

HERUT PARTY CATAPULTS NETANYAHU, BEGIN TO TOP OF ITS KNESSET LIST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- The Herut Central Committee propelled two young party activists to the forefront of the party in the first round of balloting for the party's election slate of Knesset members.

Benjamin Netanyahu, a career diplomat and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, took the No. 1 spot with 1,408 votes from the 2,000-plus member Central Committee. Benjamin Zeev Begin, son of former Premier Menachem Begin, won third place with 1,233 votes.

The final vote tally was announced at 3 a.m. Thursday morning.

Begin was edged out for second place by Moshe Katsav, the minister of labor and social affairs, who received 1,324 votes.

Netanyahu resigned in April as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations and announced he would seek election to the Knesset. Begin, a scientist by profession, has never held political office.

The three front-runners were followed by Moshe Arens, David Levy and Ariel Sharon, in that order, all of them possible successors to Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

The Central Committee will meet again next week for the second and decisive round of balloting. At stake will be the ranking of the party's 35 Knesset candidates on the list to be presented to the voters in November.

The candidates will be selected in three groups of seven. Those who fail to be included in any of the groups will be ranked from numbers 23 to 35, on the basis of their performance in the first round of balloting.

Only one spot on the Herut list is reserved in advance, that of the party leader who is the prime ministerial candidate. Premier Yitzhak Shamir seems secure in that position.

Herut is the larger component of Likud. An agreed upon number of spots on the Likud list will be reserved for its Liberal Party wing, once the Herut list is finalized.

The Liberals expect at least 12 seats and threaten to break up the Likud bloc if they get any fewer. Many Herut people think this is unrealistic, considering their relatively small constituency.

Neutral observers believe that if the Liberals ran as a separate party they would win at most five or six Knesset seats. Their strength lies in the funds they can make available for the election campaign.

Political observers generally regard the outcome of the first round as a success for the Shamir-Arens camp in Herut. Arens, a minister without portfolio and former defense minister, has long been a Shamir loyalist.

The faction supportive of Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon, also a former defense minister and potential challenger of Shamir, held its own, the pundits said.

But the camp of David Levy, the housing minister and a deputy premier, did poorly. Levy, who did not conceal his disappointment, cautioned reporters not to draw conclusions.

"We'll meet again next week when we elect the sevens, then we'll see," he said.

The final round of balloting is most likely to favor the veteran Herut leaders and relegate the young blood to lesser positions in the party's hierarchy. But the vote will be bitterly contested.

Arens, Sharon and Levy are expected to battle fiercely for the No. 1 spot that would amount to the party's endorsement of one of them as Shamir's eventual successor.

Arens, who is election campaign manager said after the voting Thursday that the overall list was "excellent." He said it balanced experience with new blood and offered the electorate candidates from different sections of society and different backgrounds.

The list contains no Arab or Druze and only two women -- Limor Livnat, who placed 27th, and Miriam Glaser-Ta'asa, a Knesset incumbent who ranked No. 32.

Three Herut Knesset members failed to make the list. They are Deputy Defense Minister Michael Dekel, a close supporter of Shamir, Meir Cohen-Avidov of the Sharon camp, and Amal Nasser e-Din, a Druze who backs Levy.

Several other members decided not to stand for re-election. Among them are former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, Yigal Cohen-Orgad and Meir Shitrit, recently elected treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

FOUR WHO MET WITH PLO ARE JAILED; SETTLER RECEIVES TOUGHER SENTENCE

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- Two Israeli courts ruled on controversial issues Thursday. A Ramla district court judge imposed a stiff sentence on four Israeli leftists who violated a law against having contacts with terrorist organizations.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, made a strong statement on respect for human life when it sentenced a West Bank settler to three years in jail for killing an Arab youth.

In Ramla, Magistrate Avraham Beiser made clear the state would no longer tolerate private contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The four members of an Israeli "peace delegation" that met with PLO representatives in Romania a year ago were each given six-month jail terms, a one-year suspended sentence and a fine of 4,000 shekels, including court expenses.

But the defendants may serve their jail sentences by doing public service. They are Mapam activist Latif Dori, journalist Yael Lotan, Hebrew University Professor Reuven Kaminer and Eliezer Feiler, a left-wing activist.

Judge Beiser found from the evidence that none of them had harmed the security of the state. He said he took into consideration that the meeting in Romania was for the purpose of promoting peace, that the accused were first offenders and that their case was the first to be brought to trial under the new anti-terrorist statute.

Nevertheless, Beiser decided to pronounce sentence because, he said, the law must be respected, even on an issue of national controversy.

Lotan told Israel Radio afterward that the sentence was intended to appease right-wing sentiment. She said after the judge had recited all of the mitigating circumstances, the defendants had expected suspended sentences and a smaller fine. They plan to appeal.

Incident Occurred In Nablus

The case before the Supreme Court was of a different nature. The court overruled the six-month, community-service sentence a Tel Aviv district court gave Nissan Ishigayou, and handed him a three-year jail sentence instead.

Ishigayou, a settler from Hinanit, in the West Bank, was convicted of fatally shooting an Arab youth during a stone-throwing incident in Nablus six years ago.

The incident occurred when a crowd of youths began pelting a truck Ishigayou was driving through Nablus. He opened fire on them with his gun, killing one youth.

The Tel Aviv district court judge contended that the youths, their parents and teachers were as much to blame for the incident as the settler. He gave Ishigayou six months to be served by performing public service.

The Supreme Court decided, however, that the sentence "did not express the proper value of human life of whatever nationality, and it can be interpreted as acquiescence to a behavioral norm which cannot be tolerated."

Meanwhile, 19 residents of the West Bank Arab village of Beita went on trial Thursday in the Nablus military court.

They are accused of participating in an attack on Jewish teen-agers and their two armed escorts, who took a Passover hike in the region on April 6.

RABIN WARNS OF ARAB GROUND MISSILES, CITES THREAT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Thursday that the introduction of ground-to-ground missiles by the Arab armies gives "a new dimension" to the Arab-Israeli conflict and poses a direct and serious threat against Israel.

Addressing more than 600 Jewish business and communal leader at a State of Israel Bonds luncheon at the Plaza Hotel here, Rabin said that the recent purchasing of ground-to-ground missiles by several Arab countries, and the use of these missiles by Iraq to attack Iranian civilian centers, is only part of the escalating arms race in the Middle East.

According to the defense minister, the Arab countries have spent between 40 and 60 billion dollars in the last year for new arms purchases and the maintenance of their armies.

Syria's tank force alone, Rabin disclosed, is three times that of France, and twice more than Britain's.

Rabin charged that the Soviet Union continues to be the main supplier of arms to Israel's enemies.

The military threat of the Arab armies--excluding Egypt -- against Israel is one of "three levels of threat to Israel's security," Rabin noted.

The other two, he said, are the terrorist threat and the current uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Rabin said the continued violence in the territories is a war "against the very existence of

Israel, and it is a danger to its security and well-being."

Declaring that the confrontation in the territories is no more than the "continuing of the war against Israel by different means," Rabin said that Israel will never give in to such violence.

Israel, he said, has no choice but "to stand up and use force against violence."

Although Rabin said he is ready to make compromises in the territories, he strongly believes that by "giving in to violence Israel will invite more violence and atrocities."

Israeli soldiers are confronted with the unpleasant task of using force to stop the violence in the territories, Rabin said, and he knows that many Americans are critical of the violence they see on the TV screen.

But the task of the Israeli troops who confront the rioters is much harder and much less pleasant than those who witness it, Rabin said.

More than \$24 million in Israel Bonds receipts were collected during the luncheon.

PEACE GROUP LAUDS STATEMENT BY PLO SPOKESPERSON SHARIF

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- Fifteen prominent Jews, members of the International Center For Peace in the Middle East, welcomed a recent statement by a top adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

The statement, by PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif, advocates direct peace negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

Their response to the document -- "Prospects for a Palestinian-Israeli Settlement"--which was distributed at the recent Arab summit meeting in Algiers, called it "the clearest expression thus far, by any Palestinian official, of a readiness to negotiate peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

While Arafat's radical rivals have condemned the Abu Sharif paper, Arafat himself seemed to endorse it by saying that in the wake of the proposal, "the United States ought now to make a gesture toward the PLO."

The document envisions the eventual creation of an independent Palestinian state, coexisting peacefully alongside Israel.

Abu Sharif writes that "the means by which the Israelis want to achieve lasting peace and security is by direct talks, with no attempt by any outside party to impose or veto a settlement."

"The Palestinians agree," he continues. "The key to a Palestinian-Israeli settlement lies in talks between the Palestinians and Israelis."

The only reason, he continues, that the PLO has not publicly accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 is because "neither resolution says anything about the national rights of Palestinians."

The American-Jewish response was coordinated by the American section of the Tel-Aviv based International Center, a worldwide coalition of scholars, politicians, business executives and religious leaders.

They proposed that the document, "if amplified and substantiated by further Palestinian declarations, could serve as a significant step toward political dialogue."

Signatories included Kenneth Arrow, Rita Hauser, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Philip Klutznick, Professor Seymour Martin Lipset, Theodore Mann and Menachem Rosensaft.

KOCH WARNS AGAINST JACKSON BECOMING U.N. AMBASSADOR

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- Mayor Edward Koch of New York warned here Wednesday night against the possibility of the Rev. Jesse Jackson becoming the next American ambassador to the United Nations.

"Let's say Jackson wants to be U.N. ambassador," Koch said. "That's a possibility. You can't take him lightly, millions voted for him."

Koch warned that naming Jackson as America's chief representative to the United Nations might cause Israel a great deal of harm.

The mayor recalled what Jackson said in 1980, that "Zionism is a poisonous weed, choking Judaism," and that the black presidential candidate has never repudiated this statement.

Koch said, however, that he thinks Jackson will do "a good job" as secretary of education in a Dukakis administration; if indeed Michael Dukakis, the Democratic front-runner, is elected president.

Koch was addressing the annual meeting of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

The 63-year-old Koch, in response to a question, said he does not think Jackson is an anti-Semite.

"But his positions are certainly hostile to the State of Israel," the mayor claimed, noting that Jackson opposes Zionism, "the nationhood movement of the Jews," and supports the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

When a woman in the audience compared Jackson to Hitler, Koch said, "I think it is unfair to compare him to Hitler. It is unfair to refer to him as an anti-Semite."

Koch said that what Jews have to worry about is that in seven states, the Democratic platforms called for the establishment of a Palestinian homeland, a move that was led by Jackson, the mayor said.

The national Democratic Party, however, eliminated that statement from its platform.

DEMJANJUK APPEALS DEATH SENTENCE ON INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AND DOUBT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk appealed to the Supreme Court Thursday against his war crimes conviction and death sentence by a Jerusalem district court in April.

The Ukrainian-born, former naturalized American was found guilty of crimes against the Jewish people, war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against a persecuted people.

He was found by the three-judge panel, on the basis of evidence and identification by Holocaust survivors, to have been the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," who helped operate the gas chambers where nearly a million Jews perished during World War II.

Demjanjuk's attorney, Yoram Sheftel, based his appeal on the same defense arguments that failed during the year-long trial -- that his client was a victim of mistaken identity.

A five-justice panel of the high court will hear the appeal next December.

Sheftel asked that the conviction be overturned on grounds of insufficient evidence or reasonable doubt.

He charged in his petition that a lynch-mob

atmosphere surrounded the trial because of media bias against the defendant, and that provocative remarks by public officials adversely influenced the court.

BRONFMAN TOLD ROMANIAN JEWS STILL FREE TO IMMIGRATE TO ISRAEL

BUCHAREST, Romania, June 30 (JTA)--Romanian Jews will continue to enjoy the right to immigrate to Israel, and to lead a full Jewish life in Romania, according to World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman.

Those assurances were given to Bronfman by President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, at a private meeting at the presidential palace Thursday.

Bronfman noted Romania's liberal policy with regard to aliyah as well as the facilities and wherewithal given the Jewish community to conduct their lives in Romania.

"We were assured that this policy will remain in place," said Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, who accompanied Bronfman.

Their discussions touched on a wide range of international problems, including the Middle East and East-West relations.

The Romanian news agency released a special communique on the meeting, which in a Communist country is a sign of official recognition.

Bronfman and Steinberg are here to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the election of Rabbi Moses Rosen as chief rabbi of Romania and head of the Jewish community. He is a member of the Romanian Parliament.

Formal ceremonies, held at the Jewish Community Center, were attended by government officials and the American, Canadian and Israeli ambassadors. Romania is the only Eastern European country to maintain full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Israeli envoy, Joseph Govrin, hosted members of the diplomatic corps and leaders of the Jewish community at a reception for Bronfman and Steinberg.

93 Percent Have Emigrated

Bronfman praised Rosen's work on behalf of Jewish immigration to Israel.

"Under his leadership, 93 percent of Romanian Jewry have gone on to Israel, earning him recognition as truly a latter-day Moses," Bronfman said.

In 1948, when Rosen assumed his position as chief rabbi, Romania's Jewish population was 400,000. Today it stands at 20,000.

Almost all of those who left have gone to Israel, and Rosen has been instrumental in helping them get there.

He takes great pride in that fact. "They don't go to Philadelphia," Rosen said once, alluding to many Soviet Jews who prefer immigrating to the United States.

Bucharest has recently assumed an important position in the Soviet Jewry aliyah movement.

The Israeli Cabinet decided on June 19 that henceforth Israeli visas would be issued only to those Soviet Jews committed to resettling in Israel.

To assure that they do, they will be required to pick up their visas at the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest, and then fly directly to Tel Aviv.

Rosen has been very critical of that policy, saying "it will create a new category of prisoners of Zion, people who are forced" to go to Israel.

CONSERVATIVE LEADER SAYS MOVEMENT IS BRIDGING SECULAR, MODERN WORLDS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- The oil painting adorning the wall of Dr. Ismar Schorsch's office serves as an apt metaphor for the mission of Conservative Judaism, which the Jewish Theological Seminary chancellor plays a major role in shaping.

Painted in 1910 by the Polish artist Maurycy Minkofsky, the painting depicts a grouping of rabbis and "yeshiva bochers" deep in study. At the center of the painting, however, is a pale adolescent who stares out at the viewer. Schorsch is captivated by the student's interest in the world beyond the painting's frame and the yeshiva's walls.

"I think Minkofsky understood that we are able to live in both worlds simultaneously," said Schorsch, who defines Conservative Judaism as "a repudiation that Judaism's meeting with the secular world is an either/or proposition."

In the last few months, Schorsch has seen that definition variously, almost simultaneously, affirmed and challenged. On one hand, he was gratified by the movement's ratification of "Emet ve-Emunah," a statement of principles he believes "clearly and succinctly states the Conservative movement's positions on Israel, halacha and what is expected of the Jewish laity."

On the other hand, he witnessed members of the Cantors Assembly, the professional body of Conservative cantors, voting to bar trained women cantors from its ranks. The vote rejected Schorsch's 1987 decision allowing women trained at JTS to be conferred the title of cantor.

Mainstream Vs. Traditionalists

In an interview conducted at his request earlier this month, the JTS chancellor took stock of a movement that today is divided between the mainstream ideological camp he heads and a "traditionalist" camp, represented by the Cantors Assembly and members of the offshoot Union for Traditional Conservative Judaism. The union wants to slow the pace of Conservative Judaism's accommodations to the modern world.

According to Schorsch, the Cantors Assembly vote was "a repudiation of the decision that I made, but a temporary repudiation. They will in time come to accept the policy."

He differs with the traditionalists and even the Orthodox not over principles, but "details."

"Where we differ from the other denominations is not in the quality of our Judaism, but the manner in which the traditional texts are studied. We have an equal commitment to the preservation and sanctity of halacha," he said.

Judaism never stood for a rigid approach to the law, said Schorsch, who, when asked to suggest an alternate name for Conservative Judaism, replied "historical."

"The term articulates a conviction that we are in the historical mainstream -- that Israel has historically evolved," Schorsch explained. Conservative Judaism, he said, is "the most authentic expression of Judaism in the contemporary world."

And yet, as the chancellor acknowledged, there remains a gap between Conservative Judaism as taught in the seminary and as practiced by the laity.

"There is great anguish that the level of observance is not what we expect it to be," he said. "But I don't think that we have failed on

this score. The challenge is immense in an open society like this one."

Schorsch indicated with pride the educational role played by the movement's Ramah summer camps and its system of 70 Solomon Schechter day schools in the United States and Canada.

The movement also is encouraging outreach efforts similar to those undertaken successfully by Orthodox groups in Israel and the United States, although he doubts those efforts can match the Orthodox initiatives in intensity.

"To capture the unaffiliated, you need a lot of people willing to live a minimal standard of living, fairly rootless," he explained. "We do not have monks. Orthodoxy has. To missionize, you have to have monastic orders."

In addition, the "Emet ve-Emunah" document calls for increased practice and study on the part of the laity, and sets the parameters of the Conservative Jew's relationship with Israel. It is a "two-dimensional" one that affirms the worth of both Israel and the Diaspora, said Schorsch.

Assessing the current challenges to the Israel-Diaspora relationship, Schorsch spoke in favor of American Jewish participation in Israel's internal debate over the future of the administered territories.

Speaking Out On Israel

He supports Americans speaking out. "There is no chasm between Israel and the Diaspora in terms of their fate. Their fate is inextricably linked," he said.

"American Jewry has every right to speak its mind on these issues, publicly and privately," he said. "That does not deny the final choice to Israel -- only it increases the quantity of wisdom in making that choice."

Among the choices Schorsch would like to see made in Israel is a rejection of Orthodoxy's nearly complete domination of Israel's religious life, or what he calls the religious parties' attempt to "turn the Zionist achievement into an Orthodox ghetto."

He grows passionate on the topic, his voice rising as he decries the lack of funding afforded Conservative and Reform institutions in Israel. "When we fight for more funding, we are fighting for the character of Israel, not a principle."

"As major donors, we have every right to express our vision of what Israel ought to be and use our funding in a creative way," he said. The vision he supports is "the creation of a post-emancipation society that recognizes the validity of pluralism."

Asked if the vision might be more easily realized if more Conservative Jews made aliyah, Schorsch replied, "Aliyah is too comfortable an argument for sustaining the status quo."

Still, he said, Conservative Judaism does encourage aliyah and has been taking steps toward developing an indigenous, Israeli Conservative leadership. Next month, the first three Israeli rabbis will be ordained by the movement's "beit midrash" in Jerusalem.

The chancellor is encouraged by the participation of as many as 40 young Israelis in the Jerusalem program. "A good number are coming from Orthodox sectors, disillusioned by a lack of responsiveness to modernity," he said, smiling under the curious gaze of the Minkofsky.

Reminder: There will be no Daily News Bulletin on Monday, July 4.