

REAGAN BLAMES SOVIET BUREAUCRACY FOR INFLEXIBLE EMIGRATION POLICIES

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 2 (JTA) - President Reagan, speaking Thursday on his arrival here from Moscow, repeated that Soviet bureaucracy rather than General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev was responsible for Russia's inflexible emigration policies.

"I don't think I made it that definite, but that is (the reason for) some of the problems there," Reagan said.

Asked if the policies of Gorbachev were responsible, he said: "I was trying to put out that sometimes cases of that kind (emigration) do not get that far up the ladder."

Reagan and his wife Nancy were to have tea with the Queen at Buckingham Palace Thursday afternoon. Over dinner in the evening, the president was to brief Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on his Moscow talks.

Journalists on the flight from Moscow were told that the American president's refusal to blame Gorbachev personally for Soviet emigration difficulties did not contradict his tough position on human rights.

Reagan had first made his comments on the Soviet bureaucracy at his press conference in Moscow on Wednesday and at Moscow State University Tuesday.

Did Not Back Off

"I don't think he backed off," White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker told reporters aboard Air Force One en route from Moscow to London.

"The impression I had was that the president was saying that with glasnost and perestroika, that (the) bureaucracy is the last to change," Baker said.

"There is inertia there, and many of the repressive actions that have been brought to our attention has more to do with the inertia of the bureaucracy than the announced intentions of the Soviet leadership."

Meanwhile, a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the four-day summit Wednesday said that Reagan and Gorbachev agreed that a dialogue on all levels be maintained "to achieve sustained concrete progress" on human rights.

"They noted that this dialogue should seek to maximize assurance of the rights, freedoms and human dignity of individuals; promotion of people-to-people communications and contacts; active sharing of spiritual, cultural, historical and other values; and greater mutual understanding and respect between the two countries," the statement said.

Brief Mention Of Human Rights

"Toward this end, they discussed the possible establishment of a forum which, meeting regularly, would bring together participants from across the range of their two societies." These participants would include both governmental and non-governmental representatives, the statement said.

The human rights section of the joint statement was short compared to the space devoted to arms control and bilateral agreements.

The regional section, which was also brief,

did not deal with specifics on the Middle East. But it stressed that "although the discussions revealed serious differences, both in the assessment of the causes of regional tensions and in the means to overcome them, the leaders agreed that these differences need not be an obstacle to constructive interaction between the USSR and the U.S."

Gorbachev and Reagan pledged to continue discussions at all levels to help "find peaceful solutions" to regional problems "which advance" the "independence, freedom and security" of the countries involved.

British Denied Soviet Visas

Meanwhile, the British Foreign Office protested Wednesday to the Soviet Embassy in London over Moscow's refusal to give four prominent British lawyers visas to attend a meeting of the International Bar Association starting Sunday in the Soviet capital.

The embassy gave no reason for withholding the visas but it is believed to be due to the lawyers' support for Soviet Jewry.

The four refused visas were Anthony Hallgarten, David Winter, Jonathan Arkush and David Halpern.

Professor Yoram Dinstein, Tel Aviv University professor of human rights, has also been barred by the Soviets, as has Canadian lawyer Irwin Cotler. But Yaacov Rubin, chairman of the Israeli Bar Association, has received a visa.

The conference of the International Bar Association, which has more than 13,000 members from 110 countries, was organized jointly with the Association of Soviet Lawyers.

Some 600 lawyers from 30 countries are expected to attend, with the Soviet justice minister, Aleksander Sukharev, jointly chairing some of the meetings.

(Washington correspondent David Friedman contributed to this report.)

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL STILL STRONG IN U.S., AJCONGRESS SURVEY FINDS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- Despite the continued violence and clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian rioters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, American support for Israel is strong and has actually grown in the past four months, according to the results of a new poll released here Thursday by the American Jewish Congress.

Moreover, the survey indicates that Americans, by decisive margins, are more sympathetic to Israel than either the Palestinians or the Arab states.

The poll, taken between April 8 and 24, was a national telephone survey among 1,017 voters. It was conducted by the Boston public opinion firm Marttila and Kiley on behalf of the AJCongress.

The survey's finding were announced at a news conference at the AJCongress headquarters here.

According to the poll, 61 percent of the American public supports Israel over the Arab nations, a dramatic increase from 47 percent only four months earlier in January 1988.

Forty-four percent of the American public was found by the poll to feel that Israel "is a close ally" of the United States, while 32 percent believe that Israel is a "friend but not a close ally" of the United States.

Only 10 percent termed Israel "not a friend and not an enemy" of the United States.

In comparison, in January 1988, only 27 percent of the American public considered Israel a close ally.

A Split On The Unrest

But despite its basic support of the State of Israel, the poll found that the American public is almost evenly split on the issue of Israel's behavior towards rioting Palestinians in the territories.

Although 46 percent believe that "Israel has only used enough force to prevent further rioting in the West Bank," 41 percent of the American people feel "Israel has been too harsh in dealing with the Palestinian riots."

On the question of a peace settlement, 49 percent of the American public believes Israeli leaders are seeking a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, while 37 percent contends that Israeli leaders are blocking efforts to achieve peace.

In contrast, 61 percent think Egypt's leaders are seeking peace, while only 17 percent maintain they are blocking efforts.

On the issue of American military and economic aid to Israel, the poll found that almost 62 percent think U.S. military and arms sales to Israel should be kept at their current level, 13 percent want them increased and 12 percent want them decreased. Eight percent want them stopped altogether.

Forty three percent said that \$3 billion dollars in yearly American aid to Israel was "about the right amount," whereas 45 percent claimed it was too much.

Should Israel be invaded by Arab forces, 58 percent of those polled said they would support the U.S. sending troops to defend Israel.

Findings On Peace Process

Other highlights of the poll's findings:

- Forty-three percent said they favor an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank; 42 percent oppose it.

- Sixty-two percent think the United States should not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization; 32 percent favor recognition. Seventy-five percent said the PLO must renounce terrorism.

- Sixty-one percent rejected the notion that American Jews are more loyal to Israel than they are to the U.S.; 27 percent accepted it.

- Forty-seven percent said Israel should return land for peace; 45 percent objected.

- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is the most highly regarded Israeli leader by the American public. He is known by 59 percent of the public, with one third having a favorable impression of him; one fourth have an unfavorable impression.

- King Hussein of Jordan is the most popular Mideast leader in America. Six in ten voters can identify him, and his favorable-unfavorable rating is 43 to 17 percent.

- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is the best-known Israeli leader (recognized by 65 percent of the public), but also the least popular. Those with unfavorable impressions outnumber those with favorable impressions by a 35 to 29 percent margin.

ARAB GIRL KILLS YESHIVA STUDENT DURING WALK IN A JERUSALEM PARK By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- The murder of an 18-year-old yeshiva student by an alleged prostitute in a Jerusalem park early Thursday morning has stunned and grieved the Orthodox community here.

Eliezer Schlesinger, son of a prominent rabbi, was fatally shot while walking with a friend in Sacher Park shortly after midnight.

His assailant, an under-age Israeli Arab living in western Jerusalem, was apprehended by a private security-officer and turned over to police. She is said to have admitted the crime.

Because the girl is a minor, police did not disclose her name.

According to the army radio, police believe the killing was an anti-Jewish act. But the radio report cited no confirming evidence. Some reports said the motive is unclear.

The dead youth was the son of Rabbi Yehuda Moshe Schlesinger, dean of the Kol Torah yeshiva in the Bayit Vegan quarter of Jerusalem. His son attended a different yeshiva in Nahalat.

According to teachers and friends, Schlesinger and a classmate took a break from their studies at about midnight Thursday to stroll in the park close to their yeshiva. They were approached by a girl who began a conversation in fluent colloquial Hebrew.

The victim's companion said the girl expressed despair with life, pulled out a pistol and fired several rounds, killing Schlesinger.

"He was a pure soul and an excellent student," said Moshe Vislovsky, dean of the yeshiva Schlesinger attended.

U.S. URGED TO PROD SOVIETS ON FLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 2 (JTA) -- A former Ethiopian Jew urged the United States Wednesday to use the "good atmosphere" in U.S.-Soviet relations following the Moscow summit to prod the Soviets into pressuring Ethiopia to allow the remaining 8,000 to 20,000 Jews there to emigrate to Israel.

Solomon M., whose last name remains a secret so as not to jeopardize the fate of his brother and uncle in jail in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, as well as two other siblings, told a few dozen congressional aides and Jewish activists on Capitol Hill that he still is not "absolutely free."

"I go to work, I go to school. Physically, I am there," said Solomon, who is studying at the University of California at Los Angeles. "But I am not always there mentally."

An estimated 16,000 Ethiopian Jews now live in Israel, said William Recant, director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. But 1,500 of the children have parents who are still in Ethiopia.

There are 60 to 70 Ethiopian Jews still in the Sudan, Recant said. About 7,000 Jews were rescued from refugee camps there during the U.S.-Israeli secret airlifts in 1984 and 1985.

Recant said that Ethiopian Jews are in danger of losing their Jewish identity because of the government's "villagization program," which combines small villages into larger ones, forcing assimilation by the Jews.

FOUR WHO MET WITH PLO IN ROMANIA CONVICTED UNDER ANTI-TERROR LAW

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- Four Israelis who met with Palestine Liberation Organization representatives in Romania in November 1986 were found guilty in the Ramla magistrates court Thursday of violating Israel's 1948 prevention of terrorism act.

The law, as amended in August 1986, was interpreted by the court as forbidding Israelis from having contacts with members of organizations outlawed by the state.

The conviction was the first handed down under the amended law. Sentencing is scheduled for later this month. The defendants face up to three years in prison.

Convicted were Eliezer Feiler, Reuven Kamirer, Latif Dori and Yael Lotan, the leaders of an Israeli delegation that met with PLO representatives at a seaside resort in Romania.

Feiler belongs to Kibbutz Yad Hanna. Kamirer is deputy director of the Hebrew University's school for overseas students. Dori is a Mapam Party activist and Lotan writes for Al Hamishmar, the Mapam newspaper.

The four plan to appeal the conviction. Their lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, said the 1948 law did not apply in this case, because the purpose of the meeting in Romania was "to further the cause of peace and to end the bloodshed in this country."

He said the meeting did nothing to further the cause of terrorism and therefore did not violate the law's intent. But the court decided otherwise.

According to Lotan, its ruling was "a very narrow interpretation of the law." She denied prosecution charges that the meeting was held only three months after the anti-contact amendment was passed as a deliberate provocation to test the law.

FRENCH COURT TO REVIEW BARBIE CASE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 2 (JTA) -- The French Supreme Court Thursday began examining Klaus Barbie's appeal to have his war crimes conviction overturned.

A criminal court in Lyon sentenced Barbie to life imprisonment on July 4, 1987 on 17 counts of war crimes committed when he served as Gestapo chief in that city during World War II.

The appeal process is automatic under French law. No witnesses will be heard and the prisoner will not be brought to court. The court is expected to render a decision next fall.

Barbie, who earned the sobriquet "Butcher of Lyon," was found guilty of deporting Jewish children to the Auschwitz death camp, arresting thousands of the city's Jews and the arbitrary arrest and torture of countless other people.

Barbie's attorneys are asking the high court to declare his trial "void" on procedural grounds. They are also invoking the legal argument of double jeopardy.

Barbie, who fled to South America after the war, was sentenced to death in absentia by French courts. The death sentence was nullified by the statute of limitations and the fact that France no longer has capital punishment.

Barbie's lawyers contend that having been tried once for war crimes, he should not have been tried a second time.

STRIKES BLACK OUT NEWS BROADCASTS, BUT NO SERIOUS DISRUPTIONS REPORTED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 2 (JTA) -- Israel appeared to be weathering a strike by some 130,000 members of its work force Thursday without incidents or serious disruptions.

The walkout, mainly by public sector employees, including academicians, broadcasters and engineers, began at midnight and is to end at 6 a.m. Friday. It has been billed a "warning strike" by the organizing unions to protest delays in negotiating new wage and benefit contracts.

As of midday Thursday, the effects were minimal. Radio and television were blacked out, and even the promised hourly news bulletins were missing. But Israelis could tune into the army radio station for news, music and entertainment. Israel Radio continued to broadcast foreign news on its overseas short-wave band.

All universities and other institutions of higher learning were shut down for the 36-hour duration of the strike. But schools remained open.

Disruption of flight schedules at Ben-Gurion Airport was less serious than expected. Delays of no more than a half hour were experienced, although air-traffic controllers said they would handle only incoming flights and not departures.

There was potentially serious trouble, however, from the absence of repair and maintenance workers at the airports, aviation industries, telephone exchanges and the Israel Electric Corp. But no serious breakdowns were reported during the day.

Although meteorologists were on strike, Israelis had only to go out of doors to see that the weather was fine.

Work sanctions continued, meanwhile, at the government and Histadrut hospitals, where medical and non-medical employees are locked in an ongoing dispute with the Finance Ministry on wage-related issues.

Chaos in the health care system has been the norm for months, and Israelis appear to be taking it in stride, as they were Thursday's general strike.

MODERATE RELIGIOUS PARTY LAUNCHED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- A moderate religious party called Meimad was formally established here Wednesday. Its stated purpose is to combat extremist trends in the religious community, which the founders fear could jeopardize the Jewish character of Israel.

The party may break with the tradition of all other religious political factions, by including a woman on its list of Knesset candidates in the November elections.

The woman under consideration is Tova Lichtenstein, adviser to the minister of religion on the status of women. She is also a senior lecturer in social work at Bar-Ilan University.

The Meimad party is headed by Rabbi Yehuda Amital, principal of the prestigious Har Etzion yeshiva. His co-principal, Rabbi Aaron Lichtenstein, is the husband of Tova Lichtenstein.

The new party has yet to draw up its election list. Amital confirmed Thursday that he doesn't intend to run for election to the Knesset himself.

"I am not cut out for it," he told the army radio in an interview.

**THE '88 CONGRESSIONAL RACES:
REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED IN NOVEMBER
LIKELY TO BE JUST AS STRONG ON ISRAEL**
(Part 2 of a Series)

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 2 (JTA) -- The November elections are not likely to produce a major shift in voting patterns on Israel in the U.S. House of Representatives, analysts say, if incumbents are re-elected with the same 98-percent success rate that they achieved in the 1986 races.

Analysts point out, however, that there are a few "friendly" lawmakers in trouble this year, as well as some "opportunity" races to knock off some of the least supportive members of Congress.

Seventeen of the largest pro-Israel political action committees awarded close to \$1.45 million through March 31 to congressional campaigns this election cycle, Federal Election Commission records show.

While \$900,000 had been spent on Senate campaigns, only about \$500,000 went to House races. Those numbers are expected to tighten because of the early publicity generated by Senate races, analysts said. The remainder, \$45,000, was distributed to various presidential candidates.

The PACs awarded \$280,288 in the first three months of this year, following disbursements totalling \$1,159,781 in 1987.

The presidential race is not the focus of the pro-Israel PACs. Richard Altman, executive director of National PAC, which led the 17 PACs with \$377,500 in campaign contributions through March 31, said congressional elections "count the most" in influencing U.S. policy toward Israel, since a \$5,000 contribution to a presidential campaign is just a drop in the bucket.

National PAC did award Vice President George Bush \$5,000 anyway for good measure. Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, the likely Democratic nominee, does not accept PAC money.

Donations To 130 Members

In the 435-seat House of Representatives, the pro-Israel PACs so far have awarded money to more than 130 members and two dozen challengers. They generally contribute to lawmakers on the committees affecting Israel, which are Appropriations, Armed Services, Budget, and Foreign Affairs.

Other key members in leadership positions also traditionally receive contributions, including House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas) and Minority Leader Robert Michel (R-Ill.). Wright received \$8,000, while Michel received \$6,000 through March 31 from the 17 PACs.

Also, members who routinely approve foreign aid packages and oppose weapons sales often receive pro-Israel PAC contributions. On the most recent vote affecting Israel, the PACs gave funds to just three of the 90 who voted against the 1989 foreign aid bill.

They were Reps. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) and Richard Stallings (D-Idaho), who were awarded a total of \$2,500, and Patrick Swindall (R-Ga.), who received \$1,500.

The \$14.3 billion bill, which was approved 328-90 on May 25, included \$3 billion in economic and military assistance to Israel.

In the November elections, House incumbents sympathetic to Israel who are considered vulnerable include: Reps. Jack Davis (R-Ill.), a first-term member of the Armed Services Committee; Vin Weber (R-Minn.), a member of the Appropria-

tions Committee; Jack Buechner (R-Mo.), a member of the Budget Committee, who was the only new Republican elected to the House in 1986; and James McClure Clarke (D-N.C.), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who won by a narrow 2,435 votes in 1986.

Rep. Wayne Owens (D-Utah) is considered the only member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East in trouble this year. Owens' Republican challenger, Richard Snelgrove, is well-known in the Beehive State because of his gourmet ice cream stores there.

Non-Vulnerable Incumbents

Additional incumbents not yet vulnerable but who are receiving PAC support are Reps. Peter Kostmayer (R-Pa.), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who won by 15,596 votes in 1986; first-term member George Hochbrueckner (D-N.Y.); Joseph DiGuardi (R-N.Y.), who will face one of three Democrats, including Hamilton Fish III; and Mike Espy (D-Miss.), a member of the Budget Committee, who won by 4,691 votes. Espy, who is black, received \$12,000 from the PACs, one of the highest totals the PACs awarded in House races.

Other significant sums awarded to House members by the 17 PACs include \$11,000 to Rep. John Miller (R-Wash.), a Jew who won on absentee ballots in 1986. Miller, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, will once again face Reese Lindquist, whom he defeated by 3,124 votes two years ago.

Another Jew, Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.), who was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany after the Holocaust, received \$9,500 from the PACs. Morris Amitay, treasurer of the Washington PAC, said he would be "shocked" if Gejdenson, also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, lost.

In a race for an open seat in Nebraska, both Jews lost in the primaries. Alice Milder, a Republican, received \$8,000 from the PACs, while the wife of former Sen. Edward Zorinsky (D-Neb.), Cece Zorinsky, lost in the Democratic primary. She received \$2,500 from the PACs.

Unsympathetic Incumbents

Despite the 98-percent re-election success rate of incumbents, the pro-Israel PACs are hoping to knock off a few unsympathetic members of the House, including Rep. Ron Marlene (R-Mont.), whom Amitay termed "totally negative" on Israel. His challenger, rancher Buck O'Brien, a Democrat, received \$1,500 from the PACs. O'Brien attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's 29th annual policy conference last month.

Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah) is "bad" on Israel, one analyst said, hoping that Democratic challenger Gunn McKay, a representative from 1978 to 1980, wins that race. McKay, who lost to Hansen by 5,037 votes in 1984, received \$500 from Washington PAC.

The PACs awarded money to nine of the 23 black members of the House. Besides the \$12,000 awarded to Espy, other black members to receive funding were Reps. Mickey Leland (D-Texas), \$6,500; William Gray III (D-Pa.), \$6,000; Julian Dixon (D-Calif.), \$5,000; Major Owens (D-N.Y.), \$5,000; Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), \$3,000; John Lewis (D-Ga.), \$1,800; Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), \$500; and Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), \$500.

In addition, the Puerto Rican delegate, Democrat Jaime Fuster, received \$250 from the National Bipartisan PAC.