



NOV 3 1986

**DAILY NEWS BULLETIN**

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PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 165 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10036-2574 • (212) 575-9370

Vol. 64 - 69th Year

Wednesday, October 29, 1986

No. 206

## INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS SETS UP BARRIER TO THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S MAGEN DAVID ADOM

GENEVA, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The International Red Cross Movement appears to have erected a permanent barrier against recognition of Israel's Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David) as a humanitarian agency by its decision Monday to change its official title to the 'International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Israel and Jewish organizations have objected vigorously.

The Red Crescent is the Red Cross equivalent in Moslem countries, just as the Magen David Adom is in Israel. The decision to incorporate the Red Crescent was endorsed without a vote by delegates from more than 120 governments and 137 national societies attending the International Conference of the Red Cross here, a quadrennial event.

Pinhas Eliav, the Israel government delegate, said restriction of recognition to Christian and Moslem emblems means that Israel is excluded from the various international societies which coordinate aid for victims of natural disasters and armed conflict all over the world. He maintained that the Magen David Adom, which sent observers to the conference, fulfills all criteria for full membership, except for its emblem.

Israel has been seeking full membership, to no avail, since the Red Cross Movement was reorganized in 1948-49, in the aftermath of World War II. Eliav, lodging a strong dissent from the conference consensus, noted that the six-pointed Star of David was symbolic of Jewish history, creativity and Jewish suffering, as well as being a religious symbol, as are the cross and crescent.

### A Violation Of Humanitarian Principles

"To our regret, we encountered a lack of readiness and misunderstanding and even the same political hostility which was and still is manifested against the emancipation of the Jewish people as a nation," Eliav said. Non-recognition of the Israeli symbol violates the principles of the international humanitarian movement, he said.

He warned that "The revised statutes will further aggravate the situation by crystallizing even more the imposition of two religious and civilizational emblems on our global humanitarian movement."

Another strong dissent was voiced by Daniel Lack, representative of the World Jewish Congress, which has observer status at the conference. "The use of the emblems associated in the eyes of many with the two great religions of Christianity and Islam enshrines the religious polarization that propels the emblem crisis into unprecedented proportions of gravity," he said.

"The joint and exclusive use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the very title of the movement ... renders permanent an anomaly which contradicts the letter and the spirit of the Red Cross philosophy by the reciprocal and mutual reinforcement of these two signs as the symbol of religious polarization and exclusivism," Lack said.

The conference, which closes Saturday, also changed its title to "The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent."

## MITTERRAND SAYS FRANCE WILL NOT SELL ARMS TO SYRIA AND CALLS ON EEC TO INVESTIGATE SYRIA'S ROLE IN WEST EUROPEAN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand said Tuesday that France will not sell arms to Syria and called on the 12 member-state European Economic Community (EEC) to investigate Syria's possible participation in terrorist activities in Western Europe.

Speaking at a nationally televised press conference, he said that if the charges against Syria are established, "there should be no compromise whatsoever with states that export terrorism abroad."

Mitterrand said that if Syria's involvement was proved, "Europe should close ranks against crime and adopt special measures."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe had called for a ban on arms sales, the cancellation of economic aid and the recall of all European Ambassadors from Damascus.

The Foreign Ministers of the EEC member-states, who met Monday in Luxembourg, failed to agree on joint action against Syria or even on the publication of a joint communique condemning Syria's alleged involvement in the attempt to blow up an El Al jet at London's Heathrow Airport last April.

Eleven of the Ministers issued a statement expressing outrage but failed to mention Syria by name. Greece refused to approve even this watered-down communique. All joint EEC statements must be decided unanimously.

### Study Of Evidence Is Urged

Mitterrand called on the governments of the 12 nations to study the evidence submitted by Britain before their Ministers meet again November 10. "It seems that we need to further pursue the examination (of the available evidence) before this meeting," Mitterrand said.

The center-right government of Jacques Chirac has repeatedly denied that it is on the point of signing an arms agreement with Syria. Mitterrand, a Socialist, also stressed that "there are no plans to sell arms to Syria."

## PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN ISRAEL IS GAINING GROUND

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The participation of women in religious affairs is gaining ground in Israel despite entrenched opposition within the Orthodox establishment. The Knesset's Interior Committee voted Monday to support the appointment of women to local religious councils.

The Labor Party announced Monday that two women will be included in its delegation to the 96-member electoral college that will choose the next Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, replacing Rabbi Yedidya Frenkl who died last month. Shinui, Mapam and the Liberal Party factions have also agreed to appoint women electors.

The women chosen by the Labor Party faction are Haviva Avi-Guy, a member of the Tel

Aviv City Council and legal advisor to the Na'amat Womens Movement, and Lily Ben-Mena-hem.

Although Herut and the religious party factions will be represented exclusively by men, women will be in a majority on the 32-member section of the electoral college nominated by the City Council. The remaining two-thirds are nominated by local synagogues and the religious council.

The Labor Party said candidates for the office of Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi will be questioned about their attitudes on the status of women in Judaism. One of the candidates is expected to be Rabbi Yisrael Lau, the incumbent Chief Rabbi of Netanya.

An Orthodox member of the Interior Committee, Mayor Ovadia Eli of Afula, voted with the majority for the election of women to religious councils. He noted that the councils are State bodies, not halachic institutions. Their function is to provide religious services for all sectors of the population. Eli said he saw no reason to exclude women from the councils.

But it is still an uphill fight for Leah Shaki-diel, the first woman in Israel's history to be elected to a religious council, in Yerucham, a small development town in the Negev. She was elected last January as the Labor Party candidate but was immediately challenged by the Religious Affairs Ministry, Orthodox rabbis and religious politicians.

They continue to block her, and Shaki-diel, a 35-year-old teacher and mother of three, who is herself Orthodox, said last week that she will take her case to the Supreme Court.

A less controversial appointment was made in Safad, where Menucha Pantz, a grandmother in her fifties, was named gabbai (warden) of an Orthodox synagogue--on the recommendation of her rabbi.

#### EGYPT CONGRATULATES SHAMIR ON ASSUMING THE PREMIERSHIP

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Egypt has congratulated Premier Yitzhak Shamir on the assumption of his new office. A letter Monday from Egyptian Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Esmet Abdel Meguid wished the Israeli leader good health and success and expressed hope that the "progress made so far between Egypt and Israel will be a solid basis for a comprehensive peace to encompass all the partners in the area."

The message arrived a week after similar good wishes were extended by Cairo to outgoing Premier Shimon Peres who took office as Vice Premier and Foreign Minister after the rotation of power in Israel's unity coalition government. Observers here said the time lag reflected Egypt's doubts about Shamir, given Likud's hardline policies on the Palestinian issue.

But Shamir himself, it was reported from reliable sources, expects a marked improvement in bilateral relations between Israel and Egypt once arbitration of their Taba border dispute gets underway in Geneva in December.

The Premier had what he considered a productive meeting with Meguid at the United Nations in New York last month, when he was Israel's Foreign Minister. According to these sources, he expects normalization to improve significantly once the arbitration process begins.

#### REFORM LEADERS IN ISRAEL TO FIGHT HARDER FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR NON-ORTHODOX JUDAISM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Leaders of the Reform movement said Tuesday that the attempted disruption of a Reform congregation's Simchat Torah services by Orthodox zealots here last Friday night has spurred them to fight harder than ever for official recognition and equal rights for non-Orthodox Judaism in Israel.

They also said they would press charges against Orthodox rabbi Eliahu Abergil and 20 of his followers who allegedly interrupted the services in the community center in the Baka suburb of Jerusalem and forcibly tried to wrest Torahs away from the congregants while hurling curses at them. Abergil was arrested on suspicion of violating the Criminal Code. He was released on bail Sunday.

The Reform spokesmen said at a press conference here Tuesday that they would use the incident to support their demands for equality with Orthodox Judaism in Israel. Specifically, they want the right of Reform and Conservative rabbis to officiate at religious ceremonies, and funding for non-Orthodox synagogues and institutions.

The Reform movement will hold a rally in Jerusalem next Saturday night in support of freedom of religion. Reform leaders said they expected many Orthodox Jews to lend their support.

The Reform movement also intends to lodge a complaint with the police against Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu for slandering the Reform congregation in Baka. Eliahu said in a radio interview after the Simchat Torah disturbance that men and women were dancing naked with Torah scrolls at the Reform service.

#### ISRAELI BASKETBALL TEAM TO APPEAL BAN OF AMERICAN STAR RICHARDSON

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- The manager of a top Israeli professional basketball team has said he will appeal the International Basketball Association (IBA) ban of former American star Micheal Ray Richardson.

The Munich-based IBA was reported Monday to have informed the Israeli Basketball Association that Richardson was ineligible to play in Israel. An Israeli basketball official said no reason was given and that the decision was final.

However, Avraham Hemmo, manager of the Hapoel Ramat Gan team that had signed Richardson, reported that an IBA official told him that Richardson's two-year ban from the U.S. National Basketball Association was a major factor in the IBA ban.

Richardson, 30, and a former New Jersey Nets star, was barred from the NBA in the midst of last season after testing positively for cocaine three times. He said he had hoped to begin his return to the NBA by playing well in Israel. He reportedly had signed a one-year contract with the Israeli team worth \$60,000, after earning \$750,000 per year with the Nets. He was to have his debut in Israel Monday night.

The signing caused a storm in Israeli basketball circles. The Jerusalem Post quoted Moshe Weinkranz, coach of the rival Hapoel Tel Aviv, as claiming he refused on ethical grounds to sign Richardson for \$40,000. The head of the Knesset

Sport Committee, Pinhas Goldstein (Likud), said allowing Israel to field banned athletes is unethical and unsportsmanlike. On the other hand, some sportswriters have contended that Richardson should get his comeback chance in Israel. Hemmo said weekly medical exams had shown Richardson has been drug-free for three months.

**ABRAM SAYS HE IS CONFIDENT REAGAN MADE PROGRESS ON SOVIET JEWRY ISSUE AT HIS MEETING WITH GORBACHEV**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), expressed confidence Monday that President Reagan made progress on the human rights issue, including Soviet Jewry, at his meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland.

"For the first time the Soviets recognized that these are issues that are on the table and appropriate for international and bilateral discussion," he told reporters after a 30-minute meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz at the State Department.

Abram, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was accompanied at the meeting by Shoshana Cardin, president, Council of Jewish Federations; Ruth Popkin, president, Hadassah; Jerry Goodman, executive director, NCSJ; and Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director, Presidents Conference. They were given a detailed briefing on the human rights aspects of the meeting in Iceland. "We are satisfied that the President of the United States and the Secretary made a herculean effort on behalf of human rights in general and on behalf of Jewish rights in particular," Abram said. He said he was certain Shultz would continue this when he goes to Vienna on November 4 to participate in the conference to review the Helsinki accords.

Abram noted that at Reykjavik the Soviets agreed to discuss human rights which up to then they had maintained was an internal matter despite the three international agreements on human rights the Soviet Union had signed.

"Once jurisdiction is acknowledged of the right to discuss the matter at international fora then I think there is a chance of progress," Abram said. Abram, who is a lawyer, stressed that this is true even though no agreement was signed in Iceland. "You don't have to sign an agreement to have jurisdiction," he said.

He noted that both Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze took material from Reagan and Shultz supplied by the NCSJ and there was evidence "they read it" since their aides referred to it in later discussions.

Meanwhile, the State Department announced Tuesday that when Shultz addresses the follow-up meeting to review the Helsinki accords, "the U.S. will press for significantly improved compliance by the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe ... particularly those concerning human rights, human contacts and humanitarian cooperation," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

He said that Shultz expects to meet with Shevardnadze, although the meeting has not been officially scheduled. Redman said Shultz has scheduled meetings with the NATO Foreign Ministers and with the Austrian Foreign Minister. But when asked whether Shultz would meet with Aus-

trian President Kurt Waldheim, Redman said he has nothing beyond the announced schedule.

**FIVE ORTHODOX JEWS ARRESTED IN MOSCOW ARE RELEASED AFTER BEING DEFENDED BY A JEWISH LAWYER**  
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Five young Orthodox Jews arrested in front of Moscow's main synagogue on Simchat Torah were released Monday after being defended by a Jewish lawyer who lives in Paris and New York, according to press reports from Moscow. The lawyer, Samuel Pissar, who was in Moscow with a delegation of the American Jewish Congress, has had frequent dealings with the Soviet Union.

The five -- identified as Sasha Lieberov, Sasha Zhukov, Vladimir Geyzel, Sasha Ilin and Konstan Alexieiev -- were detained for disturbing the peace and each fined 50 Rubles, the equivalent of about \$75. They had been arrested immediately after the departure of writer Elie Wiesel, who was in Moscow to arrange for Soviet participation in a conference on non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust, to be held in Washington in February. While there, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient for 1986 also met with Soviet Jewish refuseniks. Wiesel had sought without success to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov.

The Simchat Torah celebrations in Moscow draw a large crowd every year of Jews who do not otherwise attend synagogue, and it is the main Jewish event in the Soviet Union. On this occasion, Jews gather in front of the Choral Synagogue and sing and dance in the holiday's tradition. The five who were arrested were involved in a "tussle," according to the press. Pissar reportedly said two police cars drove slowly down the street to disperse noisy celebrants.

Pissar told the press that he was called upon in his hotel Monday morning by a group of Jews who asked him to go to the Kalinin Borough courthouse, where, the five were to appear. Pissar said that a crowd of about 100 relatives and friends of the defendants had gathered in front of the building. He told the press, that he wrote a note to court officials saying he was a lawyer familiar with Soviet law and offered his assistance.

Pissar said he was then invited to the judge's chambers, where, he told the press, he explained that he had been present at the synagogue during the festivities and that the celebrations were expected on this particular holiday. Pissar said he was then permitted to attend the police proceedings on the case. Under Soviet law, police may administer minor penalties. Pissar described the Soviet magistrate as being polite as she questioned the five men and assessed the fines.

The arrests occurred as Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Soviet Council of Religious Affairs, was visiting Simchat Torah celebrations in New York as the guest of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. In a press conference last week, Kharchev denied harassment of persons engaging in religious activities.

Of the confluence of events, Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, told JTA: "It belies all of the statements made by Mr. Kharchev that are designed to throw sand in our eyes and obscure the true facts. Mr. Kharchev's mission is one of disinformation; the arrests are a Soviet reality."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### ISRAELI RESCUE TEAM IN EL SALVADOR

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- A two-member Israeli rescue team that went to El Salvador to help the victims of the devastating earthquake there October 10 said they "encountered scenes of terrible destruction and human agony. Many efforts were made to save trapped children, men and women under the rubble caused by the earthquake -- but many people are still trapped and in urgent need of help, if they are still alive."

This situation was described by Col. (Res.) Gavriel Rappaport, a former head of the Israel Defense Force rescue unit, and Moshe Rubin, an agronomist who established the Israel Agency to Save Human Lives, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency upon their arrival here from El Salvador a few days ago.

The two men stayed in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador and the city hit hardest by the quake, for three days evaluating the rescue efforts of teams from various countries and those from El Salvador and advising the authorities on how to streamline the efforts to save more lives. More than 1,000 people were reported killed in the earthquake.

Rappaport said he gained a vast knowledge of how to help disaster victims during his army service that included rescue efforts of Israeli soldiers trapped in a building in Tyre, Lebanon, after a gas container exploded and destroyed the building. More than 70 soldiers and 30 Arab terrorists who were being held in a detention area in the building were killed and scores of Israelis were burned in that 1983 disaster. Rappaport also participated in rescue efforts following the 1985 earthquake in Mexico and last month's earthquake in Greece.

#### Efforts Did Not Go Unnoticed

The two Israeli volunteers arrived in El Salvador with a half ton of medical supplies for the earthquake victims sent by the Israeli government.

"Upon our arrival we received a letter from the Salvadorian authorities and a pass permit to the devastated areas. The rescue efforts there were going slowly. In many cases there was lack of proper equipment, such as heavy bulldozers and cranes to clear the rubble and free the trapped victims," Rubin said.

The effort of the Israeli team, however small in size, did not go unnoticed. The picture of the two appeared in the El Salvador daily *El Diario De Hoy* with a short story on their efforts to help.

"We believe that such efforts by Israelis can help Israel's image around the world. Israel is pictured as a militaristic state. We want to show the true face of the people of Israel who care about human life and are ready to extend humanitarian help wherever and whenever need," said Rubin, who is a member of Kibbutz Hulata, north of the Sea of Galilee. Rappaport, a member of Kibbutz Beit Alfa in the Jezreel Valley, nodded in agreement.

The two said they were late in reaching El Salvador because it took time to raise money for the trip. They said the Israel Agency to Save Human Lives, which sponsored their trip, is newly formed and has almost no financial resources at present. "Originally we had a team of four-- with a doctor and an expert on rescue dogs--

but for financial reasons we had to do with only a two-member rescue team," they said.

## BACKGROUND REPORT

### JEWISH CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING IN NOVEMBER

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Jews, who have been increasing their numbers in Congress with every election, stand a good chance of continuing this trend in the November elections.

This is especially true in the Senate, where there are now eight Jews, evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. Five Jews are seeking Senate seats, including two incumbents, Sens. Warren Rudman (R. NH) and Arlen Specter (R. Pa.).

One of the three others is Missouri Lieutenant Governor Harriet Woods, a Democrat, who hopes to become the first Jewish woman elected to the Senate. Woods lost in an earlier attempt four years ago against Sen. John Danforth (R. Mo.). This time she is running against former Republican Governor Christopher Bond for the seat being vacated by Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D. Mo.).

The other two Jewish Senatorial candidates are Rep. Ken Kramer (R. Colo.), who opposes Rep. Timothy Wirth (D. Colo.), for the seat being vacated by Sen. Gary Hart (D. Colo.); and Mark Green, who was a surprise victor in the New York Democratic primary and is trying to unseat Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY).

In the House, 28 of the 30 Jewish members -- 24 Democrats and four Republicans -- are seeking re-election. The other two are Kramer and Rep. Bobbi Fiedler (R. CA), who was defeated in the California Republican primary for the Senate.

Among those seeking election to the House is Bella Abzug, who in 1970 was the first Jewish woman elected to Congress. She gave up that seat in 1976 for an unsuccessful bid for the Senate. Abzug, a Democrat, formerly represented a Manhattan district now held by Rep. Theodore Weiss (D. NY). She is now running in Westchester against one-term Rep. Joseph DiGuardi.

Other Jewish candidates include, Benjamin Cardin in Maryland, James Cohen in Connecticut, and Rosemary Pooler in upstate New York, all Democrats; and Marc Holtzman, a Republican, running in Pennsylvania.

There are two Jews also running for Governor, both Democrats. They are Madeleine Kunin, seeking her second term in Vermont, and Neil Goldschmidt, former mayor of Portland and Secretary of Transportation in the Carter Administration, running in Oregon.

## ADL WINS PAYMENT FROM LaROUCHE

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has received a check for \$1,178.86 from Lyndon LaRouche -- a court-ordered payment to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by ADL during the political extremist's failed libel suit against the agency, the ADL announced Monday. The order to pay came from the Virginia District Court, which rejected LaRouche's claim that he was defamed when described as an "anti-Semite" and a "small-time Hitler" by an ADL official on the NBC-TV program "First Camera" in March 1984.