

ULTRA-RIGHTIST LE PEN SECURES HEFTY SHARE OF FRENCH VOTE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 24 (JTA) -- Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front scored an unexpected advance in the first round of France's presidential elections Sunday and may hold the balance of power in the second round to be fought in two weeks.

The party, which preaches a racist philosophy and is anathema to most French Jews, won 14.5 percent of the vote. Most pollsters had given it a maximum of 11 percent. When Le Pen last ran for president in 1974, his party polled only 0.7 percent.

Of the two leading candidates, incumbent President Francois Mitterrand, leader of the Socialist Party, won 34.5 percent of the vote and Premier Jacques Chirac of the center-right won 19.5 percent. Both will need support from Le Pen's voters in the second round. Chirac, in particular, will have to attract a large share of the far right if he is to defeat Mitterrand.

Le Pen claimed Sunday night that his gains were a "political earthquake," saying, "Nothing can be done now without the consent of our millions of voters." His chief campaign aide claimed the National Front drew 2 million more voters than it did in the 1986 parliamentary elections.

Although Le Pen insists he is not anti-Semitic, he has been denounced by Jews and non-Jews alike for remarking in a radio interview last year that the Holocaust was only "a minor point" in history. Most of his polemics have been directed against aliens, mainly the large Arab presence in France. Jewish organizations consider him a menace to democracy.

NBC, WASHINGTON POST ACCUSED OF VIOLATING CENSORSHIP RULES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) -- Senior government officials are urging the Israel Defense Force to take legal action against NBC News and The Washington Post for allegedly violating military censorship rules.

NBC broadcast a report last week that Israel's policy-making Inner Cabinet decided by majority vote to authorize the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, the No. 2 man of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Washington Post published over the weekend what it said was a blow-by-blow account of the decision-making process that sent a hit team to gun down Wazir at his villa in suburban Tunis on April 16.

The Israeli media reported Sunday that there was pressure from the Prime Minister's Office to act against the two American news organizations and other media that file reports overseas without submitting them to the military censor.

Action could result in loss of accreditation or even of residency permits for American correspondents reporting from Israel.

NBC acknowledged last week that it had not submitted to the censor its report that the Inner Cabinet voted to eliminate Wazir with dissent only from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Ezer

Weizman, a Labor Party minister without portfolio.

The network said it had received no prior notice from the censor requiring it to submit stories on this subject to the censor before transmission. It noted it had often done so in the past with no adverse reaction from the censor or other officials here.

SOVIETS ATTACK ISRAEL ON WAZIR AT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 24 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union sharply attacked Israel Friday, charging it with the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, second in command of the PLO, who was gunned down in his villa in a suburb of Tunis in the early morning of April 16.

Soviet Ambassador Aleksander Belonogov spoke at the Security Council, which continued its debate for a second day on the assassination of the PLO leader. Tunisia had requested an urgent meeting of the council to condemn Israel, who the Tunisians claim is responsible for the action.

The Soviet Union is "indignant," the Soviet delegate declared, over the action taken by Israel in violation of Tunisia's territorial integrity.

He said that the murder of Wazir, who was also known as Abu Jihad (father of holy war), was carefully planned and carried out in cold blood by Israel.

Belonogov then charged Israel with "carrying out a wave of terrorism in the occupied territories in its pogrom" against the Palestinian people. But Israel's "barbarous crimes" were powerless to halt the uprising of the Palestinian people, the Soviet envoy stated.

He called on the Security Council to condemn Israel and take measures against it to prevent such actions in the future.

FOUR MORE PALESTINIANS DEAD AS AUTHORITIES LIFT SANCTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) -- Four Palestinians died and 20 were injured in clashes with Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the weekend.

The Israel Defense Force, nevertheless, described the situation in the territories as "relatively quiet" and began Sunday to lift restrictions imposed last week. Several dozen youths detained for taking part in disturbances were released as a good will gesture on the occasion of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Moslem year, which is observed as sacred.

The ban on travel from the territories into Israel proper also was lifted and tens of thousands of Arab day laborers reported to their jobs in Israel on Sunday. Gasoline supplies withheld from the territories in reprisal for disorders were resumed.

But Arab schools remained closed and the commercial strike continued. Curfews remained in effect in many areas.

In East Jerusalem, meanwhile, Israeli authorities have adopted a new strategy to break the four-and-a-half-month-old merchants' strike

without using force.

Shopkeepers, acting on orders from the underground nationalist command, have been open for business for only three hours a day, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Jerusalem police ordered 25 selected merchants over the weekend to keep open throughout the day.

The orders were disobeyed and new orders were issued requiring them to keep closed from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily or face legal action, including prison terms of up to two years.

The 25 shops selected are located just outside the Old City walls. For a variety of reasons, including the fact that East Jerusalem is an integral part of Israel and a tourist attraction, the authorities do not want to employ force against the merchants, as they do with commercial strikes in Arab towns in the administered territories.

It is hoped that the threat of legal action will break the strike by May 15, the 21st anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. On that occasion, the Israelis would like to demonstrate that life is tranquil and back to normal in East Jerusalem.

Violence On Temple Mount

Violence broke out on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem on Friday, the Moslem Sabbath, following noon prayers at the El-Aksa mosque. Five policemen and four worshipers were injured when a mob attacked the police station on the Temple Mount.

The clash was the worst at the site since an Israeli policeman was severely beaten by worshipers in January. An estimated 10,000 Moslems attended the services Friday, three times the usual number, because of Ramadan.

The assassination on April 16 of Khalil al-Wazir, second in command of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who was also known as Abu Jihad, continued to have repercussions in the administered territories.

Palestinians, convinced Wazir was murdered by the Israeli secret service, Mossad, began observing eight "days of anger" ordered by the nationalist leadership of the uprising.

In Idna village, in the Hebron region, border police shot to death a 25-year-old Palestinian, Faraj Sulciman Farajallah, who allegedly attacked them.

Mustafa Abu-Zeid, 20, of Kabatiya village in the Jenin area, was killed when he allegedly tried to attack a border policeman with an axe.

Mohammad Fayeze Abu-Ali, 25, of Bani Suheila in the Gaza Strip, was fatally wounded when Israel Defense Force soldiers fired on the car in which he was riding. The soldiers said the car appeared about to run them down.

A fourth Palestinian, not identified, died Sunday at Aliya hospital in Hebron. He reportedly was wounded Saturday in a clash with security forces in Beit Arosh in the Hebron district. According to military sources, troops fired on youths who attacked them with a gasoline bomb.

RALLY FOR PEACE IN ISRAEL DRAWS 2,000 NEW YORKERS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) -- Supporters of Israel's left-wing and moderate political movements struggled to make themselves heard over the shouts of their right-wing counterparts at a peace rally here Sunday.

They succeeded, for the most part, because of an unexpectedly large turnout police estimated to total more than 2,000. The demonstrators packed a half block of 88th Street on the city's politically liberal and heavily Jewish Upper West Side.

They wore buttons bearing the word "peace" in English, Hebrew and Arabic, and waved signs reading: "Israel yes, occupation no" and "End the violence."

The "Rally for Peace" was sponsored by a coalition of more than 19 left-of-center Jewish and pro-peace organizations, including American Friends of Peace Now, Americans for Progressive Israel, the Committee of Artists and Writers for Israeli-Palestinian Peace and the International Jewish Peace Union.

Speakers at the two-hour rally included Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, a professor of religion at Dartmouth College; Professor Menachem Brinker of Israel, a Peace Now activist; and writer Grace Paley.

According to a "call to action" statement distributed to reporters, the groups support negotiations between Israel and Palestinians "based on the principles of mutual recognition and self-determination, for peace, security and an end to occupation."

"I think all of us are upset that the position of American Jews is being misrepresented in Israel," said Mark Gold, executive director of Americans for Progressive Israel and a rally organizer.

Gold said that Israelis are being told that Americans fully support Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc and his refusal to negotiate territory for peace. However "a history of surveys shows over and over that Americans think the security and well-being of Israel are essential, but are shocked at what they see on TV," he said.

"They know something is terribly wrong," he added.

There were a few dozen supporters of Shamir at the rally. They were kept by police behind a barrier at the rear of the crowd, where they tried to drown out the speakers with shouts of "Not one inch" and "Israel yes, suicide no."

Among the counterdemonstrators was Andrew Eichenzahl, a bearded resident of Jerusalem's Old City, who referred to press reports of the violence on the West Bank as "lies," and an elderly woman who described herself as a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"These people are just ashamed in front of the Christians," she said, asking that her name not be used. "They're here because they've never been in a concentration camp. They don't know why we need Israel."

On the other side of the barrier, holding a poster bearing the figures of a dove and an olive branch, Art Spiegelman disagreed. A cartoonist, whose best-selling "Maus" chronicled his father's experiences as a Holocaust survivor, Spiegelman said he had spoken to a Warsaw ghetto survivor moments earlier.

"She came over to 'kvell' and tell us how proud she was of us. She said there was a straight continuity between fighting in the Warsaw Ghetto and being here today."

About his own reasons for attending the rally, Spiegelman said, "I try not to think about it, but the situation is too hard to ignore. It keeps digging into my awareness. It goes against everything I understand as a Diaspora Jew."

NEW INVITATIONS TO SOVIET JEWS REQUIRE DIRECT FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 24 (JTA) -- Israel is now issuing invitations that Soviet Jews need to apply for exit visas with the requirement that they go directly to Israel via Romania. The move is an effort by Israel to stop most Soviet emigrants from going to other countries, including the United States.

But an Israeli Embassy source, who confirmed Friday that the new invitations have been sent out for the last month, stressed that for now, there is no change in how Soviet Jews who receive exit visas leave the USSR.

Emigrants can go to Bucharest, as a small number have done for the last six to eight months, or to Vienna, as most emigrants do, and then on to either Israel or another country.

If the Israeli requirement were to become mandatory, those who receive invitations would not receive their exit visas until they reached Bucharest and would thus have no choice but to go on to Israel.

Karl Zukerman, executive vice president of HIAS, suggested that this mandatory policy would not go into effect until Israel is allowed to open a mission or consulate in the Soviet Union.

Negotiations have been going on for some time between Israel and the Soviet Union, which broke diplomatic relations after the 1967 Six Day War.

The Dutch Embassy in Moscow continues to handle the invitations from Israel, and no changes have been made despite the new wording, according to Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Won't Prevent Reunification

Both Goodman and the Israeli Embassy source said the new requirement would not prevent Soviet Jews who have relatives in the United States, Britain, Canada or other countries from seeking to join them. Since last July, the Soviets have permitted persons with relatives in the United States and other countries to receive invitations from them, and not just from Israel, as was the previous practice.

Goodman noted that for the past year-and-a-half, the National Conference has advocated a "two-track" approach whereby Soviet Jews who want to go Israel can do so directly, while those who want to go to the United States or another western country can also go there directly without the subterfuge of asking for a visa to Israel. Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference, and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, raised the Romanian route directly with Soviet officials when they were in Moscow in March 1987.

"Israel is putting in place what we accepted in principle a year-and-a-half ago," Goodman said. "If you come out on an Israeli invitation, you pick up your visa in Bucharest."

Goodman added that "everyone supports the two tracks, as long as we make certain that those Jews who wish to come to America will not be hurt or prejudiced by it."

But the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews charged the new policy will do exactly that. The policy threatens Soviet Jews "by violating their Helsinki-guaranteed freedom of choice to emigrate directly to any country of their choice that will accept them," the group said.

Pamela Cohen, president of the union, and Micah Naftalin, its national director, have been meeting with U.S. and Israeli officials, and prominent Jewish leaders to discuss a response.

"We have found almost universal accord in the need to respect the Israeli government's legitimate concern for the dignity of its visas, while assuring that Soviet Jews retain their internationally guaranteed freedom of choice," Cohen said.

Could Reduce Emigration Levels

Naftalin suggested the new policy could result in making most of the 400,000 Soviet Jews who want to emigrate "more vulnerable," and reduce the present emigration levels.

"Realistically, Israel is a far weaker advocate than the United States, and the Soviet Union may become increasingly influenced by its client states in the Middle East to set even lower quotas of Jewish emigration than at present," Naftalin said.

Israel has long sought to find a way to stop the "dropout" rate among Soviet Jews who leave the USSR with visas to Israel, and then go to the United States or some other country. Estimates of those carrying Israeli visas who travel instead to another country range as high as 80 percent.

During a visit to Washington last year, Premier Yitzhak Shamir asked the United States to stop giving Soviet Jews refugee status, allowing them to come to the United States. But the Reagan administration rejected the request, arguing that it believed in freedom of choice.

Shamir argued that it was an insult to Israel to call the Jewish emigrants refugees, since they automatically had Israeli citizenship once they left the USSR.

He also said that Soviet Jews, once in Israel, were free to immigrate to the United States. But the Union of Councils noted Friday that they would then no longer be refugees and have to apply for emigration on the same basis as do other Israelis.

While the union expressed its opposition to the new Israeli initiative, out of fear of what would happen to Soviet Jews who want to join their relatives in the United States, this was no less a concern for HIAS and the National Conference. All three groups stressed the need to press the Soviet Union to honor the invitations from the United States.

Zukerman said that HIAS has been expanding its program of encouraging letters of invitation from the United States. He said he feels as "the word gets around, many more American letters" will be sent.

He said HIAS was "optimistic" that a "very neat and appropriate system" will be put into effect, "but we are not taking it for granted."

Goodman said that once the two-track system of letters from Israel and the United States is firmly established, the American Jewish community will have to "advocate more strongly for the right" of Soviets Jews to immigrate directly to the United States as well as to Israel.

WHO TO DISCUSS HEALTH IN TERRITORIES

GENEVA, April 24 (JTA) -- Several reports on health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are on the agenda of the World Health Organization's annual conference to be held here from May 2 to May 13. They are expected to be largely critical of Israel.

**PROSECUTION EXPECTED TO REQUEST
DEATH SENTENCE FOR DEMJANJUK**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) -- The prosecution is expected to demand the death penalty for John Demjanjuk when the three-judge panel that convicted him of war crimes on April 18 convenes Monday to consider its sentence.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 68, was convicted under the 1950 Nazi and Nazi Collaborators Law, the same law under which Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was hanged here in 1962. The defense can argue for a lesser sentence.

But it may waive the right to summon character witnesses and appeal directly to Israel's Supreme Court. In the event of a death sentence, appeal is automatic.

The Jerusalem district court established, after a 15-month trial, that Demjanjuk was the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" who operated the gas chambers, where some 800,000 Jews perished.

He was convicted of crimes against humanity, crimes against the Jewish people, war crimes and crimes against persecuted people. While each count carries the death penalty, it also implies murder for which the maximum sentence under Israeli law is life imprisonment.

The court therefore has a degree of flexibility in pronouncing sentence, legal authorities here have pointed out.

**UKRAINIAN IN TORONTO SAYS JEWS
WILL PAY FOR DEMJANJUK VERDICT**

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) -- A warning in Toronto that Jews will pay for the conviction of John Demjanjuk as they paid for the crucifixion of Jesus has shocked and angered Canadian Jews.

The threat was attributed to Peter Jacyk, a member of the local Ukrainian community. He was quoted by the Toronto Star after a Jerusalem district court last week found Ukrainian-born John Demjanjuk guilty of war crimes, including the murder of 800,000 Jews in the Treblinka gas chambers.

Jacyk is vice president of the Canadian Charitable Committee In Aid of John Demjanjuk's Family, a Ukrainian group that has raised funds for the Nazi war criminal during the 15 months he was on trial in Israel.

According to the Star, Jacyk commented on the guilty verdict, saying "Through the 2,000 years, Jewish people paid for that -- rightly or wrongly -- but they did pay for that crucifixion. I believe this will have similar results in the future for this conviction" of Demjanjuk.

Frank Diamant, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith Canada, called the statement by Jacyk "outrageous and provocative."

"The innuendo that the Jewish community will be held responsible for bringing to trial a Nazi war criminal is repulsive. Jewish people in Canada, and men and women of good faith of all religious persuasions, will not condone the hostility and aggression manifested through these remarks," Diamant said.

There has been friction between the Ukrainian and Jewish communities in Canada ever since Demjanjuk went on trial in Jerusalem in February 1987. The 68-year-old former automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, had been stripped of his American citizenship in 1985 for falsifying his

wartime activities. He became the first accused war criminal extradited to Israel for trial.

Within hours after the verdict was announced April 18 in Jerusalem, a rock was hurled through a window of the Hillel House on the University of Toronto campus.

Ukrainians, who may number as many as a half million in Canada, are also disturbed by last year's amendment to the Canadian Criminal Code, which allows Canadian courts to try suspected war criminals for crimes committed on foreign soil. Some Ukrainians and other Eastern European and Baltic ethnic groups have attributed the new measure to Jewish influence.

The amendment, in fact, was recommended by a special commission headed by Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes, who spent more than a year investigating alleged war criminals living in Canada.

The Deschenes Commission found only 20 suspects and 200 others who warranted further investigation. So far only one of the 20 has been publicly identified and brought to trial, Imre Finta, a Canadian of Hungarian descent.

REPORTED REMARK BY PERES DRAWS FIRE

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is under attack for disparaging remarks he allegedly made last week about religious settlers. The Labor Party leader has flatly denied the comments attributed to him Friday in a report in the daily newspaper Haaretz.

But right-wing politicians are demanding that Peres be disciplined. Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, called on the Labor Party to remove Peres as its leader and candidate for the office of prime minister in the next elections.

Even Laborites are criticizing the foreign minister. According to Haaretz, Peres described West Bank settlers as a group of "skullcap-wearers with beards and guns whose appearance arouses ridicule." He allegedly made that comment to a group of business and organization leaders in Herzliya.

He was also quoted as having said that a victory for Likud in the next elections would lead to the formation of a Khomeini-type regime in Israel. He was referring to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's theocratic government in Iran.

Peres angrily denied the Haaretz report when he addressed high school students in Jerusalem on Friday. He said it was "scandalous" that a rival political party would spread false rumors.

Kaufman, who belongs to Likud's Herut wing, said he checked out the Haaretz report with several people who were at the Herzliya meeting and found Peres had said even more derogatory things about religious settlers than were attributed to him.

Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, a Labor member of the Knesset, said the party leader's remarks were "most unfortunate."

Peres reportedly told the students that the recent victory of right-wing elements in the National Religious Party's internal elections was simply a progression of the NRP toward extremism, which began when it legitimized the Gush Emunim settlers in the West Bank.

The NRP had been the most moderate of the Orthodox political factions. Its lurch to the right has triggered rumors that a new dovish religious party is about to be launched.