

**WOMAN WINS RIGHT TO SIT ON COUNCIL;
ISRAEL'S ORTHODOX ARE IN TURMOIL**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- Israel's Orthodox religious establishment is in turmoil over a Supreme Court ruling Thursday that a woman may sit on a local religious council.

The case involves Lea Shakdiel, who was elected last year to the religious council in the Negev town of Yeroham but was not seated because of objections by Orthodox members.

Israel's two chief rabbis, Avraham Shapira (Ashkenazi) and Mordechai Eliahu (Sephardi), issued a joint statement right after the high court's decision, warning that scholars and rabbis might refuse to sit on religious councils all over the country if women were allowed to do so.

The chief rabbis observed that it was "customary for reasons of modesty, that men and women not sit together on religious bodies."

Each city and township in Israel has its religious council, composed of nominees of the local authorities. Their function is to maintain local religious facilities, but the service they perform is administrative, not theological. Until now they have been a male, mainly Orthodox, preserve.

The Supreme Court ordered the mayor of Yeroham, Amir Peretz, to endorse Shakdiel's nomination within 30 days. The head of the council, Moshe Peretz -- not related to the mayor -- said he would rather resign than sit with Shakdiel and claimed the other council members felt the same.

The latest confrontation between the religious establishment and the high court, a secular institution, has its irony. Shakdiel, a school teacher who brought the test case to court, is an observant Jew. Justice Menahem Elon, who wrote the decision, is an Orthodox Jew and Talmudic scholar.

The judges expressed "regret" that Mrs. Shakdiel's problem was not resolved by the religious authorities. In the opinion of certain "wise and good" halachic authorities, a woman is in fact halachically permitted to serve on a religious council together with men, the court said.

Shakdiel thanked the court and Mayor Peretz, who she said stood by her. She said the decision was a victory for religious Zionism and for some rabbis who came out in favor of her election. It was also a triumph for women in Israel, she said.

**ITALY FACING WORST ANTI-SEMITISM
IN 50 YEARS, CHIEF RABBI CHARGES**
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 19 (JTA) -- Italian Jewry is facing the worst wave of anti-Semitism since the fascist regime a half century ago, according to Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome.

Toaff substantiated that charge by displaying bundles of hate mail and scores of photographs of anti-Semitic graffiti at a news conference in the Great Synagogue here Wednesday.

He was accompanied by Giacomo Saban, president of Rome's Jewish community, who also related numerous incidents involving anti-Semitic

behavior. They said they believed the phenomenon was directly related to hostility toward Israel for the harsh measures it has used to suppress the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Much of the hate mail they displayed attested to that fact. Toaff warned that Italy is facing anti-Semitism similar to that which engulfed it when Benito Mussolini, emulating Hitler, promulgated racial laws aimed against Jews.

The Rome chief rabbi carried a stir in a newspaper interview earlier this month, where he branded as anti-Semitic certain elements of the Roman Catholic press and the Vatican.

He reiterated those charges at the news conference, but broadened his criticism to include the mainstream Italian press.

"We are particularly worried by articles that appear in authoritative publications, even in the Catholic framework, which put forward attitudes hostile to Judaism, both in the social and religious spheres," and which, he said, "may be particularly influential" on the mass readership.

Accosted In The Streets

Toaff related incidents in which Jews were accosted in the streets of Rome. He said a student at the university was forced to remove a Star of David from a chain around his neck.

An elderly survivor of the Auschwitz death camp was asked by a doctor who saw the concentration camp tattoo on his arm, "How many Palestinians have you killed today in your concentration camps?"

In another episode, a Rome Jew was mailed a partly burned copy of the local Jewish magazine, Shalom, with a note reading "Mr. Jew, would you kindly free Palestine if you do not want to end up like this newspaper. A thousand thanks." The note was signed "Not anti-Semites, but friends of Palestine."

The chief rabbi responded to questions about Jewish attitudes toward Israeli policies. "Every Jew is always in sympathy with the state of Israel, with which he shares its fate, and which represents for him a principle of continuity from the religious and moral points of view, and also from the point of view of security," Toaff said.

"As for the Israeli government, it's not I who names it. I don't have to like it. I support the state and the people it represents."

Some Italian journalists have contested the anti-Semitic examples Toaff offered in the news media. "Articles sharply criticizing Israel's tough policy against Palestinian demonstrators include affirmations that you may either reject or agree with, but which refer to the Israeli government, not the Jews of Rome," Ezio Pasero wrote in the daily *Il Messaggero*.

But Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who backs both Israel's right to exist and Palestinian demands for a homeland, seems to share Rabbi Toaff's anxiety.

In his weekly column for the magazine *Europeo*, Andreotti wrote that he was watching with great concern the controversy developing over a feared revival of anti-Jewish feeling, which supposedly exists in Catholic circles, without the approval but also without explicit condemnation by the church.

**STATE DEPARTMENT WARNS ISRAEL
ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) -- The U.S. State Department takes seriously Palestinian allegations of human rights abuses by Israeli authorities, and has warned Israel on the subject, Haaretz reported Thursday.

According to Haaretz, Richard Aherne, an official of the State Department's human rights division, visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip recently and took statements from local residents on human rights abuses.

Aherne submitted a detailed report to Richard Schifter, the assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, and to Secretary of State George Shultz.

The report contains testimony on the beating of Palestinian detainees after their arrest and states that a significant number of the complaints are justified.

Yossi Beilin, political director-general of the Foreign Ministry, was told about the report at a meeting he had with Schifter during his recent trip to Washington.

Schifter is said to have warned Beilin that a substantial portion of the State Department's next annual report on the human rights situation worldwide would be devoted to Israel, Haaretz reported.

COVERAGE DWINDLES AS UNREST SUBSIDES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) -- News media coverage of events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is waning as the Palestinian uprising seems to be winding down after nearly six months.

Of more than 500 additional foreign correspondents sent to Israel to cover the disturbances after they began Dec. 9, only four remain in the country, according to a report in Maariv.

Nevertheless, Israel still has one of the highest concentrations of foreign correspondents anywhere in the world. There are some 300 journalists employed by foreign news organizations based here, Maariv said.

Most of them are Israelis who work for overseas radio and television networks, newspapers and news agencies. But the major networks and newspapers augment their Israeli staffs by assigning correspondents for stints of two or three years.

At the height of the uprising, there were more than 250 reporters covering the territories at any one time, and others were sent on special assignment for short periods, Maariv said.

**WET WEATHER, WARM RECEPTION
GREET PERES IN MANHATTAN**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- Braving a steady rain, 750 supporters of Shimon Peres attended a rally for the Israeli foreign minister at an 1,100-seat Manhattan synagogue Wednesday.

They responded warmly to Peres' defense of his Labor Party's land-for-peace policies and his call for negotiations with Palestinians.

The tone of the rally, held at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, contrasted sharply with events held in the United States in March, during the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

When Shamir returned to Israel following

that trip, he presented his boisterous reception at meetings in Miami and New York as proof that the American Jewish community fully supported the policies of his Likud bloc.

Peres evidently prefers low-keyed analysis of his party's positions to the emotional and at times defiant approach of the premier.

Wednesday's rally was his only appearance in New York open to the public. It was sponsored by a committee that included leaders of Reform and Conservative organizations and American groups that support Israel's Labor Party.

Peres told the audience the purpose of his U.S. visit was "to see that the peace process would not fade away, not die away, not stop."

Earlier in the week, his efforts were applauded by President Reagan, who contrasted the foreign minister with leaders who are "negative, consistently reject new ideas and fail to exploit realistic opportunities."

The president's remarks caused a political stir in Israel, where members of the Likud bloc interpreted them as a snub of Shamir.

Peres' only reference to the flap was in his answer to the sole heckler at the rally, who demanded to know who speaks for the Palestinians.

"Let's first find those who can speak for ourselves, then we should look for somebody else," said Peres.

Peres was scheduled to address commencement ceremonies at the Jewish Theological Seminary here Thursday afternoon.

**U.S. OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF REMOVING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COINS FROM ISRAEL**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) -- A senior American official accused of removing archaeological items from the country without a license was identified by Haaretz Thursday as Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser to the U.S. State Department.

The paper said he is suspected of having done this over a 15-year period during which he frequently visited Israel.

Sofaer was in the country most recently this month in connection with efforts to arrange a compromise between Israel and Egypt in their dispute over Taba, before an international arbitration panel issues its binding ruling.

The State Department acknowledged in Washington Thursday that its legal aide has gotten into an entanglement with the Israeli authorities for taking ancient coins out of the country.

"Sofaer is an avid coin collector and he has bought coins in Israel," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said. He added that Sofaer was unaware "of the fact that a license is required to take coin purchases out of the country."

Redman said that "in view of this information, he has contacted legal counsel in Israel to make sure that he is in compliance with all the requirements of Israeli law."

The Ministry of Education and Culture's antiquities division claims that Sofaer bought the archaeological finds from a person who engaged in illegal excavations and theft of antiquities.

According to Haaretz, Sofaer said his purchases of antiquities were always made through authorized dealers. He said he was prepared to return all of his purchases to Israel if there is any doubt about the legality of his transactions.

WEST GERMANY'S NACHMANN ENJOYED PROTECTION WHILE EMBEZZLING FUNDS
By David Kantor

BONN, May 19 (JTA) -- The scandal surrounding the late president of the West German Jewish community, Werner Nachmann, grew in complexity Thursday amid implications that he may have enjoyed protection in high government circles while he was embezzling reparations funds intended for Jewish victims of Nazism.

Heinz Galinski, who succeeded Nachmann as president of the Jewish Central Council, the German Jewish community's umbrella organization, revealed that tax officials had begun to examine Nachmann's books last year but were called off after two days' work by order of high authorities in Bonn.

The Jewish community was stunned by Galinski's revelation Tuesday that Nachmann probably misappropriated some \$12 million. The missing money was the interest accrued on \$238 million worth of reparations money provided by federal authorities between 1980 and 1987.

The fund was to be used to distribute one-time payments of 5,000 marks to Jewish victims of Nazism who came to West Germany from Eastern Europe after the 1965 deadline for filing reparations claims.

West German radio reported Thursday that the federal prosecutor has broadened the investigation of Nachmann to include possible connections he had among ranking politicians in Bonn and elsewhere.

Nachmann, an industrialist who served as longtime president of the Jewish community until his death in January, enjoyed the full confidence of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Access To The Account

The prosecutor's office is also questioning Alexander Ginsberg, veteran secretary of the Jewish Central Council and the only individual apart from Nachmann who had access to the account in which the reparations fund was kept.

The money was deposited mainly in the Karlsruhe branch of the French bank Societe Generale Alsacienne, where Nachmann also had private and business accounts.

Michael Fuerst, a lawyer and a member of the Jewish Central Council from Hanover, accused the French bank Thursday of performing illegal transactions. He charged bank officials closed their eyes to Nachmann's activities.

Legal experts and representatives of financial institutions expressed amazement that the reparation funds were managed by Nachmann without control by the government or by the Jewish community's institutions.

The West German reparations funds are administered by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Its executive director, Saul Kagan, said he was "shocked" by the allegations against Nachmann.

According to government statistics, 124,900 claims were filed by individual Jewish persecutees as of July 20, 1986; 64,000 have been approved.

Another charge was made against Nachmann Wednesday by Professor Leo Rubinstein, chairman of the Jewish community in Baden, who announced his resignation. He said the former president of the Jewish Central Council had used the regional community's money to finance private investments and pay the bills of his Otto Nachmann textile

company.

Eberhard Braun, executor of Nachmann's estate, said Wednesday that the late Jewish leader left no money to cover claims from various organizations. He said Nachmann's businesses were heavily in debt when he died. Bankruptcy proceedings for the textile company began in a Karlsruhe court Thursday.

Meanwhile, Nachmann's widow, Israeli-born Aviva Nachmann, has taken a job as receptionist at a Karlsruhe publishing house. She told the Central Council her husband did not leave her enough money to survive.

FRUITS OF FARRAKHAN DINNER TO BENEFIT JEWISH CHARITY

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- The Jewish owners of a kosher catering facility in Queens, who unwittingly rented their hall to a group honoring Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan as their guest speaker, have pledged their entire proceeds from the dinner to Jewish charity.

Allan Sherel, co-owner of Terrace in the Park, said that "every penny that we make from this dinner we're going to give to Jewish philanthropy."

Sherel and partner Stanley Lewin rented their Flushing Meadows Park facility to a group calling itself "Concerned Citizens for New York," an alliance of black businesspeople who the two men later learned were having Farrakhan as their guest speaker.

When Sherel and Lewin were apprised of the situation, they consulted with their attorneys and were told they could not legally back out of the dinner.

The two men were somewhat distressed by the announcement of a purported campaign by Jewish militants and mainstream Jewish leaders to protest the dinner and boycott Terrace in the Park, which is located in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood.

Terrace in the Park received several phone calls indicating concern and even stronger sentiments. What seemed to be forgotten was that Saturday night is the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, when it would be highly unlikely that any observant Jews would be out on a picket line in front of a catering hall.

Members of the Jewish community who were questioned about their desire to protest Farrakhan have indicated that although they strongly oppose Farrakhan, they are going to largely ignore his appearance in Queens this weekend.

Rabbi Fabian Shonfeld, spiritual leader of Young Israel of Kew Gardens, Queens, and head of Poale Agudath Israel of America, said he had discussed the matter with the Queens Jewish Community Council and they had decided that "any attempt to confront Farrakhan will only arouse Farrakhan. All of us are agreed that the best policy now is to ignore it."

Likewise, Rabbi Yitzhak Sladovsky, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of Queens, and Michael Miller, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, said on Saturday night they will be observing Shavuot, not Farrakhan.

Because of the Shavuot holiday, there will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Monday, May 23.

**CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MEETS
WITH SOVIETS ON JEWISH RIGHTS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA) -- Eight members of Congress met with officials at the Soviet Embassy Tuesday to stress that Congress will not allow the issue of Soviet Jewry "to be swept under the rug" at the upcoming summit in Moscow.

"We want to make sure the Soviets understand that human rights and Soviet Jewry should be a component of the summit," Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who headed the delegation, said after the embassy meeting. "We also want to make sure that our government knows we feel that way."

The members of Congress were concerned that the Reagan administration, in its efforts to get an arms agreement and improved relations with the Soviets, might not press human rights as hard as it has in the past, a spokesman for Schumer said.

However, both President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz personally assured Jewish leaders recently, including Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, that the cause of Soviet Jewry will be put forth at the summit, which begins May 29.

The congressional delegation urged the Soviets to move toward an "open door" emigration policy and end the official harassment of Jews, according to Schumer's spokesman.

The delegation stressed that although some well-known refuseniks have been allowed to emigrate, and despite the recent increase in emigration figures, new procedural obstacles have been placed in the way of refuseniks.

They listed four such obstacles. The first is the new first-degree requirement in which the needed invitation from a relative abroad to emigrate must be from a parent, child or sibling.

No Economic Hardship

The second is the "poor relative" requirement, in which potential emigrants must certify that their departure will not cause economic hardship even for distant relatives.

The third obstacle listed by the members of Congress is the extension of refusal to persons with state secrets to their spouses and children.

Finally, the delegation noted that since March, the Soviets have refused visas to families with male children under 17 until they complete their military service. However, persons who leave the military are frequently denied exit visas on the grounds that they possess classified information.

The delegation also raised the issue of increasing Soviet anti-Semitism and particularly the "explosive rise of ultranationalist groups like Pamyat."

They noted that while demonstrations by Soviet Jews are broken up, demonstrations by Pamyat that attack Jews, "are permitted to flourish," the spokesman said.

He said the Soviets asked the members of Congress to reveal neither the responses of the embassy officials nor their names.

In addition to Schumer, the delegation included Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), John Miller (R-Wash.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), and Steny Hoyer, Benjamin Cardin and Constance Morella, all Maryland Democrats.

**SOVIET JEWRY ACTIVISTS PLANNING
TO PICKET NEXT WEEK IN HELSINKI**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry groups from the United States will be out in force in Helsinki next week, to try and insure that the issue of Soviet Jewry and their right to emigrate from the USSR is not forgotten at the Moscow summit that begins May 29.

President Reagan will stop in the Finnish capital for several days before going to Moscow for his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews announced Wednesday that it has formed a coalition with the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the 35s, a London women's campaign for Soviet Jewry, to go Helsinki May 25 under the banner "Helsinki Action to Free Soviet Jews."

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry previously announced that 50 American Jewish leaders will be in Helsinki May 25 to May 29, where they will conduct a silent vigil in the center of the city May 28, and attend Friday night services at the Helsinki synagogue.

Pamela Cohen, the UCSJ's president, said the coalition would hold news conferences, march to the Soviet Embassy, hold prayer vigils and a mock trial of "glasnost," Gorbachev's policy of openness, which Soviet Jewry activists charge does not apply to Jews.

"At a time when mutual trust and treaty verifications are uppermost in the minds of all Americans, high numbers of Jews annually crossing the Soviet border to freedom are the only true test that will verify the Soviets' international human rights commitments," Cohen said.

She said while the Reagan administration and Congress support Soviet Jews, some 400,000 Jews are still being kept from emigrating or the free practice of their religion and culture. "We desperately hope that this last summit of the Reagan administration will finally lead to opening the doors," Cohen said.

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, chairman of the SSSJ, stressed the coalition's activities in Helsinki will be peaceful, but will demonstrate that the Soviets have never lived up to their commitments under the Helsinki accords and other international agreements.

"We call upon the president to deliver a strong message that the Soviets will never receive the full economic benefits they so badly need until they respect their Helsinki and related human rights agreements, and until 'glasnost' is valid for Jews, as well," Weiss said.

'HATE CRIMES' BILL PASSES U.S. SENATE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA) -- A "hate crimes" bill that would impose criminal penalties for damage to religious property and injury to persons in the free exercise of their religion was adopted by the U.S. Senate by a voice vote late Wednesday.

The bill, similar to one adopted by the House last October, for the first time makes damage to religious property a federal crime. Those found guilty could face fines up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment.

The bill now goes to the House-Senate conference committee and must be signed by President Reagan before it becomes law.