

**POPE'S MEETING WITH WALDHEIM,
WORDS AT MAUTHAUSEN OFFEND JEWS**
JTA Staff Report

VIENNA, June 26 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II has again drawn the ire of Jews.

In Austria on a five day pastoral visit, he aggravated deep resentment over his meeting with President Kurt Waldheim -- for the second time in a year -- by referring to Austria as a "victim" of Nazism, rather than the collaborator it was.

He further shocked and incensed Jews by omitting from remarks he made at the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp Friday any reference to Jewish suffering in the Holocaust.

"The only Jew he mentions who suffered is Jesus Christ, and he did not suffer at Mauthausen," Austrian Chief Rabbi Paul Eisenberg remarked bitterly in a radio interview here.

At a meeting with Austrian Jewish community leaders, the pope did not respond to their call for Vatican recognition of Israel, but spoke in favor of a Palestinian homeland.

The cumulative effect of his Austrian tour on Jews is one of deep resentment, judging from comments by Jewish leaders here and abroad.

At Mauthausen, where he conducted a solemn mass Friday, the pope decried "the lunatic ideology which set into motion a whole machinery of contempt and hatred of others. They tortured their victims, broke their bones, cruelly abused their bodies and their souls."

But he failed to acknowledge that the primary victims were Jews. "A visit to Mauthausen without even mentioning the word 'Jew' once is not satisfactory -- absolutely not," said Eisenberg.

Mention Of Jewish Suffering

It is doubtful that the pontiff redeemed himself with Jews by his sole specific reference to Jewish -- and Christian -- suffering at the hands of the Nazis.

Speaking Saturday to 80,000 people at a prayer service in Lorch, near the Czechoslovakian border, the pope said, "Not far from here is Mauthausen, where Christians, Jews and others were persecuted for many reasons, including their religion."

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, declared in a statement released Friday: "The failure of Pope John Paul to make any specific reference to the suffering of the Jews while visiting the site of the infamous Mauthausen concentration camp is a matter of deep shock to the Jewish community."

"This, together with the pope's unwillingness to confront Kurt Waldheim over his Nazi past or address the historical complicity of Austria in the crimes of Hitler's Germany, are failures that constitute a tragic lost moral opportunity."

Seymour Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, said "This kind of insensitivity is especially painful coming from a religious leader who revises history by terming the Austrian people 'victims' of Nazi aggression, rather than collaborators, and who has twice chosen to meet with Kurt Waldheim, an unrepentant liar with a Nazi past."

Reich expressed hope for a "clarification" so

that the Catholic-Jewish dialogue can continue.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said he was "saddened and disappointed that Pope John Paul II, on his first day on Austrian soil, helped perpetuate the myth that Austria was a victim of the Nazis."

Foxman also objected to the fact that during the meeting with Jewish leaders, the pope "coupled two issues which have nothing to do with each other: condemnation of anti-Semitism and calling for a Palestinian state."

'Disappointing Encounter'

Chief Rabbi Eisenberg and Paul Grosz, president of the Federal Association of Jewish Communities, were among the Jewish community leaders who met the pope Friday, before his visit to Mauthausen. They described the encounter as "disappointing."

The meeting took place at the archbishop's residence in Vienna. Grosz, who reportedly softened his originally planned remarks, at the request of other Jewish leaders, told the pope that "many Austrians have still not come to terms with their past."

He was referring to the election of Waldheim in 1986 after massive evidence was made public of his complicity in Nazi atrocities as a German army intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II.

"It is still considered patriotic to remain silent on this subject -- unpatriotic to speak out," Grosz told the pontiff.

He accused many Austrians of making anti-Semitic remarks about Jews who call for Waldheim's resignation.

Grosz also expressed "deep regret" that the Vatican has not acted to recognize Israel.

Responding in German, the pope spoke of "a common readiness to find just and comprehensive solutions which would lead to lasting peace" in the Middle East.

The pope remarked, "The Jewish people have the right to a homeland, as any other nation according to international law, but the same goes for the Palestinian people, many of whom have become homeless refugees."

To Meet Again Monday

The pope had a 15-minute meeting with Waldheim shortly after his arrival Thursday in Vienna. They were to meet again Monday, at the end of the papal visit. Waldheim had an audience with the pope at the Vatican in June 1987.

Jewish groups in Austria and some from abroad protested what they called the whitewashing of Waldheim's past. Activists, including West German Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld and her 20-year-old son, Arno, demonstrated Thursday outside St. Stephen's cathedral, where the pope conducted a mass, and Friday at Mauthausen.

Both were briefly detained by police. The police moved into the cathedral square after Austrians shouted epithets at Jewish demonstrators.

Austrian police used what many observers said was needless force to remove about a half dozen Jewish protestors, led by Rabbi Avraham Weiss of New York.

UNREST IN JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK; IN THE CABINET, ONLY VITUPERATION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- East Jerusalem was the focus of mounting unrest over a stormy weekend, while a spate of stone-throwing in the West Bank kindled the wrath of Jewish settlers. They raged against the army for not acting forcefully enough to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

The settlers' vituperation was matched by Likud ministers, who at Sunday's Cabinet meeting assailed "the failure of the security forces to cope with the situation."

Although no fatalities were reported over the weekend, the most serious incident was a bomb attack on an Egged bus near a settlement in the Jenin region of the West Bank late Saturday night.

No one was hurt and the bus was only slightly damaged. But the attack raised fears that the Palestinians may be escalating from stones and Molotov cocktails to firearms and explosives.

Settlers seethed with anger at Brig. Gen. Zeev, the Israel Defense Force commander of the Samaria region. He charged in a television appearance Saturday that a settler who had opened fire on stone-throwers in Nablus on Friday was in a state of "hysteria."

The settlers, from Homesh, whose car had come under the barrage of stones, accused the general of "chutzpah."

In East Jerusalem, local youths clashed with police on Saladin Street, the main thoroughfare. Renewed unrest there was attributed to orders from the underground command of the Palestinian uprising to escalate anti-Israel acts on the approach of the 21st anniversary of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, which is this Tuesday.

Police are being reinforced to cope with expected rioting. But they may have already arrested some of the ringleaders.

Terrorist Rings Broken

Security forces announced they had broken several terrorist rings in East Jerusalem said to be associated with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

An unspecified number of Arabs were detained on suspicion of taking part in public disorders. They are suspected among other things of throwing gasoline bombs at two yeshivas in the Old City and at the car of Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon.

Police shut down four schools in East Jerusalem because students were involved in stone-throwing.

The angry verbal exchanges in the Cabinet on Sunday were politically motivated. Likud ministers apparently saw an opportunity to hit at the defense establishment, headed by a Laborite, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Debate developed and quickly degenerated into polemics, after the IDF chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron, maintained that military force could not end the Palestinian uprising. He suggested economic sanctions and other measures be taken.

Yitzhak Moda'i, a member of Likud's Liberal Party wing, charged that the defense establishment was not fulfilling its duty.

Another Likud minister, Moshe Katsav, said he was surprised the defense establishment could not stop the Palestinian underground from distributing leaflets containing instructions for disorders.

JEWISH LEADER ENDORSES 'LAND FOR PEACE'

ATLANTA, June 26 (JTA) -- A top American Jewish leader has stepped out in support of territorial compromise as a solution to the Arab-Israel violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, provided Palestinians agree to Israel's right to statehood.

"The Palestinians and the Arab countries must prove to Israel that order can be restored and that a brief period of silence is not simply an armistice before a war," Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in an address here.

"Similarly, the Israelis must convince the Palestinians that if they recognize Israel and forswear their covenant of violence, territorial compromise becomes a realistic goal," he said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's Labor Party, has endorsed the principle of territorial compromise. But at least publicly, Premier Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc, has resisted the idea of giving up land for peace.

DISMANTLING OF THE SECURITY ZONE URGED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- Gen. Gustav Hagglund of Finland suggested over the weekend that Israel dismantle the southern Lebanon security zone and let United Nations peacekeeping forces protect Israel's northern border against infiltrators.

Hagglund, the outgoing commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, contended that Israel could safely make the move because of the strengthened position of the mainstream Shiite militia, Amal, in southwestern Lebanon.

Amal has an interest in keeping the area quiet, Hagglund said in interviews with the news media. The best guarantee that it would maintain order is its knowledge that the Israel Defense Force could re-establish the security zone at any time, he said.

The departing UNIFIL commander will be replaced by Maj. Gen. Lars Erik Wahlgern of Sweden.

LABOR HAS TINY EDGE OVER LIKUD By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- Little more than four months before elections, the Labor Party holds a small edge over Likud among Israeli voters. But neither of the major parties will win a large enough mandate to govern by itself.

This is what emerged from the latest series of polls, made public over the weekend.

The PORI organization surveyed 1,200 "undecided" voters who, according to its director, Raphael Gil, constitute about 20 percent of the electorate at this juncture. About one-fifth of them want a Labor victory, compared to 13 percent who favor Likud, Gil said.

The results, published Friday in Haaretz, also found that 50 percent of the undecided voters favor territorial concessions for peace, 34 percent do not and 16 percent have no opinion. Territorial compromise is a position associated with Labor. It is opposed by Likud.

A Dahaf poll conducted at the beginning of June among 769 persons showed Labor winning 42 to 43 seats in the next Knesset to 40 seats for Likud. At least 61 seats are needed to govern.

ROMANIAN CRITICIZES VISA DECISION; DIASPORA LEADERS BALK, AS WELL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Romania delivered one of the strongest attacks yet on the Israeli government's controversial decision last week to allow Soviet Jews leaving the USSR on Israeli visas no option but to come to Israel.

"If Theodor Herzl were to arise from his grave today, he would drop dead of shame. The decision is a shameful blot on Zionism," Rosen told the Jerusalem Post in a weekend interview. He was referring to the founder of the Zionist movement.

Rosen also was sharply critical of Israel's entire approach to the Soviet Jewry problem, which he thought was too public, too political and too secular.

The Cabinet decided by majority vote June 19 to issue visas only to those Jews in the USSR who are committed to settling in Israel. To ensure that commitment, they will be required to fly directly to Tel Aviv via Romania, after picking up their visas at the Israel Embassy in Bucharest.

The policy "will create a new category of prisoners of Zion, people who are forced to come here," Rosen said. "Prisoners of Zion" is the term applied by Israelis to Jews imprisoned by the Soviet authorities because they were active for aliyah.

Rosen's criticism of the Cabinet's action is shared by such prominent former refuseniks as Natan Sharansky and Yosef Mendelovich, who live in Israel, and by a significant number of Israeli commentators and politicians.

On Sunday, leaders of Diaspora Jewry balked at the Cabinet's decree, during a rare session of the joint Jewish Agency-Israel government coordinating body.

UJA Clash With Dinitz, Kaplan

According to reports, representatives of the United Jewish Appeal clashed with Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive, and Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors.

Those two officials support the Cabinet decision, their position being that Israeli visas should not be used to transfer Jews from "one Diaspora to another." But Kaplan avoided a head-on collision by proposing that the Jewish Agency component of the joint body consider the issue again at a meeting of the agency Board of Governors this Friday.

Under the standing agreement between the government and Jewish Agency, a policy of this nature requires the endorsement of both. At the same time, decisions with respect to visa policy are clearly Israel's exclusive prerogative as a sovereign state. The criticism of the new policy by Rabbi Rosen contains no small degree of irony. As the spiritual and temporal leader of the Jewish community in Romania, he is credited in Israel with the mass aliyah of Romanian Jews.

He was awarded a doctoral degree by the Hebrew University here last week. At a dinner in his honor later, Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres joined in praising Rosen's key role in promoting aliyah over the past 40 years.

In that period, they noted, Romania's Jewish community, which numbered 400,000 in 1948, shrank to 20,000 today. Almost all of those Jews

or their progeny now live in Israel. This is Rosen's great achievement and source of pride, the Israeli leaders said.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, PALESTINIANS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Japan plans to take a more active role to help resolve the Middle East conflict, its foreign minister, Sosuke Uno, told Israeli leaders and Palestinians during a busy one-day visit Sunday.

According to Israeli sources, he stressed to Premier Yitzhak Shamir that Japan recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination, as well as the right of all states in the region to peace and security.

Uno's stopover in Israel -- the first by a Japanese Cabinet minister -- is in reciprocation for the official visit Shamir made to Japan more than two years ago, when he was foreign minister. It is part of a regional tour that includes Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

The Japanese diplomat met separately with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He also met with six Palestinian leaders, including a businessman from Nablus and political activist Feisal Husseini of Jerusalem, who was just released from six months' administrative detention.

Uno did not respond to their demand that Japan severely limit its trade with Israel, pending a political settlement in the region.

The Palestinians told reporters later that Japan was trying to bring about a direct dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to the Palestinians, Uno was impressed by the recent publication of a moderate position paper by Bassam Abu Sharif, an aide to PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

Tours Dehaishe Refugee Camp

Uno visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and toured the Dehaishe refugee camp, near Bethlehem. He pledged a quarter million dollars toward construction of a community center at the refugee camp and a further \$250,000 contribution to the United Nations Work and Relief Agency for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank.

Israeli sources said Uno expressed distress to Shamir over conditions at the Dehaishe camp, whereupon the Israeli premier called on Japan to contribute toward an internationally funded refugee resettlement program. Shamir proposed such a program in tandem with political efforts to resolve the conflict.

The sources said Uno made no response to that suggestion or to Shamir's observation that Japan alone among the major industrialized nations still conformed to some aspects of the Arab boycott of Israel.

Israel Radio reported that Shamir questioned his guest about the current proliferation of anti-Semitic books and tracts in Japan. According to the radio report, Uno said that he had never seen such material himself.

But he observed that he had been questioned about it during a recent visit to the United States and would certainly look into the matter.

According to Western media reports, hundreds of thousands of copies of the notorious "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" are on sale in Japan, along with other anti-Semitic calumnies, some of them recent works by Japanese authors.

VOTING FOR 'ONE'S OWN' DISCUSSED AT FORUM ON AMERICAN ETHNICITY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA) -- For Minerva Stegianopoulos, a Greek-American, support for Michael Dukakis is a statement of pride.

For Paul Gibson, an Afro-American, the nearly unanimous response of blacks to the candidacy of Jesse Jackson is an expression of hope.

But for Hyman Bookbinder, a Jewish-American, voting by ethnic group, while understandable, can also be a "sign of a lack of progress."

In a truly pluralistic America, he argued, members of ethnic groups need not look to their own for the representation they deserve.

Stegianopoulos, Gibson and Bookbinder, along with former Rep. Herman Badillo (D-N.Y.), were participants Thursday in a forum on ethnicity and politics conducted as part of the Second National Consultation on Ethnic America, held here June 22 to 24.

The conference marked the 20th anniversary of the first landmark consultation and, like its predecessor, was sponsored jointly by the American Jewish Committee and Fordham University.

The 1968 conference came at the height of discussion of what came to be known as "the new ethnicity," and crystallized around the debate over whether America ever was, or should be, a "melting pot."

This year's conference demonstrated that ethnicity continues to be a potent force in Americans' private and public lives.

Most Ethnic Campaign Since 1960

The unavoidable focus of the politics forum was the 1988 presidential campaign, which pits against one another the most identifiably "ethnic" candidates since 1960, when John Kennedy was elected the first Catholic president.

For Stegianopoulos, a professor of communications at the City University of New York, the candidacy of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, a Greek-American, has had an electrifying effect on the nation's Greek community.

Dukakis has brought out "every hibernating Greek-American there was. They have returned to the fold" of the Democratic Party and are working hard, she said.

"Poor and rich are digging into their pocketbooks now that its possible for one of their own to make it to the White House."

For Gibson, a manager with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Communications, the overwhelming black vote for the Rev. Jesse Jackson represents a more profound dynamic than mere ethnic pride.

"The black community is by no means monolithic, but the force of Jesse brings us together," he said. "His candidacy is seen as a stepping-stone for many blacks."

Jackson Impact 'Understandable'

Bookbinder, lately retired from his position as special Washington representative of AJCommittee, and currently a member of the Dukakis campaign, did not disagree with Gibson's assessment. He called Jackson's impact on the black community "marvelous, glorious, understandable."

Nevertheless, he said, "it is also a sign of a lack of progress . . . that as many as 99 percent of the country's blacks feel the only way to express their hope is to vote for the black candidate."

Bookbinder acknowledged that Israel remains the single most important issue among Jews, but continued: "Jews are not a bloc that can be counted to give its solid vote," adding later that "the Jews -- and thank God, I say -- don't have to vote automatically Jewishly."

One conference participant took exception to Bookbinder's comments, calling his interpretation of the black vote "overly simplistic."

Two 'Very Different' Groups

"The Jews and the blacks are two very different kinds of groups," said James Banks, professor of education at the University of Washington.

"Yours is a much more empowered group, while for us, Jesse Jackson is a symbol for children who haven't been able to dream."

Referring to his own children, Banks said that Jackson allowed them to "see the hope that Jews can see in many different kinds of institutions."

In reply, Bookbinder seemed eager that his words not be misconstrued and said he meant no criticism of the black support of Jackson.

"What I was saying was that someday, we will be able to look at election votes and find so much progress that blacks and Jews and Greeks and Poles don't find it necessary to vote on the basis of their background."

In concluding remarks, Badillo, the first voting member of Congress of Puerto Rican descent, said that bloc voting by ethnic groups is inevitable.

"Practically every group votes for its own," he said, especially if a candidate is the first one from that group to run for the office. "There is absolutely nothing unusual about it."

JERUSALEM TO GET A NEW CITY HALL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- A new \$65 million city hall will be constructed in Jerusalem, uniting under one roof all the departments of the municipality, which are now dispersed around the city.

Part of the project's funding will be provided by the Reichmann family of Toronto, billionaire financiers who are the developers of the Battery Park project in Manhattan.

Two members of the Reichmann family, Albert and Edward, joined President Chaim Herzog and Mayor Teddy Kollek on Thursday in laying the foundation stone for the new city hall, the Reichmanns' first major undertaking in Israel.

The new municipal building, together with another major venture being financed by a Diaspora Jew -- the recently announced Mamilla Project, to be built by Ladbroke's-Hilton executive Cyril Stein of Britain -- will mean a total reshaping of a substantial part of the pre-1967 border area of downtown, facing the Old City walls.

Plans call for the construction of the city hall complex at the end of Jaffa Road, opposite the New Gate of the Old City, preserving the British-built main offices of the municipality and the facades of other architecturally valuable buildings in the area.

Ron International Ltd., a Reichmann-owned subsidiary, will undertake construction and will loan the city \$30 million for 20 years. The sale of properties now housing the city offices will pick up any slack in funding.