

**A Case Of Shas Shttl:  
 RELIGIOUS PARTY REFRAINS FROM  
 INTRODUCING AMENDMENT TO GIVE  
 RABBINICAL COURTS MORE AUTHORITY**  
 By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) -- Anticipating defeat, the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party decided Wednesday not to introduce a proposed amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Adjudication Law which would give the rabbinical courts the sole authority to validate conversions, marriages and divorces performed abroad.

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MK Avner Sciaki of the NRP warned Shas Tuesday that he would not vote for the bill because under Jewish law it is forbidden to remind a convert of his/her conversion.

The bill was seen as an attempt by Shas to introduce through a back door changes in the legal definition of "Who is a Jew?" The ultra-Orthodox would like to push legislation through the Knesset which would invalidate the conversions performed by Conservative and Reform rabbis abroad.

The Knesset will adjourn for summer vacation next Wednesday and the Shas legislation cannot be acted upon until the House reconvenes in October.

**Lost Battle But Fight Continues**

But although Shas has lost this battle, it has not given up the fight. Shas spokesmen said Wednesday they would now press for introduction of legislation making it mandatory for converts to Judaism to present a document to the Interior Ministry's Population Registry which would provide full details of how and by whom they had been converted abroad.

The document would indicate whether an Orthodox rabbi performed the conversion. People who had undergone Orthodox conversions would then be recognized by the religious establishment as acceptable for a Jewish marriage. Reform and Conservative converts would not be recognized as valid Jews for marriage.

It is widely believed that with the failure of the Shas legislation, it will be easier for Labor to garner a majority of support for early elections and dissolve the Likud-led unity government. Shas had threatened Likud that it would support early elections if Likud failed to guarantee passage of the "Who is a Jew?" amendments.

Observers said that Labor had intensified efforts to secure a majority to pass a bill dissolving the Knesset and calling for new elections. Shinui MK Zeidan Atshe announced that he had changed his mind and would support early elections. Shas MK Yaacov Yosef said he, too, would support early elections because Likud "failed to

honor coalition commitments to Shas." Labor MKs reportedly received strict orders not to leave the country until the Knesset recesses in order to assure a majority of support for dissolving the government. Foreign Minister and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres scheduled a meeting Wednesday to evaluate the situation.

**Not Making Threats**

Meanwhile, a delegation of North American Jewish leaders, who made a last minute trip to Israel to lobby against the Shas proposal, held a press conference Wednesday.

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Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said the proposed amendments to the law affecting conversions would "directly or indirectly cause a significant portion of our people to feel disenfranchised, to feel that the essential unity which has characterized our relationship over these past 40 years has been shattered."

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan contributed to this report.)

**JCRC INTENSIFIES EFFORT TO STEM  
 INCREASED MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNS**  
 By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 29 (JTA) -- The New York Jewish Community Relations Council's Task Force on Missionaries and Cults intensified its efforts to stem the increased evangelical campaign this summer by Hebrew-Christian and Messianic Jewish groups, in particular, Jews for Jesus.

The most recent action was a vigil held Monday outside the Manhattan headquarters of Jews for Jesus. About 100 representatives of the JCRC's 59-member organizations united to protest the "perversions" of traditional Judaism and to heighten awareness of the "deceptive practices" of Jews for Jesus and less visible Jewish-Christian groups, according to Michael Miller, executive director of the JCRC.

"We feel we no longer can afford to stand idly by as an organization passing off as Jews attempts to destroy Judaism and its conventions," Miller said.

Miller also noted the apt timing of the vigil as it marked the beginning of the Hebrew month of Av, a period commemorating the destruction of the two Jewish holy Temples in the years 586 BCE and 70 CE. He paralleled the missionaries' attack on Judaism with that of the Babylonians.

**'A Blot On The Religious Landscape'**

According to Task Force chairman, Julius Berman, "Jews for Jesus is a blot on the religious landscape. It denies the uniqueness of Judaism, and it stains the memories of all those who have lived and died in a commitment to Jewish ideals."

Jews for Jesus asserts that the acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah is consistent with Judaism. They claim it allows Jews to retain their culture. Jews can light Sabbath candles, wear yarmulkes and observe Jewish holidays but in their practice,

**Special To The JTA**  
**HEBRON JEWISH-ARAB TIES COULD**  
**BE MIDEAST MODEL, RABBI CLAIMS**  
 By Shoshana Matzner Bekerman

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- An American-born rabbi who has become a leader and spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron believes that its relations with local Arabs can be a model of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Israel and between Israel and the Arab world.

According to Rabbi Yechiel Leiter, director of development for the Hebron Renewal Commission, the relationship also provides a viable alternative between the extreme left and the extreme right, which he denotes as the Peace Now movement and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party, respectively. "They are both born out of weakness of character -- differing only in their operative approach: One will throw out the Arabs and the other the Jews," Leiter said in a recent interview here. Leiter, who left his native Pennsylvania to settle in Israel, said the families who comprise the Jewish community in Hebron have for the most part dignified, respectable relations with their Arab neighbors. But for this to become the norm, they believe the Israel government must first crack down on terrorists.

They want stiffer penalties for terrorist acts, including expulsions and selective use of the death penalty, permanent closure of terrorism-advocating newspapers and colleges sponsored by the Palestine Liberation Organization, and recognition of stone-throwing and fire-bombings as terrorist acts, Leiter said.

"Once this takes place, the majority of Arabs will not feel threatened by their own

**Feels Accusation Is Unfounded**

In response, Jews for Jesus believe this accusation is unfounded. "We preach to everyone," said Sue Perlman of the Jews for Jesus in San Francisco. "Their premise is that obviously someone has to be deficient to hear our message," she added in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

But the motive for evangelizing, a word preferred to proselytizing which they believe carries strong anti-Semitic undertones, is to disseminate the "truth" they believe they have found and to tell other people, according to Moishe Rosen, executive director and founder of the missionary group.

Since about 1970, when Jews for Jesus was founded, about 4,000-7,000 have converted through the group's missionary efforts, according to Rosen. Perlman noted that there is no membership to Jews for Jesus. The largest conversion numbers occurred between 1969 and 1973 and have since leveled off.

"We're not building an organization," Perlman explained. "When Jews come to believe in Jesus through us, we offer initial instruction in the faith, but we don't become their rabbi. We're not a separate religion," she continued.

But Jews for Jesus is only one of some 50 Jewish Christian groups, although its funds and staff of 104 qualify it as the largest.

The most effective weapon to combat missionaries is education, the study of Jewish heritage, according to Schiff. Not only must Jews be concerned with the "mind-twisting" policies of Jews for Jesus, Schiff noted, because American society suffers.

Rabbi Moses Birnbaum, associate director of The New York Board of Rabbis, which works with

final Davis Cup competition by India, 4-0, in matches played Friday-Sunday in New Delhi. Israel couldn't even win a set on the grass court, a surface unfamiliar to them.

In the closing match Sunday, Ramesh Krishnan defeated Amos Mansdorf, 10-8, 6-0. But that score was practically meaningless, as Israel's doubles team of Shlomo Glickstein and Gilad Bloom had lost Sunday to Vijay and Anan Amitraj, 6-2, 6-2, 7-5.

Their loss clinched the best-of-five series, 3-0, for India. On Friday, Vijay Amitraj had defeated Mansdorf, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5, and Krishnan had beaten Glickstein, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2. The final singles match, scheduled for Sunday, was rained out.

The match had begun as protesters near the tennis stadium were dispersed by riot police. Hundreds of Indians, Palestinians and Afghans complained of the presence of the Israelis on Indian soil. Indeed, the Israeli team travelled under tight security.

Despite the defeat, Israel will remain in the World Group of 16 teams qualifying to play for the cup next year, perhaps hosting a round. The cup signifies international men's team tennis supremacy. Israel had never reached the final 16 before this year.

Israeli tennis suffered another shutout Monday, as the women's team lost to the Soviet Union, 3-0, in first-round Federation Cup competition, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup. Playing in Vancouver, Natalia Zvereva routed Dalia Coriat, 6-1, 6-2, and Larissa Savchenko overwhelmed Ilana Bergen, 6-3, 6-1. In doubles, Coriat and Bergen lost to Savchenko and Svetlana Parkhomenko, 6-1, 6-1.

waiting for David to come on the scene," Rosen said.

Currently Jews for Jesus and the JCRC are in litigation over a lawsuit filed by the missionary group two years ago. They charged that the JCRC violated its civil rights by urging rabbis on Long Island to influence caterers, restaurants and Christian clerics to prevent an interfaith seder during Passover 1985.

**BRITAIN SAYS IT WILL NEITHER TRY**  
**NOR EXTRADITE TO ISRAEL AN ALLEGED**  
**NAZI WAR CRIMINAL LIVING IN SCOTLAND**  
 By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 29 (JTA) -- Alleged Nazi war criminal Antanas Gecas will neither be tried in Britain nor extradited to Israel, the Home-Office said Tuesday. It was commenting on a Jerusalem report that Israel would prosecute Gecas if Britain failed to do so.

Gecas, a 71-year-old Lithuanian resident in Edinburgh, strongly denies that his battalion was responsible for murdering more than 50,000 Jews in 1941.

A Home Office spokeswoman said it would be impossible to try anyone in this country who was not a British subject at the time of the alleged offenses. The British-Israel extradition treaty also applied only to crimes committed in either country.

She confirmed that the Home Office was studying evidence concerning Gecas' application for British citizenship in 1956. Gecas' lawyer said Tuesday he understood his client's naturalization application had been investigated by the Home Office and found to be satisfactory.

Earlier, Merlyn Rees, former Labor Home Secretary and chairman of the Parliamentary War

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The bill was seen as an attempt by Shas to introduce through a back door changes in the legal definition of "Who is a Jew?" The ultra-Department of Journalism and Communication Research at the University of Vienna, sampled 458 articles which appeared in Austria's four largest daily newspapers, two weekly magazines, as well as the press releases of the three biggest political parties in Parliament.

Among the report's findings were the following:

- \* Anti-Semitic comments appeared in more than a fifth of the articles dealing with Waldheim. Among them: "Jewish wirepullers," "Jewish greediness," "Jewish manhunt" and "Jewish impertinence."

- \* Austria's largest circulation daily, Neue Kronen Zeitung, made anti-Semitic references in more than a third of its stories.

- \* The press service of the Christian-Conservative Party (OVP) suggested "Jewish backers" or "a worldwide conspiracy" were behind the American action against Waldheim.

- \* Criticism of the U.S. included use of numerous anti-American comments questioning the "legality of the American procedure," the alleged "interests behind it," and the "dubious motives" and "insufficient knowledge" of the Waldheim case on the part of Americans and the U.S. government.

Included in the survey were the Austrian dailies Neue Kronen Zeitung, Kurier, Die Presse and Salzburger Nachrichten, the Austrian weekly newsmagazines Profil and Die Furche and the Press services of the political parties SPÖ: Sozialistische Partei Österreichs (social democratic), ÖVP: Österreichische Volkspartei (conservative) and FPÖ: Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (national/liberal). The survey was coordinated by Theodore Freedman, director of the ADL's office in Rome.

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in Geneva earlier this month to discuss Soviet involvement in a Middle East peace conference.

"They spoke at length of their interest in progress toward Middle East peace. At the same time, they made no commitments and reiterated many familiar positions, and there are still important gaps on how to proceed," Murphy said. "I think we gave them much to think about and are waiting to see how they respond."

On the issue of Syria, whose decision to close the office of terrorist Abu Nidal prompted Reagan to send a special envoy to the country, Murphy said that Syria remains on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism and sanctions established last November remain in effect.

**INCREASED IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) -- Immigration to Israel was up 49 percent during the first six months of 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported this week. In the first six months, a total of 5,400 persons -- 2,900 immigrants and 2,500 potential immigrants -- came to Israel, the Bureau said. The number of immigrants in January-June almost doubled as compared with the corresponding period last year, and the number of potential immigrants increased by 16 percent, for an overall growth in immigration of 49 percent.

The Central Bureau of Statistics spokesperson also reported that in the first six months of 1987, 676 immigrants and potential immigrants arrived from the U.S. (the same as last year; 409 from South Africa (240 in 1986); 732 from the Soviet Union (240 last year); 267 from England (227 last year); 250 from France (315 last year); and 504 from Argentina (471 in the first six months of 1986).

## JACKSON IS TRYING TO MEND HIS FENCES WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 29 (JTA) -- For the past year the Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose 1984 presidential campaign was plagued by allegations of anti-Semitism, has been making overtures to the Jewish community.

Jackson has met with Jewish leaders privately and in public forums, spoken before Jewish organizations such as the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and given interviews to Jewish newspapers.

"It is a different Jackson in 1988 than in 1984," observed Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "One has to recognize and welcome that certain sensitivity he is now showing."

Jackson has "gone out on a limb like that not just once, but several times, so there is a clear-cut pattern of an effort to reach out to the Jewish community, and the community ought to respond," added Rabbi David Saperstein, co-director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

But while Jewish leaders applaud Jackson's efforts, they remain skeptical to what extent he can put his past problems with the community behind him. Jackson, said Marc Perl, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, carries a "significant amount of baggage" that Jewish voters are unlikely to forget.

### Heaviest Load In His Baggage

The heaviest load in this baggage remains Jackson's association in 1984 with the Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, whose preaching is marked by virulent anti-Semitic rhetoric. In a recent New York Times article, Jackson said "the simple fact is that Farrakhan is not connected to my campaign in any way. That's all that's need to be said."

But most Jews disagree.

"What Jews want and will continue to want is for Jackson to repudiate Farrakhan. There's a feeling that he has yet to do this," said Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee.

Frank Watkins, Jackson's press secretary, said as a religious leader Jackson "does not repudiate the personhood of anyone, even an enemy, let alone the personhood of a friend and ally in the '84 campaign, at least to a certain extent, because there is always the possibility of redemption."

Even if Jackson can put Farrakhan behind him, his views on the Middle East still disturb Jewish voters, many of whom see Israel as a litmus test for support of a candidate. Jackson no longer refers to Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat, whom he publicly embraced in 1978, as an ally, but he remains critical of U.S. military assistance to Israel and Israel's occupation of the settlements.

According to Watkins, Jackson advocates a four-point approach to the Middle East: a secure Israel within "internationally recognized boundaries"; Palestinian self-determination and justice including the right to determine their own representation; respect for Lebanon's territorial integrity, with U.S. assistance in helping them to rebuild; and normalizing ties with other Arab countries. Ann Lewis, former executive director of Americans for Democratic Action who has advised Jackson on Jewish issues, said Jackson's views on

the Middle East agenda has many points in common with Jews.

### Symbolic Of A Delicate Relationship

Jackson's struggle with the Jewish community is symbolic of the delicate relationship between Blacks and Jews. Although they share a history of oppression and fought side by side in the civil rights movement, stereotypes and antagonisms persists, analysts noted.

Jackson may be politically, as well as religiously, unable to repudiate Farrakhan, without risking the support of Blacks who see Jews as wealthy establishment figures. At the same time, articulating a softer tone on Israel would offend the "Third World crowd" who support international "nationalist movements" such as the PLO and the African National Congress seeking to overthrow the government of South Africa, according to analysts.

"He can give a little on (issues such as the Palestinians and Farrakhan), but he can't just suddenly shed all these things without being accused of pandering to the Jews," said Bookbinder.

Watkins suggested that those Jews who remain skeptical of Jackson are "perpetuating a political problem and are not interested in learning the facts. What is he (Jackson) expected to do to end the skepticism?"

### BRAZIL PROTESTS TO IRAN FOR DISTRIBUTING PORTUGUESE 'PROTOCOLS'

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 29 (JTA) -- Brazil has protested to Iran for publishing and distributing a Portuguese translation of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." The Iranian charge d'affaires in Brasilia, Mouhmed Entiaz, was called to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, where he was harshly admonished. He was told that the "Protocols" are a racist and anti-Semitic falsification forbidden by law in Brazil and that distribution of the book must be stopped.

The Iranian diplomat said that the "Protocols" were genuine because they were "adopted by the First Zionist Congress in Basel" but promised, however, to stop their distribution. The "Protocols" have been on sale in Brazil since February of this year after several years' absence in the country. Several publications in Sao Paulo asked interested persons to send 94 Cruzados (about \$2) per copy to the unidentified P.O. Box 3331 in Sao Paulo.

In 1984, the Iranian Embassy in London marked the fifth anniversary of the overthrow of the Shah by printing a "summary of the 'Protocols' in an English magazine, Imam, in which the Iranians described Zionism as 'an enemy of humanity' and said that the 'Protocols' were 'being adhered to word by word by the Jewish-influenced Western governments.'"

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GENEVA (JTA) -- The Swiss government is increasing its security at installations and for its nationals abroad after receiving a warning from an extremist terrorist group based in Lebanon that it would seek retaliation for the arrest and pending trial of a Shiite hijacker who killed a passenger on an Air Afrique jet last Friday at the Geneva airport.