

**PLO FACTION THREATENS ARAB
MULLING JERUSALEM COUNCIL SEAT**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- Hanna Seniora, the Arab journalist who announced he might seek election to the Jerusalem City Council next year, has run into more trouble from fellow Palestinian nationalists than from the most militant Jews.

Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem daily Al-Fajr, has been threatened by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Syrian-backed terrorist organization held responsible for the murders of Palestinian moderates in the West Bank, among them Nablus Mayor Zafer Al-Masri.

The PFLP took credit for torching Seniora's two cars Sunday. It warned that unless he toes the "national line" he would be tried by a "popular court." This was seen as a death threat.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which Seniora openly supports, has criticized his move. Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian intellectual, called it "premature." Elias Zananiri, editor of the East Jerusalem English weekly Al-Awda, said Seniora was opportunistic and egotistical.

He touched off the barrage of criticism when he told a group of foreign journalists on June 4 that he would head an Arab list in the next municipal elections.

Seniora explained that it was better to challenge the Israelis through their own democratic system than on the battlefield. He said it was time the Arabs took advantage of their growing proportion of the population to demand full rights in Israeli institutions.

Could Have Third Of Seats

The 125,000 Arab residents of Jerusalem could command a third of the City Council seats if all of those eligible to vote cast ballots for an Arab list.

Israeli moderates, including Mayor Teddy Kollek, promptly welcomed Seniora's plan to run for office. Jewish militants demanded the law be amended to preclude the possibility. They argued that an avowed supporter of the PLO must not be allowed to stand for election. Some suggested that any candidate should be required to take an oath of allegiance to Israel.

Seniora himself has since backed off. He said his announcement was more symbolic than an expression of immediate political intentions. He acknowledged that the Palestinian community in East Jerusalem and the administered territories is not ready for bold political moves.

**ARAFAT REPORTED READY TO MEET
ISRAELI MKS, ADVOCATE NATIONAL
RIGHTS OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- PLO chief Yasir Arafat is ready to meet, at the earliest possible date in any European country to be agreed upon, with a group of Israeli MKs, according to Labor Knesset member Abdel Wahab Darousha, quoted in Davar Sunday.

Darousha has just returned from the U.S., where he attended a meeting of Arab Americans, with MK Ran Cohen of the Citizens Rights Movement.

Davar quoted Darousha as saying that following such a meeting, which would deal with ways to advance the peace process, Arafat would be ready to issue a joint communique advocating the national rights of both nations.

Darousha said that Arafat's readiness for such a meeting was conveyed to him in Washington by a senior Arab personage who is very close to the PLO leader and who was authorized to do so.

Darousha termed the Arafat proposal "an historic breakthrough" and said he would be ready to take part in the meeting.

In the course of the conference of Arab Americans, Darousha met with a Saudi Deputy Minister, Abdul Rahman Al Kamal, who expressed support for an international conference as the means to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al Hamishmar quoted the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al Quds Sunday as reporting that the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Robert Strauss, invited the PLO representative in Turkey to official receptions at the U.S. Embassy twice within the past month.

**REVISED DESIGN FOR HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
APPROVED, BUT SOME SURVIVORS MIFFED**
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA) -- A revised design for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was approved Friday by the federal Commission of Fine Arts clearing the way for construction to begin later this year.

The approval came about a month after the museum's original design was rejected for being too imposing. The Commission had decided that the museum's hexagonal-shaped memorial, the Hall of Remembrance, protruded too far into the street.

Architect James Freed of the firm of I.M. Pei admitted that he initially thought that changing the memorial's design would destroy its symbolism. But by shrinking the size of the Hall of Remembrance, and pulling it further into line with the adjacent government buildings, he created a design he liked even more.

"We now had an opportunity we didn't have before; namely, wonderful landscape. This could be a wonderful urban garden on the (Washington) Mall," Freed said. "It has its own identity as a part of the Mall and it's also abstract."

New York State Sen. Roy Goodman (R.), a member of the Commission, noted that Freed's revisions "embodied our major objections and in its present form, the museum designs are...acceptable and will be a great asset to the community."

Question Its Propriety

But controversy over the Holocaust museum, which was approved by Congress in 1979, remain. Some Holocaust survivors are still questioning whether the museum, which will be five stories high and feature a learning center, library and

archives, is appropriate for a tragedy such as the Holocaust. "The Holocaust experience is not translatable into concrete structures of brick and stone," Gerda Bikales, a resident of McLean, Va., told the Commission. "No amount of theaters and audio-visual centers can capture it. If we are to have a memorial let it be at a symbolic level -- a small meditation center, surrounded by a grove of trees."

Many of the museum's critics say the placing of the names of donors on the walls of the museum belittles the experience of those who perished anonymously in the Holocaust.

But David Weinstein, executive director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, told reporters later that his group was "raising money in an accepted manner." Without funds, he said, the museum, which will cost an estimated \$45 million to \$50 million, cannot be built.

Commission member Neil Porterfield admitted he was moved emotionally by the Holocaust survivors who are opposed to the museum, but said that it was not the Commission's role to decide on the museum's appropriateness.

The Holocaust museum, which was expected to be completed this year, has been enmeshed in a series of controversies which came to a head last December with the resignation of Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel as chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Council officials say Wiesel's departure did not signal his disapproval of the museum and he remains involved in its construction. But Weinstein admitted that not many Holocaust survivors are contributing to the museum.

"The conflict over the exterior of the building is but a prelude to a far greater controversy over the eventual contents of this museum," said Gerda Bikales' husband, Norbert, who also testified before the Commission. "I am afraid that the contemporary America, with its great multiplicity of vocal interest groups, would find great difficulty in coping with that problem, and the museum has the potential of creating antagonisms instead of healing them."

PERES BEGINS EUROPEAN TRIP FOR MIDEAST CONFERENCE SUPPORT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 22 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in London Monday to begin an eight-day round of meetings with Western European leaders to consolidate their support for an international conference for Middle East peace.

Peres and his Labor Party colleagues favor such a forum as a step to direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. But Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Likud are fiercely opposed. Peres hopes to obtain public backing from European leaders who seem inclined to favor the plan.

During his two-day stay in London, Peres will confer with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Tory and opposition leaders in Parliament.

He is due in Paris Wednesday for meetings with President Francois Mitterrand, Premier Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raymond. Raymond visited Israel a week ago and supported the conference idea.

Peres will arrive in Bonn on June 28 to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He will also visit Switzerland, mainly for a rest, but he has a meeting

scheduled in Bern with Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert.

Whatever support he may get for the international conference scenario, diplomatic observers expect no movement on the plan for the next six months.

One reason is that the rotating chairmanship of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers will be taken over on July 1 by Denmark, which is considered the most pro-Israel of the 12 EEC member states and not likely to act unless there is a consensus in Israel.

The outgoing chairman, Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans of Belgium, has been a major advocate of an international conference. He told a meeting of the Parliament of Europe in Strasbourg a week ago that the EEC's support for a conference was one of the major achievements of his six-month tenure.

The EEC decided last February to back a conference as the best means to achieve peace in the Middle East. "With this initiative, Europe has a voice in the Middle East for the first time since 1948," Tindemans said. The Belgian diplomat visited leaders of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Israel last April and May on behalf of the EEC to discuss the peace process. He has also conferred with senior American and Soviet officials.

But since then he was given no mandate to continue his exploratory mission. The EEC moreover is presently preoccupied with the situation in the Persian Gulf, the observers said.

ISRAEL MAY FACE STRIKE WAVE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- Labor action is intensifying in Israel. A near total blackout of state-owned radio and television entered its third day Monday as a wage dispute with broadcast technicians remained unresolved. The country will face an inter-city bus strike Tuesday morning and a general strike of public employees may be in the offing.

The broadcast technicians are demanding payment of a six percent wage increase retroactive to April 1985, when it was awarded them by a labor court. The Treasury has balked and the Israel Broadcast Authority has refused to pay the increase without Treasury approval.

Management declared a "protective lockout" at Israel Radio and advised listeners to tune into the army radio station, Galei Tzahal. Educational television is continuing, as is television coverage of the trial of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk.

Histadrut's trade union department announced Monday that it has given the required two weeks' notice of a general strike in the public sector. Department head Chaim Hershfeld said the strike would be called if wage negotiations which resume Thursday show no progress in the next two weeks.

The management of the Egged Bus Cooperative tendered its collective resignation Monday, blaming the Treasury for refusing to consider their subsidy needs. Local, suburban and inter-city bus service was to have halted Monday night, but Egged agreed to hold off until Tuesday morning at the request of Premier Yitzhak Shamir. According to Egged, it has no money to pay for gasoline. Shamir asked for the delay to allow the public time to make alternative travel arrangements.

CONSERVATIVES URGE 'COMPASSIONATE' OUTREACH POLICY ON CONVERSION

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- The United Synagogue of America, the congregational organization of Conservative Judaism, has called for a compassionate policy toward non-Jewish spouses in mixed marriages out of principle and as a response to the Reform movement's adoption of patrilineal descent as valid proof of Jewish identity.

The position was stated in a resolution approved at the quarterly International Board Meeting of the United Synagogue here June 7 and released the following week. It urged "the arms of the Conservative Movement to adopt an aggressive, active and compassionate conversion policy directed toward non-Jewish spouses, to be implemented and executed on a regional and local level, and that an accompanying outreach program be simultaneously initiated within the bounds of Conservative halacha, to deal with the mixed marriage issue."

Franklin Kreutzer, international president of the 1.5-million-member Conservative Movement, said: "Stemming the tide of mixed marriages as we enter the 21st century is a major priority of the United Synagogue of America and Conservative Jews. Only through a caring, concerned, committed conversion policy which is aggressively and actively pursued and compassionate in nature can we meet head-on the Reform Movement's abrogation of Jewish law and Jewish history," he said.

Kreutzer defined the role of the United Synagogue as sensitizing its affiliated synagogues to insure that they initiate outreach programs and develop a method of operation that is consistent with halacha, with the ultimate goal of preserving Judaism for future generations.

EAST GERMAN LEADER ORDERS REBUILDING OF JEWISH CEMETERY

By David Kantor

BONN, June 22 (JTA) -- The Adass Israel cemetery in East Berlin almost completely destroyed by the Nazis, will be rebuilt at the direct orders of East German leader Eric Honecker.

More than 100 persons, including survivors of the original Adass Israel congregation, attended ceremonies this week rededicating the burial ground. They were told by Klaus Gist, the minister in charge of religious affairs, that his government is committed to perpetuating the memory of Jewish life in Germany.

Honecker's attention was drawn to the cemetery by Mario Offenber, an Israeli who has recorded the history of the local Jewish community.

Heinrich Fink, an East German theologian, said students of the Von Humboldt University in East Berlin have volunteered to do maintenance work at the cemetery once it is restored.

The Orthodox Adass Israel congregation has been criticized by the larger Jewish community in East Berlin for going directly to the government to rehabilitate the cemetery.

GERMAN INSTITUTION FIRES SCHOLAR WHO CLAIMED HITLER CREATED ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, June 22 (JTA) -- A West German scholar in charge of editing a government-spon-

sored scientific edition of the letters and diaries of Theodore Herzl has been dismissed because of his recently published thesis that Hitler "created the State of Israel."

Two Israeli co-editors on the project said they could no longer work with Prof. Ernst Nolte of the Free University of West Berlin because of his attempts to rewrite history.

Nolte maintained that the Jews would eventually come to appreciate Hitler as the individual who contributed more than anyone else to the creation of the State of Israel. He also wrote that Americans would appreciate Hitler as the man who brought their country to the status of a superpower.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the government-backed institution managing the project, has engaged another scholar to complete it.

Meanwhile, Frans Josef Strauss, leader of the conservative Christian Social Union Party in Bavaria, told the Catholic Students Association in Munich this week that the time has come for Germans to "lay to rest the ghosts of the past." A people cannot live with what he called "a criminalized history." The Germans, he said, have "the same right to normality as other people."

YAD VASHEM HONORS SWISS MAN WHO NEVER TOLD OF WWII HEROISM

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 22 (JTA) -- The Yad Vashem's "Medal of the Just" has been conferred posthumously in Jerusalem on Friedrich Born of Switzerland. As a delegate of the International Red Cross in Budapest during World War II, Born worked with Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg to rescue Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps.

Unlike Wallenberg, whose deeds have been honored by Jews and non-Jews the world over, Born's activities remained a secret for more than 40 years. He mentioned them to no one, not even members of his family. He died in 1963.

Born worked in close collaboration with Wallenberg and in consultation with the Swiss Consul in Budapest, Carl Luntz.

While he made use of his Red Cross status, his mission was personal and he assumed sole responsibility. According to the Swiss Weekly "Construire," Born had no choice. Max Huber, who was president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the time, opposed any action to save Jews. Huber considered the plight of Jews an internal problem of the Hungarians in which the humanitarian organization should not interfere.

The world finally learned of Born's courage and dedication to saving Jewish lives through the tireless research of an Israeli lawyer, Arieh Ben-Tov, 63, whose family perished at Auschwitz. Ben-Tov gained access to Red Cross archives in Geneva and interviewed officials of the Swiss government in Bern and the World Jewish Congress.

Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, saved Jews by sheltering them in the Swedish Embassy and providing Swedish documents. Born acted similarly. He recruited 4,000 Jews as employees of the Red Cross, issuing them ICRC papers. He pressured Hungarian government officials and confiscated hospitals and homes where he hid many Jews under the Red Cross flag.

VOA STATION SIGNALS DEEPER TIES BETWEEN U.S., ISRAEL: REAGAN
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA) -- President Reagan and Israeli Communications Minister Gad Yaacobi stressed the growing partnership of the United States and Israel last week as the two countries signed an agreement for the building of a Voice of America relay station in the Negev.

"With this signing our special historic relationship will be given another dimension," Reagan said after the White House signing ceremony.

Yaacobi declared that the agreement "will open a new page to a higher stage of friendship and partnership between the United States and Israel."

Reagan said that "we owe the government of Israel much gratitude" for allowing the relay station to be built in the Arava section of the Negev, south of the Dead Sea.

The President spoke only in general terms about the U.S.-Israel relationship as a result of what he called "Israel's fine gesture."

Yaacobi was more specific in his remarks as he noted that the U.S. and Israel have been able to solve their occasional differences "in a way which increased our mutual commitments."

"Let us depart from the immediate shadows that cover the horizon," Yaacobi said. "Let us raise our eyes toward the future maintaining free democracies, strengthening our deterrent abilities and national security, fighting terrorism, doing our utmost toward real progress for peace by bringing together to the negotiating table Jordan, the Palestinian Arabs and Israel, creating the foundation for a Mideast common market, building a growing and stable economy in Israel, and maintaining and deepening the friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States."

Debated In Israel

The relay station was a source of controversy in Israel when the U.S. first proposed it two-and-a-half years ago. Many in Israel feared it might harm the cause of Soviet Jewry since it will allow enhanced broadcasting to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe by the VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

The relay station will be on 2500 acres and is expected to take five years to be built. It will have up to 16,500-kilowatt transmitters, 22 antennas and a satellite earth station.

The new facility will also enhance VOA transmission to Africa and Central Asia. It is part of a worldwide modernization program by the VOA which also includes sites in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Botswana and Morocco.

Charles Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency, presided over the White House ceremony. Among those attending from Israel was Amnon Rubinstein, who was Minister of Communications during most of the negotiations for the relay station.

JEWISH MEN MORE LIKELY TO MARRY NON-JEWS; WIVES MORE LIKELY TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM: SURVEY

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- A detailed study of non-Jewish-born spouses in mixed marriages has confirmed that Jewish men are much more likely to marry non-Jewish women than the reverse and that women are more likely to convert than men.

The study, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, was released at a press conference here Wednesday. It also found that most non-Jewish-born partners found it easy to integrate into the Jewish community, though few had been exposed to community "outreach" efforts. But they felt that born Jews lacked understanding for the converts' particular situation.

The study was conducted by Dr. Egon Mayer, professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, and Dr. Amy Avgar, assistant director of the AJCommittee's William Petschek National Jewish Family Center.

They based their findings on responses to questionnaires mailed in 1985 to a nationwide sample of born non-Jews married to Jews. Of the 309 respondents, 109 had converted to Judaism and 200 had not. Mayer reported that while 74 percent of the respondents were women, a higher proportion, 86 percent of the women, were converts.

Education, Income Correlated

The study found that converts tended to have somewhat more education and higher income than non-converts and appeared to have been more favorably disposed toward Judaism than non-converts. Women were more likely to convert if they considered religious affiliation important to begin with and felt conversion to Judaism would be important to her husband.

About two-thirds of the converts and approximately one-third of the non-converts viewed the Jewish family into which they married as being "very" or "moderately" religious. According to Mayer, "This might imply that many of them were actively encouraged to convert to Judaism by their Jewish families." Conversely, converts were more likely than non-converts to perceive their own parents as being "not at all" religious or "anti-religious."

More than 70 percent of the marriages involving a convert were performed by a rabbi compared to 21 percent of those involving a non-convert. But nearly 84 percent of the converts and 45 percent of non-converts said they had approached a rabbi to officiate at their marriage.

The study found that the Jewish behavior and attitudes of converts resembled born Jews affiliated with Orthodox, Conservative or Reform Judaism in America.

More than 68 percent of the converts, compared to 34.8 percent of non-converts, described themselves as "very" or "moderately" religious. Similarly, 84 percent of converts and 44.8 percent of non-converts thought it was "important to have a religious identity"; 73.8 percent of the converts and 59.5 percent of non-converts felt a "personal need to pray"; and 78.7 percent of converts and 62.2 percent of non-converts expressed belief in supernatural forces.

NEW IMMIGRANT FIRST WOMAN PRISONER OF ZION TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- Nadezhda Fradkova, who arrived in Israel Sunday, is the first woman Prisoner of Zion to immigrate from the USSR in many years, Israeli newspapers noted Monday. She spent the years 1984-86 in a Labor camp.

Another new arrival from the Soviet Union Sunday was Grigory Geishis, also a Prisoner of Zion, who spent two years in the "Gulag" for "avoiding army service."