



**ISRAELIS WHO MET WITH PLO
 TO BE QUESTIONED BY POLICE**
 By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 14 (JTA) -- Members of a 15-person unofficial Israeli delegation that met with Palestine Liberation Organization leaders in Budapest last week were greeted Sunday at the airport by Israeli police.

The delegates were told to report to police stations within the next few days for questioning about their meetings. Under a recently passed law, Israelis can be sentenced to three years in prison for meeting with PLO personnel. But the head of the left-wing delegation, MK Charlie Biton (Communist), enjoys parliamentary immunity.

The delegation met with PLO Executive member Abu Mazeb and seven other PLO officials. A lawyer who accompanied the Israelis is expected to explain that the open and announced meeting was not subversive, and was intended to establish contacts that could lead to Israeli-Arab peace.

**THREE U.S. JEWISH PEACENIKS
 SAY PLO LEADERS WHOM THEY MET LAST
 MONTH INTERESTED IN PEACE TALKS**
 By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA) -- Three American Jews met last month in Tunis with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leaders including Chairman Yasir Arafat.

The delegation, representing separate peace organizations which support a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, reported Friday that the PLO made clear its interest in negotiating a peace settlement. "Anyone who doubts that should get involved in negotiations with the group," said Jerome Segal of the Washington Area Jews for an Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

But the delegates, who stated they did not attempt negotiations of their own during their week stay in Tunis, said the PLO stopped short of agreeing to abrogate its charter which does not recognize Israel's existence.

"They told us they cannot now," admitted Hilda Silverman of New Jewish Agenda. "It's a real psychological problem for both sides. Their constituency is desperate and they have to speak to that constituency. They cannot give up the kinds of things they would like to."

"They told us there has to be recognition (of the PLO) before we go further. They've gone so far and they offered some illuminating examples such as a willingness to meet with Jewish democratic forces. They need to hear more from us," she added.

Met 10 PLO Leaders

The three Americans, who say they would like to meet with Jewish groups to discuss their visit, met for two hours with Arafat and later with nine other PLO leaders. They believe the Palestinians have a right to feel frustrated that their case has been misunderstood and ignored.

"We are talking to people who are subject to violence every day of their life," said Silverman when asked how the three Americans felt about Palestinian-sponsored terrorism. Silverman also

said Arafat said he was not involved in the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in which an American was killed.

The members of the peace groups say efforts in Congress to close PLO offices in the U.S. is another attempt to negate Palestinian importance and would just create another stumbling block to negotiations.

"Rather than close the offices, we should send speakers to the communities' centers," noted Mary Appelman of the American Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, the third member of the delegation.

Although the three Americans represent organizations which lack wide support, they believe they are part of a "silent majority" that may slowly be finding its voice.

Recently Reuven Kaminer, the vice-provost of the Rothberg School for Overseas Students at Hebrew University, joined 22 Israeli delegates to Rumania to meet with the PLO. Kaminer is now imprisoned under an Israeli law which makes it an offense to meet with terrorist organizations.

"Something new is happening. There's a current out there and our delegation and our meeting was part of it," said Segal.

**BAIL FOR SEVEN OF 13 WHO ALLEGEDLY
 ATTACKED PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP**

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem magistrate's court released on bail Friday seven of the 13 West Bank settlers alleged to have participated in an armed attack on the Dahiisha refugee camp during the night of June 6.

The seven had been charged with stone-throwing and illegal demonstration. The six remaining in custody are charged with rioting, firing weapons into an inhabited area and causing extensive damage. They are under the jurisdiction of a Jerusalem district court, where Judge Tzvi Cohen remanded them in custody until Tuesday. The State Attorney had requested that they be held until legal proceedings against them are completed. He will renew his arguments when the remand expires.

**HERZOG RIPS VIGILANTISM; RESERVISTS
 REPORT ON HEBRON JEWISH MILITIA**
 By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 14 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog has again lashed out against the "dangerous phenomenon in Israel where persons -- some of them under the guise of the Jewish religion -- take the law into their own hands."

Herzog's remarks, in a speech to graduates of Tel Aviv University Law School Thursday night, were an obvious reference to militant Jewish settlers in the West Bank who have committed acts of violence against the local Arab population and clashed with the Israel Defense Force.

"We have reached a most dangerous stage in which hands are raised against IDF soldiers, they are harmed and held in contempt, and violent acts and 'reprisals' are carried out indiscriminately against the civilian population," Herzog said. His words were borne out by a public statement

released Wednesday by three IDF officers and 27 soldiers after completing three weeks of reserve duty in Hebron. The reservists, whose personal views cover most of the political spectrum, testified that "Service in Hebron demonstrated to us the existence of a kind of popular militia there which acts in an organized and dangerous fashion."

The statement, published in Hadashot, said: "We witnessed the helplessness and confusion of the army when it had to confront these radical, violent and armed Israeli citizens. We can testify to grave violations of order, provocations and attacks against Arabs perpetrated by children, youth, women and men from Beit Hadassah and Tel Rumcida and the Beit Romano yeshiva."

All of the sites mentioned are enclaves established by militant Orthodox Jews in the heart of the Arab town. The reservists urged the Defense Minister and the government to end the phenomenon.

Herzog, without referring to the soldiers' report, said: "These are deeds of the utmost gravity, deserving denunciation and condemnation. They not only constitute legal offenses, but denial of the State's authority and directly help the terrorist organizations and our enemies who are striving to prove that peaceful coexistence is impossible under Israeli rule."

ISRAELIS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH EQUAL RIGHTS, EMPLOYMENT FOR ARABS: POLLS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 14 (JTA) -- A survey of Israeli youth has found a high degree of anti-Arab militancy and a pervasive opposition to equal rights for Israel's Arabs.

The results were discussed at a study day on "Values, Youth and Security" sponsored by the Israel Defense Force and the Gadna youth movement in cooperation with Tel Aviv University's School of Education.

Dr. Mina Tzemah of the Dahaf Institute, who conducted the survey, reported that about 40 percent of Israeli youth support Jewish terrorist organizations, although only 10 percent were prepared to join such a group. About 10 percent identified themselves as extremists in the mold of Rabbi Meir Kahane and 30 percent said they tended to support Kahane's goal of an Israeli state free of all Arabs. Kahane himself no longer enjoys much support among youth.

Tzemah said the education-for-democracy programs at Israeli schools have resulted in a higher percentage of support among young people for the concept of Israel as a democratic state. But the support, apparently, is only in theory.

Tzemah reported that 60 percent of youths continue to believe there is no justification to grant equal rights to Israel's Arab citizens and 45 percent favor legislation to prohibit criticism of the government over its handling of its relations with the Arab world.

Negative On Employment

A negative attitude by Israelis toward equal employment opportunities for Arabs was found by Prof. Sami Smoocha of Haifa University, who conducted a survey among 1,200 Jews outside of the administered territories.

He reported at a university symposium that the majority in Israel accepts the employment of Arabs as construction workers or in menial jobs such as cleaners and is suspicious of the employ-

ment of Arab university graduates. Smoocha said that 45 percent of Jews favor firing Arab workers before Jewish workers, 68 percent would not work under an Arab superior and 81 percent believed that Jews must be given preference over Arabs with respect to job opportunities.

Smoocha said this attitude seems to stem from the fact that Israel is a Jewish state and therefore Jews must enjoy privileges. He also reported that 83 percent of his respondents think only some Israeli Arabs are loyal to the state and the same percentage perceived Arabs to be a danger to Israel's security.

No To Council Members

A majority of Israelis look with disfavor on the idea of an Arab member of the Jerusalem City Council, according to a poll taken by the Telesker Institute between June 8-10. The results, published in Hadashot, showed that 51.9 percent of the respondents saw the announcement by East Jerusalem Arab editor Hanna Seniora that he should stand for election in the next municipal elections to be "bad or negative for Israel."

A 23.3 percent minority thought Seniora's initiative was "good or positive from Israel's viewpoint" and 24.8 percent had no opinion.

FRENCH ELECT NEW CHIEF RABBI
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 14 (JTA) -- Joseph Sitruk, a 42-year-old Algerian-born ultra-Orthodox rabbi, was elected Chief Rabbi of France Sunday, succeeding Rene Sirat, who did not seek a second term. Sitruk will take office on Jan. 1, 1988.

Sitruk, who is Chief Rabbi of Marseilles, which has the largest Jewish community outside Paris, was elected by a 200-member General Assembly representing synagogues, religious communities and the Central Consistory, which administers Jewish religious foundations in France.

He won a majority on the first ballot over his only challenger, Rabbi Jacob Madar, who is expected to be elected Chief Rabbi of Paris when the local consistory meets next Sunday.

Although Sitruk advocates strict interpretation of all religious laws, he is reputed to be an outstanding administrator and community leader. He is credited with re-organizing the Marseilles Jewish community during his nine years as Chief Rabbi there.

The fact that Sitruk, Sirat and Madar are all of Algerian birth was seen here as an affirmation of the dominant role North African Jews now play in French Jewish community affairs.

It is believed that Sirat declined to stand for reelection because of personal differences with the head of the Central Consistory, Jean-Paul Elkan.

ATTORNEY SAYS BARBIE SHOULD BE SET FREE REGARDLESS OF VERDICT
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 14 (JTA) -- A legal stratagem by which Klaus Barbie's attorney hopes to get the former Lyon Gestapo chief released from prison whether or not he is convicted of crimes against humanity was disclosed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Sunday.

Attorney Jacques Verges said he would make a formal plea for Barbie's release when the trial resumes in Lyon Monday. Verges told the JTA that under French criminal law a person convicted

more than once for crimes committed during the same period of time can serve only the most severe of the sentences imposed. Barbie was convicted in absentia of war crimes and sentenced to death in 1952, a penalty he evaded by finding haven in Bolivia.

The 20-year statute of limitations on war crimes convictions expired 15 years ago. Verges claims that since capital punishment was abolished in France in 1981, Barbie now faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. According to Verges, "all lesser sentences will now have to be encompassed by the 1952 verdict in spite of the fact it can no longer be applied. Such is the law. Barbie will have to be set free after his trial ends," he told the JTA.

Presiding Judge Andre Cerdini is expected to rule on Verges' plea when the trial ends, possibly on July 3 or 4. The prosecution and lawyers for individual plaintiffs are likely to argue that since the 1952 sentence was never carried out, it cannot encompass lesser sentences.

But court officials acknowledged that a difficult legal tangle is in the offing and will probably be resolved on the basis of precedents—if any can be found.

Barbie, the wartime "butcher of Lyon," went on trial there on May 11. He claimed at the outset that he was "kidnapped" to France and was being tried illegally. On May 13 he asked to be returned to his prison cell and, except for a brief appearance to be formally identified by witnesses, he has boycotted the proceedings. French law does not require a defendant to be present in court during the trial.

ETHIOPIAN JEWS DEMAND ACTION

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA) -- Hundreds of Ethiopian immigrants demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office Sunday on behalf of the thousands of Jews unable to leave Ethiopia.

They demanded the release of 37 Jews reportedly imprisoned there for trying to organize immigration to Israel. Baruch Tegenya, a spokesman for the demonstrators, told reporters the 37 were arrested for distributing relief funds to needy Jewish families in Ethiopia.

He likened them to the "Prisoners of Zion" in the Soviet Union, and contended that if the Israel government can exert pressure on their behalf, it can do so also for Jews imprisoned in Ethiopia. He also said there are about 1,500 Ethiopian children in Israel without families.

FALLOW-YEAR WHEAT IS KERNEL OF DEBATE OVER RELIGION IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 14 (JTA) -- The Cabinet grappled Sunday with a new controversy that has split Orthodox and secular Jews and threatens to divide the religious establishment.

At issue is the planned export of much of Israel's bumper wheat crop to accommodate Orthodox Jews who will not use flour made from wheat grown on Jewish-owned land during "shmita" -- every seventh year when the land must lie fallow according to biblical injunction.

Wheat for domestic consumption will be imported, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars to the Treasury, under an arrangement agreed to by Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon. But the matter has gone beyond the import of wheat to the broader issue of whether

Orthodox Jews can force their beliefs and practices on the rest of the society.

The authority of a Cabinet Minister to yield to the demands of a segment of the population and the status of the Chief Rabbinate as the arbiter of religious observance in Israel have also been called into question. The Chief Rabbinate ruled this year, as it has in previous years, that wheat grown during "shmita" could be consumed if the wheat-bearing land was "sold" to a non-Jew. The token sale was originated in 1919 by the then-Chief Rabbi, Avraham Hacohen Kook, to resolve the problem.

Ruling Rejected

But this year, ultra-Orthodox Jews refused to accept the Chief Rabbinate's decision and threatened to boycott local flour mills. The more moderate Orthodox saw this as an affront to the Chief Rabbinate. National Religious Party Minister Yosef Shapira threatened to leave the government if the Cabinet decided the matter over the heads of the Chief Rabbis.

Sharon told his colleagues that he reached a compromise agreement with the Chief Rabbis whereby wheat grown locally on land nominally sold to a non-Jew will be available, but bakeries which have observed strict "shmita" regulations in past years would have access to imported wheat for their customers.

Shapira was mollified, but Immigration Minister Yaacov Tsur criticized Sharon for yielding to demands by the ultra-Orthodox Aguda, Israel and Shas parties. Legal experts said Sharon's agreement with the extreme Orthodox bloc contravened the spirit of Supreme Court rulings that prohibit Cabinet Ministers from formulating policy on civil matters to comply with religious laws.

STUDY OF DESTRUCTION OF GRODNO'S JEWRY PRESENTED TO YAD VASHEM

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA) -- A five-volume documented study of the destruction of the Jewish community of Grodno, a city in northeast Poland, was presented to the Yad Vashem Archives Sunday by Nazi-hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld.

The study includes trial and pre-trial documents from war crimes proceedings conducted in West Germany which the German authorities had refused to release until now. The Klarsfelds told a press conference that they are "the most important collection on the Holocaust ever put together."

The volumes are collectively titled "Documents Concerning the Destruction of the Jews of Grodno, 1941-1945." Copies will be distributed to all of the major documentation centers on the Nazi era and war criminal archives.

Of the 35,000 Jews in the Grodno ghetto who were deported to Auschwitz and Treblinka, 70 survived. One of the survivors, Felix Sandman, who testified at the trials of the Gestapo commanders in charge of the ghetto, told the press conference that he had asked the German government at the time to release the trial documents, but was refused. He said he appealed to Klarsfeld who eventually succeeded in obtaining the documents.

Five Polish non-Jews who saved Sandman's life were honored by trees planted in their names Sunday in the "Avenue of Righteous Gentiles" of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR NOT?
ISRAELI SPOKESMEN HAVE IT OUT**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA) -- Talks here this week by two leading Israeli political figures illustrated just how polarized their parties' views are on an international Mideast peace conference.

Yossi Beilin, Political Director General of the Israel Foreign Ministry, stressed Wednesday that an international conference is the "only option" now open to bring about direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

If such a conference were held and failed, then there might be "a chance for another option," he said in an interview at the Israel Embassy here. "Unless this option is exhausted, you won't know whether there is another option."

Beilin, a close associate of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labor Party, spoke with four reporters from the Jewish press the day after Likud MK Dan Meridor argued here against the international conference on the grounds that its aim was to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East process.

"The Soviets have to be in, otherwise there won't be an international conference," Beilin said.

Foreign Policy magazine and then at the Brookings Institution.

He was visiting the U.S. under the auspices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Not Now, Meridor Says

Meridor argued that the questions of borders and sovereignty of the West Bank cannot be settled at this time. He said both Israel and Jordan want peace but are "not ready to compromise on territory."

Instead of getting bogged down on these issues, Israel and Jordan should discuss how to allow the Palestinians to run their own affairs in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza with minimum interference from Israel except for security matters, he recommended. This is basically the autonomy plan as envisioned by the Camp David Accords.

He said that if autonomy worked then both sides might be ready to discuss the issues of sovereignty over the areas and possible compromises over the territory.

The best solution, according to Meridor, would be for the Palestinians to maintain citizenship in Jordan and participate in its government and the Jewish settlers on the West Bank continue as citizens of Israel.

He said if no agreement was possible then he would allow the Palestinians in the territories to opt for Israeli citizenship, which would mean an increase in the number of Arabs in the Knesset.

Beilin Sees Opportunity Now

But Beilin said the time is ripe to make moves on peace. "There is now an opportunity, there is an opening as a result of very intensive and low-profile negotiations, with the participation of the Americans, in the Middle East for the last two years," Beilin said.

For Beilin, "The question is whether we are going to continue and have a war every seven or eight years" or try something else.

He maintained that the Cabinet has made no formal decision on the conference, but said he expects one within the next eight weeks before the Knesset adjourns for the summer. He said the decision could be made by the government or through the Knesset deciding on an early election.

He said Israel has nothing to fear. "Why should we be afraid of this conference, if we are not afraid of so many resolutions taken against us in the UN?" he said.

If Israel should agree on attending an international conference, Beilin believes it would only be a matter of months before it would be held. He said the first step would be for the U.S. and the Soviets to work out the "rules of the game."

At the same time, he stressed a "must" for Israel would be a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. on the conference.

The U.S. has said that such a conference must lead promptly to direct negotiations. The U.S. has also promised to walk out with Israel if the conference deadlocks.

MEDIA SPUR TERRORIST: SCHOLAR

TEL AVIV, June 14 (JTA) -- Media coverage increases the number of terrorist acts, their escalation and their spread, according to Dr. Gabriel Weiman of Haifa University.

Said Jordan Need 'Umbrella'

He said Jordan, which has demanded that an international conference include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, feels it needs the Soviets because of Moscow's ties with Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization. With the Soviet "umbrella," Jordan could then reach agreements without involving the PLO or Syria, he explained.

But Beilin stressed that "there is a consensus in Israel" that the USSR could not participate without improving its policy on the emigration of Soviet Jews and without first restoring diplomatic ties with Israel.

While in Washington, Beilin met with Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, and Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. One purpose was to discuss Murphy's upcoming meeting with his Soviet counterpart.

Meridor Prefers Camp David Process

The Israel Inner Cabinet recently deadlocked over an international conference, with Labor urging Israel's participation, and Likud opposed.

Indeed, Meridor maintained Tuesday that a return to the Camp David Accords, not an international conference, is the way to end the Arab-Israel conflict.

The Soviet Union is pressing for an international conference as a means of getting back into the Middle East, he stressed during two appearances here. He said allowing this would neither benefit Israel nor the United States.

Meridor stressed that the conference would not be an "umbrella" for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan, but would deal with substantive issues. "America and Russia will be courting the Arabs," he said, "and it will be at our expense."

Meridor, who was elected to the Knesset in 1984 after serving two years as Cabinet Secretary under Premiers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, gave his views on the peace process. First at a breakfast for reporters at the offices of