymond Ariel, president of the Yiddish Musical Theater and producer of "A Match Made in Heaven," charged that the magazine and its four editors — William Shawn, Wolcott Gibbs, Jr., Brendan Gill and Edith Oliver — are discriminating against the Yiddish musical which is now playing at the Town Hall Theater, one block east of Broadway in the theater district, because it is omitted from a section that "lists every Broadway show now playing, as well as some 50 other Off-Off Broadway and Off Broadway shows."

Ariel's letter, dated December 6, explained that the charges are brought under the "Law on Human Rights" to encourage equality of treatment for and prevent discrimination against any racial, religious or ethnic group or its members.

He added that "A Match Made in Heaven" is the "major Yiddish show in New York and Broadway" and refusing to list it is harmful to the show and to the company of more than 30.

Max Eisen, press representative for the musical, claimed in an October 31 message to Shawn, that per-

sistent complaints to the magazine yielded a variety of excuses such as "We don't list foreign language shows." Eisen asserted this is untrue since the magazine has included Carmen, and "Parlan Francais II: Un Exercice De Style," a comedy by Eugene Ionesco introduced last spring.

Other excuses Eisen cites include "we don't have room" and "we don't list Yiddish shows," according to New Yorker theater critic Edith Oliver. Eisen then proposed that the magazine's Broadway theater critic Brendan Gill review the Yiddish show which, he noted, has English subtitles.

In response to Eisen's arguments, Gibbs, the editor directly in charge of the "Goings On" section, defended the magazine's position in a November 26 letter to Eisen. According to Gibbs, Gill would not cover a show in Town Hall because it does not conform to the magazine's definition of a Broadway theater.

Gibbs contended that the magazine has recently had to contract the "Goings On" listings in all areas "in order to save space for other material." Aside from the Broadway, Off-Off Broadway and Off-Broadway listings, "Goings On About Town" includes dances, films, night clubs, music and opera, jazz, folk and rock concerts, personal appearances, orchestras and choruses, recitals, and coming entertainment events.

"While we never attempted to list everything that was going on in New York, we now have even less space at our disposal and have had to either drop some regular listings or not include other events that might otherwise have appeared," Gibbs wrote.

#### No Further Comment

In a telephone call from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Gibbs had no further comment other than, "We list everything we can" and said the section has had to cut back in all areas such as art galleries and night clubs.

Ariel noted in his letter to Maxwell that when The New Yorker was asked to list last season's Yiddish musical at Town Hall, also produced by Ariel, and which had a run of more than 10 weeks on Broadway prior to going on a national tour, the magazine refused to include the show for the same reasons as mentioned this year.

According to Ariel, "The Yiddish Theater has been a significant part of the New York City theater and cultural scene for more than 75 years" and the "discriminatory" action against "A Match Made in Heaven," which marks the 7th season of Yiddish shows at Town Hall, "should be condemned and changed under the anti-discrimination laws of the city and state."

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — Three hundred and thirty thousand Jews have emigrated from Israel since the establishment of the State, according to a report presented to the Cabinet Sunday by Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur. These figures are substantially lower than previous estimates of between 500,000 and 750,000. The report, compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics, also noted that a further 120,000 non-Jews had left during this period. Some 170,000 "yordim" (emigrants) live in the U.S., according to the report. Thirty-two thousand of them are academically educated, including about 8,000 engineers.