

**FOCUS ON ISSUES  
KNESSET SESSION ENDS, NOT  
WITH A BANG BUT WITH A FILIBUSTER**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- The stormy summer session of the Knesset, often suffused with political tension and speculation over the unity government's imminent collapse, drew to an end this week in an atmosphere of unwonted calm, indeed almost of apathy.

A last-minute effort by the Orthodox parties to push through subordinate legislation on Who is a Jew floundered in the Law and Constitution Committee of the Knesset. And the Labor Party quietly backed away from its much-trumpeted effort to topple the government in an early-elections vote, explaining that the full legislation would have to await the new session in the fall.

The 120 MKs adjourned Wednesday, therefore, for their summer break confident (or frustrated, depending on their political identity) in the expectation of a quiet late summer in the domestic political arena.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is to visit Rumania later this month where he will doubtless be regaled by President Nicolae Ceausescu as to the benefits of an international peace conference and of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian cause.

**Hoping For Moves On International Conference**

His colleague and rival, Labor leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, is meanwhile hoping that the parliamentary fallow period will be used by the U.S. government to press Shamir on an international conference -- and either convince him, or convince themselves that he is unalterably obdurate on this vital issue.

Peres contends that his advocacy of the international conference, far from "returning the Soviets to center-stage in the Middle East," as its critics contend, would serve to limit and restrain their involvement.

He argues that it is naive and unrealistic to pretend that the Soviets, especially under the novel and resourceful policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, can be kept out of regional peacemaking, as they were excluded during the Kissinger years.

The Labor leader insists that his party's perceived failure to bring down the unity government over the peace conference deadlock and trigger early elections is not harming it domestically.

**Waiting Out The Summer**

Peres maintains that Labor did in fact, by the end of the Knesset session, amass the required majority to vote the House into dissolution--at least on a preliminary reading. But since the full legislation cannot by law be completed during the recess, he decided not to push through the dissolution bill on the first reading but rather to wait out the summer.

By the fall, Peres says privately, the picture must crystallize, both at home and abroad: either the Likud softens its rejection of the conference option, or else domestic opinion, coupled with the prodding of Israel's friends abroad, will bring the

issue to a head and the government will pass. Labor sources indicate that the Americans have undertaken to press the matter energetically during the weeks ahead. These sources suggest that, with the public hearings on Irangate now ended, the Administration will be able to devote more attention to Mideast diplomacy.

**Who Is A Jew Issue Continues**

While the diplomatic process, and specifically the dispute over an international conference, continues to head the domestic agenda and to interest statesmen abroad, the Who is a Jew issue uniquely blends party-political differences and diaspora concerns.

Without doubt, the Orthodox lobby made unprecedented gains during the session of the Knesset now ending. Several Likud-Liberals who previously had consistently urged their party leaders to vote against all Orthodox-inspired legislation on conversion, obediently supported a Shas amendment to the mandatory change of religion ordinance last month.

But the majority still rejected legislation that would, in effect, enshrine Orthodox conversion as the only form officially recognized by the State. To that extent, Labor and its allies are still triumphantly holding the line -- and can proudly assert to the Jewish leadership abroad that they are fighting for this principle -- at the expense of immediate expediency.

The diaspora leadership for its part, has become more worried and more strident than ever in their opposition to the proposed Orthodox amendment, and have been more outspoken than ever in their warnings to Shamir of the devastating effects should the amendment ever be passed into law.

**Doomed Before It Ever Hit The Floor**

This week, a back-door attempt by Shas to have subordinate legislation approved by the Knesset Law Committee was effectively filibustered by opposing MKs. The attempt was anyway doomed because a religious MK, Avner Shaki of the National Religious party rejected that Shas proposal on the grounds that it is not far-reaching enough. But the Likud was anxious to demonstrate to Shas and to Agudat Yisrael that it was fulfilling to the end its commitment to help pass the Who is a Jew measures which they submit.

The proposed new rule would require all converts to deposit their certificate of conversion with the (Shas-run) Ministry of Interior. Those certificates would subsequently serve to winnow out Reform and Conservative converts when they wished to marry.

However -- and this was Shaki's reservation -- these converts would continue to receive ID cards classifying them as Jewish.

Once the unity government breaks up, whether before its time or in late 1988 as required by statute, there is little doubt that Who is a Jew will be the key negotiating issue between the Orthodox parties and each of the big blocs. Aguda's Avraham Shapira said baldly this week that what he wants is a narrow-based government -- of either hue. "We'll never get what we want so long as Labor and Likud are together," he said.

In an attempt to avoid that -- by no means the first such attempt in Israel's political history -- a new Liberal center announced its birth this week. Amnon Rubinstein, leader of Shinui and until recently a government Minister, joined hands with veteran independent Liberal leader Moshe Kol and with various splinter groupings from the political center, to create a new rallying-point for voters who find the Likud too nationalistic, and Labor too Socialist.

**JEWISH COUPLE FROM THE WEST BANK INJURED BY TERRORIST MOLOTOV COCKTAIL**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- A Jewish couple from the West Bank settlement of Alfe Menashe near Kalkilya were injured when a Molotov cocktail was thrown into their car as they were driving to Ben Gurion International Airport for a trip abroad Thursday morning.

The incident occurred near the same cross-roads where Ofra Moses, also of Alfe Menashe, was burned to death by a petroleum bomb thrown into the family car four months ago. Her son died of his injuries some weeks later.

Edna Regev, 40, was taken to the hospital with third-degree burns on her head and chest, but her husband, Menashe, 47, received lighter burns on his back.

The gasoline bomb was thrown into the back seat of the car, setting Edna Regev's clothes on fire. She remained conscious but was unable to get out of the car and was dragged away from the burning vehicle by her husband, who rolled her on the ground to extinguish the flames.

Security forces clamped a curfew on Kalkilya and the surrounding area.

Edna Regev, a schoolteacher in Alfe Menashe, told reporters in the hospital that the family -- including her two teen-aged children-- would not be deterred by the attack but would continue to live in Alfe Menashe, where they had made their home for the last four years.

Central Command Maj. Avraham Mitzna, who visited the scene of the attack, said that it could not immediately be established whether there was a direct connection between Thursday's attack and the attack on the Moses family at the same spot.

But he said a terrorist gang appeared to be active in the general area of Kalkilya, and the IDF was stepping up its security precautions.

**YEHUDA ROSENMAN DEAD AT 69**

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held Thursday for Yehuda Rosenman, an official of the American Jewish Committee, who died of brain cancer Tuesday at the age of 69. He was the director of the Department of Jewish Communal Affairs at the AJC from 1967 until last May.

Describing Rosenman's leadership of what is regarded as one of the AJC's most innovative programs, Theodore Ellenoff, president of the human relations organization, said that "his was a presence that illumined countless areas of American Jewish life."

Rosenman is credited with creating many significant national projects to improve the quality of Jewish life in America. One of these is the AJC's William Petschek National Jewish Family Center, of which he was the coordinator since its founding in September 1979. The Center engages in research, organizes conferences and institutes,

and provides training and other activities whose purpose it is to support the family in the United States.

Another is the AJC's Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls, launched in 1974, which enables those enrolled to pursue home study courses in various aspects of Jewish history, tradition, and culture.

Among other projects Rosenman initiated for the AJC were: an interdisciplinary colloquium on Jewish education and Jewish identity; a study on the effects of intermarriage; American-Israel educational programs on contemporary Jewish civilization; an annual seminar in Israel for American academicians; and a variety of publications on such subjects as concerns of Jewish youth, Israel-diaspora relations, Jewish day schools and discussion guides on issues of Jewish interest. In 1983, he initiated a series of publications and videotapes on Jewish perspectives on contemporary issues.

Born in Poland, Rosenman came to the United States in 1939. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in 1944, and a Master's degree in social work there in 1946. Subsequently, he directed the training program for European students at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Thereafter, until he joined the American Jewish Committee, Rosenman was Consultant on Community Organization and Community Centers at the American Joint Distribution Committee's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He also served as executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore, Md.

**JEWS ACCEPT VATICAN INVITATION**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders accepted an invitation by the Vatican to meet with Pope John Paul II in Rome at the end of August or early September, prior to the Pope's visit to the United States and the scheduled meeting with Jewish leaders in Miami on September 11.

The invitation was extended Tuesday by Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, in a telephone call from Rome to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the international affairs department of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) and chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, (IJCIC).

After a two-and-one-half-hour meeting Wednesday in the offices of the SCA, representatives of the IJCIC decided to accept the invitation.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, international affairs director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), told reporters that the meeting with the Pope should "clear the air" and the misunderstanding that resulted from the Pope's recent audience with President Kurt Waldheim of Austria who is accused of being a Nazi war criminal.

"There are fundamental and difficult matters to discuss," Tanenbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday. "We want to review with the Holy See the meeting with Waldheim and the whole question of the Pope's attitude toward the Nazi Holocaust."

Tanenbaum said that the Jewish leaders, by accepting the Pope's invitation, are hopeful that

the meeting "will open the way" for their participation in a meeting with the Pope in Miami on Sept. 11. The Miami meeting was in doubt following the Pope-Waldheim meeting June 25, a meeting that angered and upset American Jewish leaders.

The Jewish community was angered not only by the invitation to Waldheim but also by the Pope's failure to mention the fact that Jews were the main victims at the Maidanek concentration camp. The Pope visited Maidanek last May and listed 14 nationalities whose members were murdered by the Nazis. He did not mention the Jews, although 850,000 of them were killed there.

**Full Agenda To Be Discussed**

A statement issued here Thursday by the SCA said that the meeting with the Pope in Rome would last between 60 to 90 minutes. It said that "the full agenda of Catholic/Jewish relations would be discussed with the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and the Vatican Secretariat to be followed by a meeting with Pope John Paul II."

The members of the IJCIC are: The Synagogue Council of America, World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith and the Israel Interfaith Association. Since 1972, IJCIC has represented the world Jewish community in discussions with the Vatican on Catholic/Jewish relations.

Waxman said Thursday that other issues to be discussed during the Vatican meetings are anti-Semitism and the Vatican's continued refusal to recognize the State of Israel.

As for the Miami meeting with the Pope, Waxman said: "We reserve our final decision on whether or not to go to Miami for the ceremonial meeting with the Pope pending the outcome of the forthcoming discussions at the Vatican."

**SHULTZ; U.S. TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR MIDEAST PEACE**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz stressed Thursday that the United States will continue to "explore in detail" any opportunity to achieve peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, including an international conference.

But, there is "a long distance from where we are now" and actually setting up such a conference, Shultz said at a press conference at the State Department.

"Obviously an international conference, in and of itself, is not of any interest to us," the Secretary said. "Direct negotiations are, we think, the way to go."

He added that if an international conference could be organized to "achieve the results we are seeking, then we are willing to examine that possibility."

Shultz indicated that it is the need to examine "anything that can be legitimately a way to move peace forward" that prompted him to send his executive assistant, Charles Hill, to Israel next week.

There has been much speculation of why Hill is going rather than Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who normally makes this type of trip.

Shultz noted that Hill "knows these issues very well, is very close to me and knows the

people there very well." Hill formerly served at the U.S. Embassy in Israel and was head of the State Department's Israel desk.

He is scheduled to have "we hope quiet, in depth talks" in an effort to find "exactly how people there feel," Shultz said.

However, the U.S. does know the feelings of Israel's coalition government which is deeply divided between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who supports an international conference to provide the "umbrella" King Hussein of Jordan feels he needs for negotiations with Israel and Premier Yitzhak Shamir who is vehemently opposed to such a conference. Hill apparently will be trying to see if there is any chance of overcoming the opposition from Shamir and his Likud bloc.

Shultz, who is scheduled to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington Sept. 15-17, did not mention the Soviet Union which has been pushing for an international conference. As envisioned by Hussein, the conference would include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council -- the U.S., USSR, Britain, France and the People's Republic of China.

Both Israel and the U.S. have stressed that the Soviet Union, and presumably China, could not participate as long as they do not have diplomatic relations with Israel and that Soviet participation would also require increased emigration for Soviet Jews.

**Says Palestinians Must Participate**

At his press conference, Shultz stressed that the U.S. wants to see "progress" toward peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. He said this requires direct negotiations, including the participation of Palestinians as part of a Jordanian delegation.

"You have to find Palestinians that are able to represent the Palestinian people on the West Bank and are acceptable to Israel," he added. This would rule out the Palestine Liberation Organization which all sides in the Israeli government reject as a legitimate negotiating party.

**PERES AND RABIN REJECT U.S. COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON TABA**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin have rejected an American compromise proposal to resolve the Israeli-Egyptian border dispute over Taba, and decided to continue with international arbitration in Geneva.

Under the U.S. proposal, submitted to Jerusalem and Cairo three months ago, Egypt would be given sovereignty over the whole area while Israel would be granted full and more or less free access to the Taba region.

The proposal also provides for some form of continuing Israeli ownership of the Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson "village" at the site.

The Israeli leaders and their advisers are believed to feel that Israel has a sufficiently good case to warrant going on to international arbitration.

Israeli papers say that Premier Yitzhak Shamir has not been consulted about the American proposals but is understood to be "open to compromise -- but it depends on what sort of compromise."

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
THREE RABBIS PARTICIPATE IN  
RELIGIOUS SUMMIT IN JAPAN**

By Rabbi Mark Golub

Executive Director, Jewish Education In Media

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Forty-two years ago this month, atomic bombs fell on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bombs brought World War II in the Pacific to an abrupt and merciful end, saving more than a million Allied and Japanese lives.

But those horrific explosions also marked the beginning of a new kind of existence for all mankind -- existence in a nuclear age, an age in which man has the power to destroy his entire planet.

This week 20 world religious leaders gathered at the top of the Japanese mountain of Mt. Hiei to participate in a Religious Summit calling for yet another age -- an age of world peace without nuclear weapons.

Representing American Judaism at this prestigious gathering of religious leaders was Rabbi Joseph Glaser, the executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (the professional association of Reform rabbis in the United States, Canada and abroad).

As the only American participating in the Religious Summit, Glaser also has the honor of representing the United States clergy at Mt. Hiei, which is known as the cradle of Buddhism in Japan.

Initially, Glaser was the only Jewish representative to be invited to participate in the summit. However, at Glaser's suggestion, the "Japan Conference of Religious Representatives" added invitations to one Orthodox rabbi from Israel and one from South America: Israel Lau, Chief Rabbi of Netanya, and Pinchas Brenner of Caracas, Venezuela.

Other world religious leaders participating in the Religious Summit included two Catholic representatives from the Vatican, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Jerusalem, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, three Buddhist leaders, two Islamic leaders, and a Hindu, Sikh, Dao and Confucian leader.

**The Committee's Principal Proposal**

The gathering was coordinated by the Japan Religious Committee for the World Federation, an organization of religious groups in Japan established in 1945 after experiencing the nuclear bombing at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Committee's principal proposal is that the year 2001 should be named "Year One" of the Age of Peace for Mankind, an age free from the threat of all nuclear weapons.

During the week-long conference, Glaser and his wife, Agathe, joined with the other participants in touring some of Japan's cultural marvels and in commemorating a number of local memorials. The week also included a visit to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But the central moments of the Conference occurred Monday and Tuesday during the two-day Religious Summit at the top of Mt. Hiei, a mountain located on the outskirts of the Japanese city of Kyoto.

Each religious leader was asked to speak on two occasions during the summit on Mt. Hiei,

first sharing thoughts on "The Way to Peace" and later offering a personal "Prayer for Peace." During his remarks to the world gathering, Glaser spoke of the Jewish concept of peace.

"Our Hebrew word shalom means more than cessation of war," explained Glaser. "It means wholeness and completeness. Since one side to a conflict cannot have shalom without the other, it follows that both sides must be part of this wholeness. Everyone is involved or there is no shalom. Not only everyone is involved, but the demands of wholeness require everything; justice, freedom, plenty."

Glaser characterized the transcending task of religious leaders to be that of "hearing the cry of the oppressed, the victims, the prisoners, the hungry." And ultimately, the mission of every religious leader is "to teach" a sense of compassion to all mankind -- a compassion that would lead to a world of peace.

**ELIE WIESEL TO RECEIVE BRAZIL'S  
HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD AUG. 10**

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel will go to Brazil next week to receive that government's highest civilian award, the Gra Cruz of the Ordem Cruzeiro do Sul (Grand Cross of the Order of the Southern Cross), for his contributions to international peace.

The award will be presented to Wiesel by Abren Sodre, Foreign Minister of Brazil, on Monday in the Palacio do Itamarati, Foreign Ministry headquarters, in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. Wiesel will also be received by Brazilian President Jose Sarney, hold a series of meetings with leading legislators and government officials and deliver two major addresses.

Rabbi Henry Sobel, rabbi of the Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, the largest Jewish congregation in Latin America, will accompany Wiesel throughout his visit.

Brazil's 150,000 Jews comprise the second largest Jewish community in Latin America. (Only Argentina's Jewish population is larger).

During his three-day visit, Wiesel will be the guest of the Confederacao Israelita do Brazil, the central body of the Brazilian Jewish community which is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, and the Congregacao Israelita.

The U.S.-born Rabbi Sobel, who serves as coordinator of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogues, sponsored by the Bishop's Conference of Brazil, said in a statement that Wiesel's presence in Brazil "is especially important because a great majority of the 130 million Brazilians is not aware of the horrors of the Holocaust. Neither are most Brazilians sensitive to the spiritual Holocaust of Soviet Jewry in our days. Therefore Mr. Wiesel's visit will give enormous impetus to the efforts of the Brazilian Jewish community in raising the consciousness of the population at large."

Commenting on the significance of the award, Marcileo Marques Moreira, Brazil's Ambassador to the United States, said:

"The Brazilian government identifies Mr. Wiesel as an outstanding world personality in the field of human rights, as someone who throughout his lifetime has fought injustice and striven to make mankind freer of political and social constraints."