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SHAMIR URGES HERUT BODY TO PICK

DAVID LEVY TO HEAD ELECTION LIST

By David Landau

H.U.C.-J.I.R. CINCINNATI

ARAFAT INVITED FOR FIRST TIME

TO ADDRESS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

By Yossi Lempkowitz

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir recommended to Herut on Tuesday that it install Housing Minister David Levy in the top slot of its 1988 election slate, directly following his own name as party leader and candidate for the prime minister's office.

He proposed that it select Moshe Arens and Ariel Sharon to fill the second and third spots respectively.

But the premier has stressed in recent days that the order in which they appear will not influence his selection of Cabinet ministers, should he be called upon to form the next government.

Herut is the largest component of the Likud bloc. Its 2,000-plus-member Central Committee will convene Wednesday in Herzliya to decide in what order the 35 Knesset candidates it selected last week will appear on its ballot on election day, Nov. 1.

While the Central Committee is a sovereign body, as Shamir himself took note, outside observers believe that it will comply with the premier's wishes, with relatively few exceptions.

Shamir's intervention was seen here as a measure to ensure party harmony, not an expression of favoritism. It came apparently in response to an odd situation that developed on the eve of the Central Committee's meeting.

Sharon, Arens Had Bowed Out

Sharon, who is minister of commerce and industry, announced Monday on Israel Radio that he will not seek the top spot on the Herut slate. Arens, a minister without portfolio and a former defense minister like Sharon, bowed out a short time later.

Both men said they were acting for the good of the party. Until Monday, they had been battling each other and Levy for the top slot, which signifies the heir apparent to 73-year-old Shamir.

That left Levy unchallenged. He said Tuesday that he accepted the premier's recommendations as the collective desire of the party leadership in the interests of unity, although he had been "ready for the democratic process."

Shamir, interviewed on army radio Tuesday night, reiterated that the standings of the candidates would not determine his choice of ministers. He was non-committal when asked if he thought Sharon was "suitable for minister of defense."

"All the excellent candidates selected by the Central Committee (last week) are suitable for all posts," the premier replied.

He praised Sharon, however, for being the first candidate to acknowledge that the fight over top spot had been exaggerated beyond its importance.

Shamir agreed, nevertheless, that it had become a matter of prestige among his three top lieutenants, which threatened to lead to "disputes and discord." Therefore, he saw fit to intervene, Shamir explained.

But political observers expect some Central Committee members will not heed the premier and will vote for their particular favorite.

BRUSSELS, July 5 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat has been invited to visit the Parliament of Europe in Strasbourg.

He will be there Sept. 13 and 14, when the 518-member assembly, the European Community's legislative body, is in full session.

The invitation, the first ever to a Palestinian leader, was extended by the Socialist bloc, the largest single faction in the parliament. Rudi Arndt of West Germany, the faction leader, explained why.

"After having had a very useful meeting with Shimon Peres, we thought it would be appropriate to hear Yasir Arafat's opinion, as chairman of the PLO, on the situation in the Mideast," Arndt said Tuesday.

Peres, Israel's foreign minister and chairman of the Labor Party, met with European Community leaders in Brussels in May.

Arndt added, "We hope that the meeting with Arafat can help us in our endeavor to find peaceful and lasting solutions to the Mideast problems, an issue on which Europe should play a more active role."

Informed sources here said Arafat will not address the European Parliament, inasmuch as he was invited by one of its factions, not by the full body.

Observers here noted that the invitation was announced a day before the parliament was scheduled to vote again on ratification of three economic and trade agreements Israel signed last year with the 12 nations of the European Community.

In a vote last March, the assembly rejected ratification. It was seen then as a calculated rebuff to Israel for its handling of the Palestinian uprising. But there is a good chance the agreements will be ratified on Wednesday, observers believe.

ARABS STAGE COMMERCIAL STRIKE AS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CONTINUES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip observed another commercial strike Tuesday, as the Palestinian underground issued a new communique urging an intensified civil disobedience campaign.

The strike shut down shops and businesses, but many Arab workers reported to their jobs in Israel.

The territories generally were quiet, partly because the Israeli authorities ordered the 1,200 Arab schools closed until next Saturday as a security measure. About 300,000 students are affected.

There were scattered disturbances in East Jerusalem, however. Police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwers, who had set up barricades in the Jabel Mukabar neighborhood. Roadblocks were also erected in the Shuafat neighborhood.

Meanwhile, about 500 pine trees went up in

flames Tuesday around Ilut village near Nazareth in Galilee. A preliminary investigation indicated arson.

Efforts by fire brigades and the Jewish National Fund to put out the blaze were hampered by road blocks set up around the forest by unknown parties.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that terrorism has declined in the territories.

He said the armed forces have successfully reduced the level of violence, particularly on the main roads, and the local population understands that if they turn to terror they will lose public sympathy.

Homes Blown Up In Bethlehem

On Monday night, the Israel Defense Force blew up several buildings in the Bethlehem region that housed Arabs who had participated in gasoline bomb attacks.

In another development, the military prosecutor of the IDF's southern command rejected a finding by an international association of jurists, who ruled that a 13-year-old resident of the El-Burij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was beaten unconscious in prison by soldiers.

The prosecutor said Tuesday that an investigation by the military police determined that the alleged victim was admitted to a local hospital for a hernia and bore no signs of beatings.

Meanwhile, an administrative detainee from the Gaza Strip appealed to the Supreme Court Tuesday, because he is still being held in custody despite a recommendation by a military advisory committee that he be released.

The committee made the recommendations because the man had suffered a heart attack while in prison, where he has been for four months.

MDA WORKERS RETURN TO THEIR JOBS; GOVERNMENT COMES UP WITH \$440,000 By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Magen David Adom employees returned to work Tuesday afternoon, ending a 24-hour strike that had left Israel without ambulances and other emergency life-saving services.

The walkout ended when the Finance and Health ministries agreed to make some \$440,000 immediately available to the paramedical and first-aid society.

Magen David Adom is heavily in debt. The infusion of funds will enable it to meet its current payroll and buy gasoline for its ambulance fleet.

The management promised in return to undertake cost-cutting measures, including staff reductions and a general streamlining of operations aimed at greater efficiency.

The strike began at noon Monday as a work stoppage to protest management's failure to pay June salaries, which were due on July 1.

The job action soon escalated, and Israelis discovered how badly they need the services provided by MDA, which is Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross.

Emergency telephone lines were unattended. Only a few ambulances were available, none of them equipped for emergency cardiac care. The paramedics trained in those procedures were off the job, in any event.

People with medical emergencies who man-

aged to reach an MDA center by phone were told to call a private ambulance or a taxi. One patient said he was advised to contact Finance Minister Moshe Nissim "who holds the money to pay wages and gasoline."

Two motorists badly injured in a head-on collision that blocked the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway for over an hour Monday were treated by a police doctor and medical aide. Then an MDA ambulance showed up. It responded to the police emergency call in violation of strike committee orders.

Adverse publicity and an increasingly angry public are credited with persuading the government to act quickly and the paramedics to return to work.

BID TO AVERT PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE CONTINUES LATE INTO TUESDAY NIGHT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Negotiators representing the Treasury and the Histadrut labor federation met late into Tuesday night in an urgent effort to avoid a strike by some 400,000 public sector employees, scheduled for Wednesday.

According to late reports, there was still a 4 percent gap separating the federation's wage demands and the Finance Ministry's offer.

Histadrut announced two weeks ago there would be a general strike on July 6 involving government, municipality and public institution employees. The main issues are wages and working conditions.

Yaacov Danon, the Finance Ministry's wage chief, is prepared to offer an 8 percent increase over two years. Histadrut is asking for 12 percent plus increases linked to the cost-of-living index.

An immediate issue under discussion was whether the strike, should it occur, would include the state-owned radio and television service.

It is especially important, because an electronic media blackout would coincide with the Herut Party Central Committee's meeting Wednesday in Herzliya to finalize its 1988 election list.

The Labor Party's convention last month received extensive radio and television coverage, as did the Herut meeting last week when the party selected its 35 Knesset candidates.

Herut has made clear that a blackout Wednesday would be regarded as sabotage of its most important proceedings by the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

LIQUIDATION OF TIRE COMPANY ORDERED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- A Tel Aviv district court has ordered the liquidation of the strike-plagued Alliance Tire Co. in Hadera.

The official receiver, Amram Blum, was given until next Sunday to carry out the order.

But he has asked for an extension, saying he may be able to avoid liquidation and save hundreds of jobs if given more time and the cooperation of the employees.

Alliance is one of some 300 factories and enterprises controlled by Koor Industries, the giant holding company owned by the Histadrut labor federation. Koor put it in the hands of the receiver last week, following months of labor strife, layoffs and lack of orders.

Koor Industries itself just reported a record quarter billion dollar loss for last year and is a billion dollars in debt to the banks.

THREE TESTIFY AT ARGENTINE HEARING IN PROCEEDINGS AGAINST EX-NAZI

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA) -- Hearings are under way in a Buenos Aires civil court to strip accused Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger of his Argentine citizenship.

If successful, criminal proceedings will follow aimed at extraditing Schwammberger to West Germany for trial, the Simon Wiesenthal Center reported Tuesday.

The center, which was in large measure responsible for Schwammberger's arrest by the Argentine police last Nov. 13, has underwritten the trips of three Holocaust survivors from the United States and Canada to testify as eyewitnesses at the hearings.

Schwammberger is accused of the mass murder of Jews in the Polish towns of Przemysl, Rozwadow and Stalowa-Wola, where he served as the commandant in forced labor and concentration camps during World War II.

Two Wiesenthal Center representatives -- Lydia Triantopoulos, director of information, and Martin Mendelsohn, legal counsel -- were briefed on the progress of the case in Buenos Aires Monday by Argentine officials.

They were told by Dr. Guillermo Lopez, general secretary to the Office of Attorney General for the Supreme Court, and Dr. Cristina Iribarni, federal attorney in the civil branch, that the case is going well for the prosecution.

Hearings To End This Fall

The officials said they expected both the civil and criminal hearings to be over by October or November.

But the appeals process, which is automatic and can wind up in the Argentine Supreme Court, makes it unlikely that Schwammberger can be extradited before the summer of 1989, at the earliest.

Testifying at the hearings are Edward Blonder, 67, of Miami, Fla.; Abraham Secemski of Chicago; and a 67-year-old man from Toronto, who has requested anonymity.

They are among some two dozen Holocaust survivors traced by the Wiesenthal Center who knew Schwammberger. The Argentine authorities invited them specifically to testify, after studying their background dossiers, made available by the center.

Triantopoulos and Mendelsohn also have met with the attorney general of Argentina, Dr. Andres d'Alessio.

Schwammberger, 75, is presently being held in a maximum security prison in La Plata, about 60 miles from Buenos Aires. His wife and one son live in Argentina. Another son lives in West Germany.

Although there is no extradition treaty between West Germany and Argentina, the Bonn government has already requested Schwammberger for trial, and he is expected to be extradited if the court finds in favor of the prosecution.

Schwammberger was arrested last November in the province of Cordoba, about 500 miles from Buenos Aires, where he had been in hiding. He was flown to La Plata and held in custody there ever since.

Schwammberger was arrested in Austria after the war, but it is believed he escaped to South America in 1948 with the help of the Nazi network called "Odessa," according to the Wiesenthal Center.

CONSERVATIVE LEADERS DENOUNCE RABBINATE RULING ON YOUTH HOSTEL

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA) -- Leaders of Conservative Jewry's North American congregational body, responding angrily to the Jerusalem rabbinate's decision withdrawing kosher certification of a youth hostel run by the movement, have repeated the threat of a court case to resolve the issue.

"We are prepared to resort to the courts for relief and protection from this tyranny that is unfair, unreasonable and immoral," Franklin Kreutzer, president of the United Synagogue of America, said in a statement released Tuesday.

"Issues of politics, not piety, are controlling the Jerusalem rabbinate," Kreutzer said. "The Conservative movement will not accept second-class citizenship in Israel."

Rabbi Jerome Epstein, chief executive officer and senior vice president of the United Synagogue, called the rabbinate's decision "a dramatic example of 'sinat chinam' -- causeless hatred, the sin for which the rabbis of the Talmud tell us that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed."

The Jerusalem rabbinate ruled last week not to renew the kosher certification of the popular Bernstein Youth Hostel, located at 2 Agron Street, apparently because of its affiliation with the Conservative movement. Israel's religious establishment does not recognize non-Orthodox Jewish movements.

Rabbinate spokesmen likened the hostel to a "monastery," and labeled it a place which "destroys the Jewish religion." The Conservative movement in Israel said it will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Epstein said the hostel will continue to serve kosher food "of the highest quality," and will host 500 members of the movement's United Synagogue Youth organization this summer. Plans are under way to acquire land to build an additional hostel in Israel.

1,493 JEWS LEFT SOVIET UNION IN JUNE

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA) -- A total of 1,493 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union in June, but only 150 of them, or 10 percent, went to Israel, according to figures released Tuesday by the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The June total represents an increase of 434 over the number of Jews allowed to leave the month before. It is 697 Jews more than the number allowed to leave during the same month last year.

The emigration tally for the first six months of 1988 stands at 6,078, compared to 3,104 Jews allowed to leave during the first half of 1987.

The National Conference figures for June contrast slightly with those released over the weekend by the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration in Geneva. It reported that 1,470 Jews left the Soviet Union, of whom 127 went to Israel.

According to a spokesperson for the National Conference, the Geneva figures do not include the 23 Jews who traveled to Israel via Bucharest, Romania.

The Geneva figures also included a half-year emigration total of 6,930, considerably higher than the National Conference figures.

(JTA Geneva correspondent Tamar Levy contributed to this report.)

**A NEW LEVEL OF SCRUTINY MARKS
1988 JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY
By Charley J. Levine**

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Lofty pronouncements and resolutions that are of but passing interest to the occasional researcher have a traditional way of concluding many conventions, and last week's Jewish Agency Assembly here was no exception.

But there was one significant difference at this particular gathering. In the final hours before adjournment, a packed hall of 600 delegates from around the world could be found studiously analyzing last year's resolutions, pouring over every jot and tittle, demanding reports and results from the implementing bureaucracy.

They asked such questions as: What ever came out of the debate on withholding communal funds from ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students who evade service in the Israel Defense Force? Just how had Project Renewal been refashioned in the preceding 12 months, and how much fat in the form of excess personnel and duplicated programming had been cut, as called for last summer?

The atmosphere appeared to reflect not only a new level of scrutiny, but a genuine desire on the part of Diaspora leaders to better understand the workings of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

One of the participants demanding deeper understanding more than summary answers was Syma Kroll, chairman of the Ann Arbor, Mich., Committee on Jewish Agency Affairs. This was her first assembly, as it was for approximately 40 percent of those present, and she was here to learn.

"The education of our community would not be complete without us understanding how this process works," she said. "No one has a right to criticize the Jewish Agency without understanding it."

'A Fortune Of Outreach'

Kroll, who is active in raising funds in her Jewish community, conceded that she found the assembly "a little overwhelming," but also said she discovered "a fortune of outreach and sharing of information between the different regional delegations. The process is still somewhat of a mystery to me, but I sense an abiding openness to new ideas and new directions," she said.

She was especially impressed with the willingness of the body's top leadership to pull up a chair and spend 15 minutes with a novice delegate who had questions about what was going on.

Maynard Wishner, president of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, was also a first-timer at the assembly, though as a longtime leader of the American Jewish Committee and other organizations, he noted that "Jewish meetings are not new for me."

Wishner was upbeat about the experience: "I am impressed by the spirit of new direction and approach, and I personally am looking forward to increased effectiveness of the agency," he said.

"My home community has much more interest in these matters than say a decade ago," he added. "We have a year-round committee, one of the first, which studies these matters on a permanent basis."

In fact, local Jewish Agency monitoring units are springing up in federations and other Jewish community organs around the globe. There are already 24 known committees. Their ultimate

objective is accountability of funds raised locally, not just knowing what the Jewish Agency is all about.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, a national Orthodox leader, felt that the infusion of newcomers at this year's assembly was a mixed blessing.

New Blood And Inexperience

"New blood is important," he said, "but you have four out of 10 delegates in there voting on crucial issues, and no matter how many preparatory sessions they go to, they don't command a firm foundation to make those kinds of decisions."

He also felt the assembly was not as well-organized in some respects as previous ones. He pointed out that even though his credentials lie in education, he was placed in the rural settlement study group.

"I'm a college professor," he said, "but I am not capable of listening to a few days of data and making important decisions of a technical nature."

He nevertheless felt that the large group's presence, with very few dropouts among those who had initially registered their intention to come, was a symbolic boon to Israel's citizens. "Don't underestimate the importance for Israelis to see a major group of overseas Jews visiting here during these times," he said.

An academic observer, Dr. Daniel Elazar, also gave a positive assessment: "There is no doubt but that it was a very upbeat assembly," said Elazar, who is president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

"A majority of the people have been in this process for a while and they feel that their battles of the past are paying off now," he said. "There is new leadership across the board, and a real window of opportunity to make substantial changes in almost every area that the agency is involved in is felt."

Restructuring Plans Approved

The assembly approved plans to reduce the number of immigrant absorption centers and to hand over their day-to-day operation to the government. It also ratified a new master plan to improve regional planning in outlying rural areas, with Galilee receiving priority.

The government's recently declared policy of bringing Soviet Jews directly to Israel, instead of permitting them to "drop out" along the way and resettle in other countries, was endorsed by a large majority of the participants.

But a perfunctory nod to "freedom of choice" was articulated in the advisory that those Jews wishing to immigrate to the United States or elsewhere should apply to do so while still in the Soviet Union and not change their destination once exiting on the merit of an Israeli visa.

A strong consensus prevailed that the new leadership of the agency is a healthy change at a time of increasing interest and scrutiny on the part of Diaspora fund-raisers and activists.

ISRAEL FACILITATING MECCA PILGRIMAGE

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The Israeli government has facilitated the annual Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that is the religious duty of every Moslem male at least once in his lifetime.

On Sunday, 5,300 Israeli Moslems crossed the border into Jordan to begin the two-day bus journey to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.