

**ISRAELI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES STRIKE
SUNDAY OVER STATUS OF BARGAINING**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- More than 450,000 government and municipal employees were on a day-long strike Sunday affecting most of the public sector. Finance Minister Moshe Nissim shrugged off the widespread work stoppage as a familiar tactic employed by Histadrut whenever new wage contracts were about to be negotiated.

Histadrut leaders said negotiations began three months ago with no progress made. The trade union federation is seeking higher pay, especially for public employees at the lowest end of the wage scale. Histadrut said the government refused to consider demands for an across-the-board agreement or to negotiate separately with individual unions.

Although the strike affected all government offices and agencies and local authorities, including the postal services and telephone exchanges, Nissim reported only briefly to the Cabinet at its Sunday meeting on the status of negotiations.

The public was not entirely inconvenienced. Bus and taxi services were normal. Electricity and water supplies were not affected by the strike nor were health care institutions for the elderly, the handicapped and children. General hospitals and emergency rooms were run by skeleton staffs.

Railroad service was halted except for shipments of potash from the Dead Sea to the Ashdod port. Ben Gurion Airport was shut down from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Television was blacked out, but the strikers allowed a camera crew to film the arrival of prominent Soviet refusenik Yuri Edelshtein and his family on a 6:15 p.m. flight from Vienna. This was at the request of Soviet Jewry groups.

University students were allowed to take final exams scheduled for Sunday, but the schools themselves were closed. Fire-brigades and other emergency services were operated on a restricted Sabbath schedule.

Israel Radio was off the air except for the Arabic language service and foreign language news broadcasts beamed abroad.

**DEMJANJUK FIRES TOP COUNSEL BEFORE
DEFENSE PRESENTED AT 'IVAN' TRIAL**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk has fired his chief defense lawyer, American attorney Mark O'Connor. O'Connor said he would appeal the firing at a special court session Sunday on grounds that his client may not have been aware of the consequences of the dismissal he signed on June 30.

The trial, which opened in Jerusalem district court last February, is presently recessed. It is scheduled to resume at the end of July to hear the case for the defense.

There has been tension and open disagreement between O'Connor and the other two members of the defense team, one an Israeli, the other an American. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk is accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." The defense claims he is a victim of mistaken identity.

**PENALIZED GROUPS COMPLAIN OF BIAS,
INCONSISTENCY IN ZIONIST ELECTIONS**
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA) -- Several American Zionist organizations have accused the American Zionist Federation (AZF) of bias and inconsistency in the penalties it levelled against their slates in the recently concluded elections to the 31st World Zionist Congress.

Penalties were a direct result of the findings of Equifax, an independent auditing firm hired by AZF, which administered the American elections. Veteran Zionists said the Equifax audits of the 14 Zionist organizations' membership in this election were the strictest they could remember.

Equifax took a random sample of two percent of each organization's membership list and checked that:

- * Membership could be verified with appropriate documentation.

- * Total dues received matched the number of members on lists submitted to the AZF and corresponded to the amount of dues reportedly paid.

- * The "member" joined willingly and knowingly and with individual applications, especially in the case of group memberships.

- * Membership applications complied with other election rules including each member's documented acceptance of the Jerusalem Program.

On 10 percent of each two percent sample, Equifax ran a more thorough check, actually tracing dues payments directly to an individual member.

Rationale Revealed

The penalties translated into some substantial losses of mandates for the slates of three organizations, the Zionist Student Movement (ZSM), Religious Zionists of America (RZA) and Americans for Progressive Israel (API). The Equifax report, distributed to each organization involved after the election results were announced last week, provided the rationale behind the increasingly controversial penalties.

The newly formed Zionist Student Movement would have received one seat, but lost it after a 100 percent penalty because it had no financial records, according to the Equifax report.

RZA, which ran on the Religious Zionist Movement slate with Emunah and Amit women, suffered heavy losses, with a 100 percent penalty. Its slate lost 13 of 27 mandates.

According to the Equifax report, the audit covered 3,438 RZA members, or two percent of RZA's declared 169,484 members.

In every case, Equifax found discrepancies. "The number of discrepancies is a result of the fact that only 2,159 membership cards were presented for examination and we were unable to line specific dues payments deposits to membership financial records," the report said.

Equifax also checked RZA's bank records and found that its deposits fell short of the amount of money that would verify its 169,484 members, each paying \$18 in dues.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, RZA chairman, called the election a "sham" and said RZA "expects to go to (a U.S.) court to fight it." Bernstein said he believed the penalties were aimed at excluding

religious Zionists from the Congress. Bernstein also charged that the AZF ran the election improperly by disqualifying votes after the election was finished. "The parties should have been penalized before the voting. The lists should have been invalidated before ballots were sent out," Bernstein said.

The methods used to penalize slates had effectively disenfranchised the voters who cast the disqualified votes, he said. RZA's slate lost about 18,840 votes to penalties.

RZA also protested the redistribution of its votes to boost other slates, especially the Reform and Conservative slates, which made impressive showings in the election.

Also Charges Disenfranchisement

The API slate lost three of its four mandates due to an 81 percent penalty. Similarly, API complained that about 75 percent of its supporters were disenfranchised.

The Equifax report said API was penalized because its director "was unable to produce membership applications or other appropriate documentation for 80 percent of total membership."

Equifax found that these members were "gift members" and that there was no evidence that they were aware of their membership. The director of API told Equifax the gift memberships had been financed by a number of private donors, the report said.

Stephie Kirschner, API director, said she is "not sure uniform procedures were used in the audit." She claimed that no other organizations were examined or penalized for gift memberships.

There was no prohibition in the election rules against gift memberships. But one of the rules for eligibility to vote stated that a member's dues must be current.

API has filed an appeal which will be heard before an arbitration board called the Zionist Tribunal. The tribunal is comprised of one lawyer or representative selected by each organization which participated in the election.

Incomplete Records Blamed

Ray Patt, chairman of the Area Election Committee formed by the AZF to run the election, said most of the organizations were penalized because they did not have sufficient records to back up their membership claims.

Patt discounted the Orthodox party's claims of bias. "The Orthodox were treated in exactly the same fashion as every other faction. They approved the verification process," he said. "No one wants Orthodox Zionists out of the movement."

He added that all of the organizations agreed to abide by the findings of the Equifax report before it was released.

The issue of gift memberships will be decided in the tribunal, Patt said. He refused to elaborate on the committee's position on this issue. All appeals will be heard within a month of filing the complaint under the AZF election rules. RZA has not yet made a formal appeal.

KAHANE FILES COUNTERSUIT AGAINST KANSAS MAN OVER SCUFFLE LAST YEAR

KANSAS CITY, Kan., July 12 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane, wanted by Johnson County, Kan. police to answer disorderly conduct charges, has filed a countersuit for "assault, battery and

outrageous conduct" arising from a scuffle with a Palestinian Arab, Mousa Shukair, during an appearance by Kahane at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kan., last November 18.

Kahane, leader of the Kach Party in Israel, is a member of the Knesset. His attorney, Michael Clayman, responded last month to a civil lawsuit brought against Kahane in May in Johnson County District Court. He filed the countersuit at the same time. The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle reported.

Clayman told The Chronicle that the counterclaim was identical to the assault charges brought against Kahane by Shukair, a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Coalition, who is seeking damages in excess of \$10,000.

According to Clayman, the next step in the civil suit involves pre-trial discovery that may include taking depositions from Kahane and others. This could necessitate Kahane's return to the U.S. If he enters Johnson County he would face penalties of up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine for failure to appear in Overland Park Municipal Court in May on a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct stemming from the November 18 incident.

Karen Arnold-Burger, assistant city attorney for Overland Park, said if Kahane appeared a municipal warrant would be served on him and he would be taken to the county jail and held on \$750 bail. Clayman, whose fees are being paid by Kach International, Kahane's political organization, said he would proceed with the countersuit unless the case is settled out of court. He said there was no indication at this time of a settlement. The Chronicle reported.

ISRAELI RELEASE PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST, WHO VOWS FIGHT WITHIN THE LAW By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Faisal Husseini, a militant Palestinian nationalist, was released Thursday from three months of administrative detention in Ramla prison on suspicion of subversive activities on behalf of El Fatah, the terrorist wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Husseini, who officially runs the Arab Studies Center in East Jerusalem, heads The Committee to Confront the Iron Fist, an organization of Arabs and Israeli Jews supportive of the Palestinian cause. He told a press conference here that he will continue to be active against the Israeli occupation of the administered territories.

He said his release from prison was a vindication. He was originally to be held for six months. The Supreme Court, acting on appeal, reduced the term by half. Husseini said this gave him an opportunity to defend himself in court. He said he used some of the evidence presented by the authorities against him to prove his innocence.

Administrative detention, a holdover from the British Mandate regime in Palestine, allows incarceration of persons on suspicion for a specific term without trial or formal charges. No charges were brought against Husseini. But security forces say he is a key PLO activist in the administered territories who relays orders from PLO headquarters abroad to local Arabs.

"I am going to fight for my people," Husseini said. "It is my job to do what any other human being would do who is under occupation." But he stressed he would work within the law.

JEWISH LEADERS TO SHULTZ: TELL SOVIETS 'GLASNOST' A SHAM FOR JEWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA). -- Jewish leaders Thursday urged Secretary of State George Shultz to tell his Soviet counterpart that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost," or openness, is not being applied to the Jews of the USSR.

"Glasnost, as far as the Jewish population is concerned, doesn't exist at the best and is a fraud at the worst," Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), told reporters after the meeting with Shultz at the State Department. He said the situation for Jews under Gorbachev is more "oppressive" than under previous regimes.

Shultz asked for the meeting to receive a report from the NCSJ on the situation of Soviet Jewry during the first six months of the year, according to Abram. The Secretary said that a chart prepared by the NCSJ for the U.S.-Soviet summit in Finland last year was useful in illustrating the situation of Soviet Jews, and he wanted another one for his upcoming meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. No date has been announced for the meeting.

Abram, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that Shultz was urged to tell Shevardnadze that glasnost was "deceiving nobody" and that until Soviet "conduct with respect to the Jewish population is redressed and until Jews are permitted to leave in accordance with the Helsinki Accords, there will not be that degree of credibility and trust" needed to improve relations between the two superpowers.

Shultz was praised by those attending the meeting for his continuing support for the struggle of Soviet Jewry.

U.S. Reiterates Policy

Earlier in the day, State Department spokesman Charles Redman reiterated the U.S. policy that "all those who wish to leave the Soviet Union or emigrate abroad should be able to do so." He also said that Jews and others "should be free to practice their religion."

Abram noted he had met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London earlier in the week and she, too, said that Britain is telling the Soviets that "if they can't be trusted on human rights, they can't be trusted on other issues."

The situation has reached a "crucial stage because Mr. Gorbachev is hard at work trying to deceive the American people and also the Jewish people," Abram said.

He conceded that emigration figures have risen for the first six months of 1987, with 3,092 Jews being allowed to leave as compared to only 790 for all of 1986. But this is "insignificant" when compared to the some 51,000 allowed to emigrate in 1979, Abram stressed.

He called the release of a few well-known figures a "public relations exercise" while noting that emigration has been made harder for some long-term refuseniks on security grounds. He said that it "is an absurdity and a fraud" that refuseniks such as Vladimir Slepak, who has not been allowed to work for 17 years, or Ida Nudel, who has been denied work for 16 years, could not emigrate because they were privy to secrets.

Abram said that more important than the monthly emigration figures is the new policy of refusing new applications for emigration. He said the Soviets may be planning to allow most refuseniks to leave and then cut off all emigration.

Seeks Continued Talks

Abram, who visited the Soviet Union in March with Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said he would like to go back and "continue the conversations" they had with Soviet officials. He said at the time no agreements were made, but that the Soviets sought to leave "impressions" on improving conditions for Soviet Jews as well as emigration.

At the time, Abram and Bronfman said they were given assurances that the 11,000 long-term refuseniks would be allowed to emigrate within a year; that emigres would be allowed to go to Israel through Rumania, rather than Vienna; and that conditions would be improved for the practice of Judaism within the USSR. "The impressions they sought to leave with us have not proven to be substantial," he said.

Also attending the meeting with Shultz were: Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations; Theodore Ellenoff, president of the American Jewish Committee; Jerry Goodman, NCSJ executive director; Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the President's Conference; Mark Levin, NCSJ Washington representative; Michael Pelavin, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International; Constance Smukler, vice chairperson of NCSJ; and Sandra Weiner, chairperson of the NCSJ's National Advisory Council.

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS WELCOME KNESSET DEFEAT OF JEWISH IDENTITY BILLS

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders are congratulating the Knesset for upholding religious pluralism and avoiding a possible rupture between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

The messages, on behalf of major organizations, refer to the Knesset's votes Wednesday defeating two controversial bills which would have given the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate exclusive right to approve conversions performed abroad. The practical effects of those measures would have been to invalidate conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis and, by implication, question the legitimacy of the non-Orthodox branches of Judaism in Israel.

Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, said: "We are gratified that the Knesset has defeated the latest effort of extremist religious parties in Israel to amend the Law of Return so that Jews converted by non-Orthodox rabbis would no longer receive recognition in the Jewish State. The latest rejection of this pernicious and offensive proposal, which has been introduced repeatedly in the Knesset, is an affirmation of the historic unity of the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora."

Theodore Ellenoff, national president of the American Jewish Committee, also hailed the Knesset's action. "By firmly rejecting these measures, the Knesset of Israel has reaffirmed the pluralistic character of Jewish life and has strengthened the unity and solidarity of support for Israel among Jews of the United States and other Diaspora communities," he said. Franklin

Kreutzer, international president of the United Synagogue of America, the association of Conservative congregations in North America and Mexico, said his movement is "grateful to the Knesset for supporting Diaspora Jewry's legitimacy and upholding the current Law of Return."

Kreutzer added, "Conservative Jews love Israel and want to be given first-class religious and secular citizenship...Conservative Jews will interpret this favorable vote of the Knesset as a sign of acceptance and welcome and we will attend the World Zionist Congress (in Jerusalem next December) with renewed zeal and commitment."

Simon Schwartz, president of Mercaz, the Zionist movement of Conservative Jews in the U.S., said the vote "reflected an understanding in the Knesset that these matters do affect Diaspora Jewry. It would be unconscionable to deprive Jews of the Diaspora, particularly non-Orthodox Jews, of their rights in Israel and outside," Schwartz said.

Evelyn Auerbach, president of the Womens League of Conservative Judaism, said: "We are heartened that the Knesset saw fit to honor its commitment to the unity of the Jewish people, the welfare of Israel and the Diaspora. We will continue to monitor any attempts to erode the legitimacy of the Conservative Masorti movement as well as the principle of religious pluralism."

Rabbi Daniel Syme, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the congregational organization of Reform Judaism, said: "The Knesset has once again acted in the best interests of Israel and of the Jewish people as a whole in rejecting pieces of legislation that would have shattered Jewish unity."

"We call again upon Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist Jews throughout the world to join with us in the Reform movement in confronting common problems as one Jewish community. To do otherwise is to insure continued tension, growing bitterness and a diversion from the central agenda of the Jewish people."

NO MORE WAR, SAYS EGYPTIAN ENVOY

MONTEVIDEO, July 12 (JTA) -- The Egyptian Ambassador to Uruguay vowed here Friday that there will never be another war between Egypt and Israel. Ambassador Farouk Baraka was the keynote speaker at a meeting of B'nai B'rith District 28 in Uruguay.

He denied that relations between Egypt and Israel are a "cold peace," noting the large numbers of Israelis who visit Egypt. "Israelis are more frequent travellers than Egyptians. So many more of them visit Egypt than Egyptians visit Israel. We are happy that they come and we receive them warmly," the envoy said.

He observed that the fact he was the main speaker at the B'nai B'rith event was proof of friendship. "It is important to pray for peace, but we must pray together," Baraka said.

SPEEDBOAT KILLS ISRAELI SOCCER STAR

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- Avi Ran, 23, one of Israel's top soccer stars, was killed on Lake Kinnereth Saturday when a high powered speedboat struck the motorized water cycle he was riding. He was to be buried in Haifa Sunday after a memorial service at the Haifa Sports Stadium. Ran was a goalkeeper for the Haifa Maccabi soccer team.

Police have detained the operator of the speedboat and are collecting evidence from eyewitnesses to the accident. Vacationers in Tiberias have complained that speedboats fail to obey regulations that they stay at least 330 yards from the shoreline.

FOREIGN PRESS GROUP IRKED AFTER ISRAELI POLICE GRAB FILM OF MEETING By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- The Foreign Press Association said Sunday it is considering legal action to force the police to return photographic film confiscated Friday from West German free-lance photographer Andre Brutmann. The FPA said it might boycott government-sponsored events in protest.

Brutmann, who has temporary residence status in Israel, was forced to hand over 12 rolls of color and black-and-white film he used in Budapest last month at a meeting of Israelis with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The police came to his home Friday night after a judge issued a confiscation order. Brutmann had been interrogated for three-and-a-half hours earlier Friday at the Ramle police station. He was met by police at Ben Gurion Airport Wednesday when he arrived from Hungary and was told the film was needed as evidence in legal proceedings. Israeli citizens are forbidden by law to have any contact with PLO representatives.

Brutmann refused to hand over his film at the airport.

The FPA protested the police action then and issued a second protest Sunday, accusing the authorities of singling out Brutmann "for harassment and interference in his professional work." He had been on assignment in Budapest for Time magazine and said he air-freighted his film from there to the magazine in New York.

The FPA said it is "dedicated to the principles of freedom of information and unhindered access to places where news is made." It "cannot accept such arbitrary and discriminatory behavior on the part of the Israeli law enforcement authorities," the statement said.

"The regrettable incident casts doubt on Israeli status as a democratic country in which journalists from all over the world can be based and in which they can fulfill their professional obligations," the statement added. "The FPA will not rest until this intolerable and undemocratic affair is resolved to its satisfaction."

It demanded that Brutmann's film be returned and not used against anyone.

LIVER TRANSPLANT A SUCCESS

LONDON, July 12 (JTA) -- Moran Kadosh, a four-year-old Israeli girl flown to England for a liver transplant in April, flew home Friday after recovering from the operation which saved her life. Moran's case hit the headlines when passengers on the El Al jet bringing her to Britain spontaneously donated 4,500 Pounds Sterling to help her parents meet the cost of her treatment.

Before leaving London, Moran's mother paid tribute to the doctors and nurses at the Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge and the generosity of the passengers who had accompanied them to Britain. "She looks so well, just like a normal little girl" said Mrs. Kadosh.